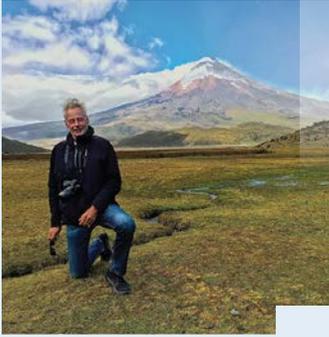




TRAVELER | IMPACT REPORT | 2019/2020



DEAR TRAVELER,

The interconnectedness of our world is more evident in 2020 than it has been for a long time, perhaps ever. As the pandemic spread around the globe, we heard stories about small choices having major impacts. We witnessed the tenacity of the human spirit in the face of complicated health, social, and political realities. And we looked for signs that things were getting better.

When I think about these concepts, I see parallels with our travelers and grantees. You are individuals who, through small choices and tenacious spirits, collectively make the planet a better place. As travelers, you saw an opportunity to support important work in the regions you explored, and you raised your hand to get involved. As a result, our grantees achieved all sorts of successes, which you'll read about in the pages to come.

As you dive into these stories, I hope you'll remember that for every one of the 18 people you see profiled, many more are pursuing vital work thanks to your generosity and commitment. For the role you played in making this happen, we are grateful. Thank you for joining us.

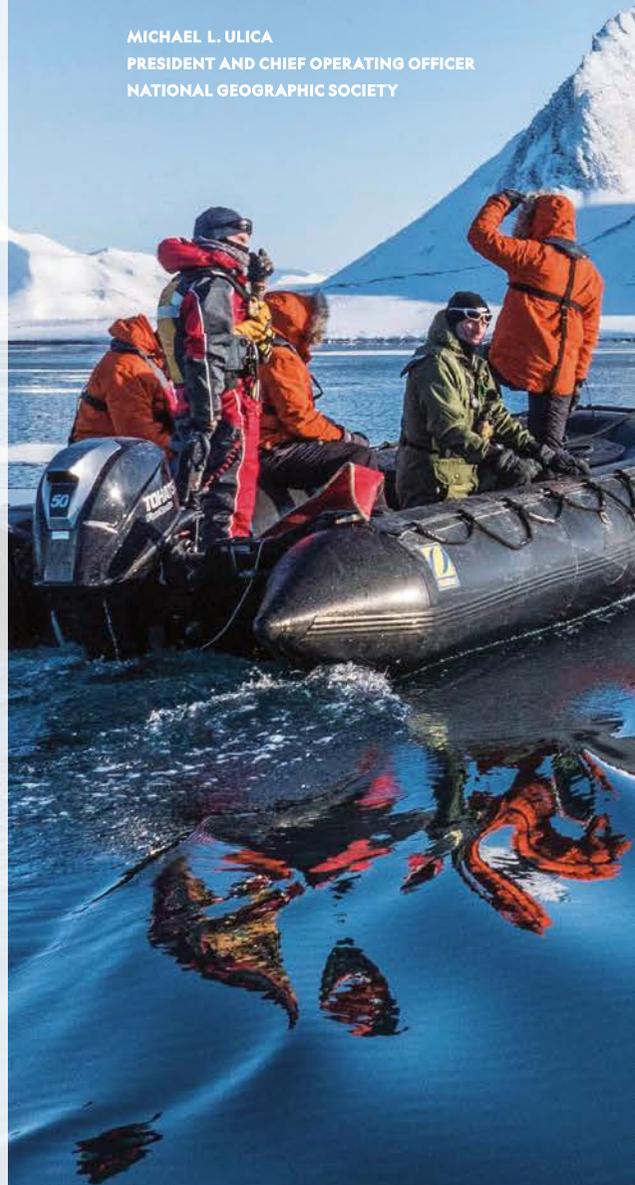
All the best,

SVEN-OLOF LINDBLAD
PRESIDENT AND CEO
LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS



"We support inspirational, passionate leaders committed to illuminating and protecting the wonder of our world."

**MICHAEL L. ULICA
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**





OUR TRAVELERS
ARE HELPING
TO ENSURE A
MORE POSITIVE
FUTURE FOR THE
PLANET'S PEOPLE
AND PLACES

Small drops can lead to an ocean of change. By donating to the Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic (LEX-NG) Fund, you have joined a legacy of empowering today's changemakers. Together, we are taking meaningful action to preserve the ocean, strengthen communities, and safeguard our wild, wonderful world for future generations.



GIVING BACK | \$1.97 MILLION INVESTED

- 68% CONSERVATION
- 11% EDUCATION
- 14% RESEARCH
- 1% STORYTELLING
- 6% TECHNOLOGY





CONSERVATION



Caring. Preserving. Protecting. From removing invasive species in Galápagos to rebuilding coral reefs in Belize to preserving natural resources in the Amazon, your donation is helping restore and protect the planet—today, tomorrow, and every day after.



EDUCATION



We support initiatives that give teachers tools to connect the hearts and minds of students to the wider world. Why? Cultivating global awareness among learners is vital to encouraging action and securing long-term sustainability for local communities and the planet.



RESEARCH



Research is essential to conservation actions and environmental management, and it also inspires awe and wonder about our planet. We support impactful research on marine mammals, plastic pollution, critically endangered species, and much more.



STORYTELLING



Stories have purpose and power. We support projects that harness the power of storytelling and use compelling multimedia to not only share crucial knowledge and diverse perspectives about the world, but also to spur change and drive action.



TECHNOLOGY



Traveler donations enable researchers to use technology in novel ways to answer pressing environmental questions and advance conservation. In Galápagos, a LEX-NG Fund grantee accomplished a world first: using an unmanned drone to eliminate invasive rodents.



WITH YOUR SUPPORT

These people and others like them are working on LEX-NG Fund projects around the world. Read their stories on the next pages to learn how their work makes a positive impact.



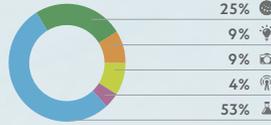
YOUR IMPACT | \$1.97 MILLION AROUND THE WORLD

100% of every donation made to the Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic Fund in 2019 supported on-the-ground projects. The result: positive impacts worth \$1.97M. Generous travelers like you are helping to protect marine ecosystems, empower emerging leaders in science and exploration, and benefit local communities. Thank you.

- CONSERVATION
- EDUCATION
- RESEARCH
- STORYTELLING
- TECHNOLOGY

GLOBAL INITIATIVES

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'S EARLY CAREER GRANTS



▪ Grantee projects on 7 continents

- National Geographic Endeavour II
- National Geographic Explorer
- National Geographic Islander
- National Geographic Orion
- National Geographic Quest
- National Geographic Sea Bird
- National Geographic Sea Lion
- National Geographic Venture
- Delfin II
- Sea Cloud

GROSVENOR TEACHER FELLOWSHIP



▪ 45 Fellows traveled to 8 regions

- National Geographic Explorer
- National Geographic Orion

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'S PRISTINE SEAS

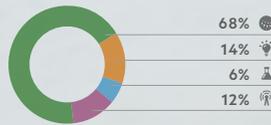


▪ Expeditions to Costa Rica and Antarctica

- National Geographic Explorer
- National Geographic Orion

REGIONAL PARTNERS

GALÁPAGOS

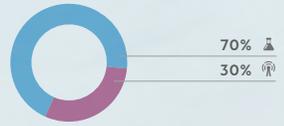


- Charles Darwin Foundation
- Island Conservation
- Scalesia Foundation
- WildAid/Galápagos National Park

- National Geographic Endeavour II
- National Geographic Islander

REGIONAL PARTNERS

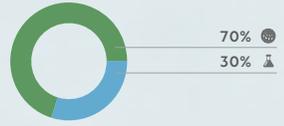
SOUTHEAST ALASKA



▪ Alaska Whale Foundation

- National Geographic Quest
- National Geographic Sea Bird
- National Geographic Sea Lion
- National Geographic Venture

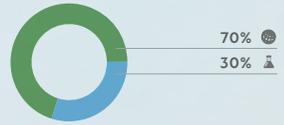
BAJA CALIFORNIA



▪ Gulf of California Conservation Fund

- National Geographic Sea Bird
- National Geographic Venture

BELIZE



▪ Healthy Reefs for Healthy People

- National Geographic Quest

PERUVIAN AMAZON



▪ Minga Peru

- Delfin II

ANTARCTICA



▪ SeaLife Response, Rehabilitation and Research (SR²)

- National Geographic Explorer

MEDITERRANEAN



2019-2020 INITIATIVES + GRANTEES

Our blue planet needs impassioned advocates. That's why we celebrate the loyal support that travelers give to global initiatives like the National Geographic Society's Early Career Grants, Pristine Seas project, and Grosvenor Teacher Fellowship, and to regional programs in Antarctica, Baja California, Galápagos, Southeast Alaska, the Peruvian Amazon, and Belize.



“Sailing the wildest oceans demands passion, humility, and daring. Conservation is the same. Just as we love and respect these places, we are also boldly protecting them.”

RAB CUMMINGS
EXPEDITION LEADER
LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS





PRISTINE SEAS | INITIATIVE

In 2019, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'S PRISTINE SEAS team conducted expeditions to explore and document the marine ecosystems of Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula and the Antarctic Peninsula. A new marine protected area was also announced in Canada's far north, a region where Pristine Seas conducted an expedition in 2014.



JUAN MAYORGA
Marine Data Scientist, Pristine Seas



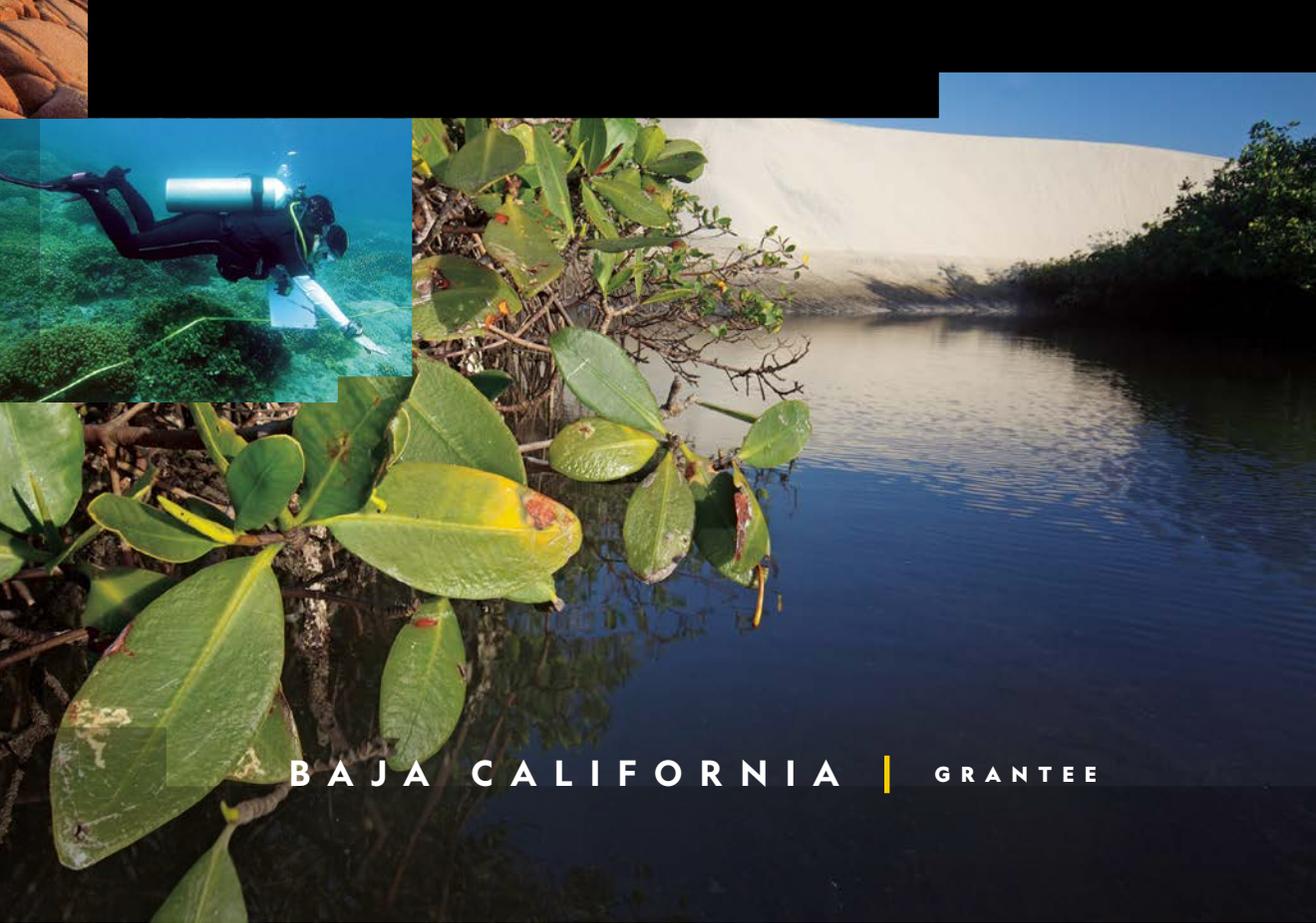
CONSERVATION

Juan Mayorga's work for Pristine Seas combines data science, economics, and ecology to produce novel insights and catalyze ocean conservation. "Using satellite data to track and monitor fishing activity in near real-time enables us to look for suspicious activity around protected areas, evaluate the effectiveness of policies to curb illegal fishing, and understand the economic implications of creating a marine protected area," Mayorga says. He's presently working to identify the most important places in the ocean to create marine protected areas.



DID YOU KNOW?

Marine protected areas currently protect only 7% of the planet's ocean.



BAJA CALIFORNIA | GRANTEE

Traveler donations support the **GULF OF CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION FUND**, which issued nine new subgrants in 2019 for on-the-ground work in the region, such as blue carbon wetland conservation, sustainable tourism development, and a multiyear seabird study.



TANNIA FRAUSTO
Climate Change Manager, WILD Coast



CONSERVATION

Tannia Frausto has helped conserve 77,450 acres of blue carbon ecosystems, preventing 19.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere, and she's working with communities in Baja California to restore 250 acres of mangroves in the Vizcaíno Biosphere Reserve. "It's truly rewarding to protect these stunning wildlife habitats for future generations," says Frausto. WILD Coast's blue carbon project was internationally recognized with the 2019 Keeling Curve Prize for trailblazing mangrove conservation as a natural climate solution.



DID YOU KNOW?

Mangroves, seagrasses, and salt marshes store large amounts of carbon.



ANTARCTICA | GRANTEE

Scientists from **SEALIFE RESPONSE, REHABILITATION AND RESEARCH (SR³)** captured more than 16,000 high-resolution aerial images of humpback, minke, and killer whales, and safely collected skin and blubber samples from five whales, contributing to a multiyear study of whale health.



DR. HOLLY FEARNBACH + DR. JOHN DURBAN
Marine Mammal Research Senior Scientist, Southall
Director, SR³ Environmental Associates

RESEARCH

“For 10 years, *National Geographic Explorer* has provided a unique platform to allow us to conduct research in remote locations around the Antarctic Peninsula,” says Holly Fearnbach. “My partner, Dr. John Durban, has been at the forefront of technological developments to collect and analyze data on whales, and I’ve specialized in photographic techniques for identifying, tracking, and monitoring the health of individuals.” This innovative husband-wife team has pioneered studies on whale health in the context of a changing climate.



DID YOU KNOW?

Antarctica is warming rapidly, resulting in a decline in krill, an important food source for whales.



Your donation enables individuals early in their careers to lead bold and creative projects spanning the fields of conservation, education, research, storytelling, and technology through the National Geographic Society's Early Career Grants (ECGs). In 2019, the LEX-NG Fund supported 30 ECGs, bringing the total number it has supported since 2018 to 74.



EARLY CAREER GRANTS | INITIATIVE





ROSEANNA GAMLEN-GREENE
Pacific Northwest
Conserving amphibians on Haida Gwaii, British Columbia

RESEARCH

“I spent months tromping through bogs on the remote archipelago of Haida Gwaii to find toad breeding sites that had never been recorded before, and worked with local farmers to protect breeding sites on their land.”

6

Grantees are studying and protecting reptiles or amphibians.



AGUSTINA BESADA
Latin America
Unplastify Challenge: Empowering youth to take action

EDUCATION

“The Early Career Grant supported the Unplastify Challenge, which uses storytelling to inspire and empower youth to design, develop, and implement their own strategies to unplastify their schools, changing systems and behavior to avoid single-use plastic.”

9

Grantees are leading projects to combat plastic pollution.



JEANELLE BRISBANE
Caribbean
Protecting a critically endangered iguana on Dominica

CONSERVATION

“Thanks to this project, our native iguanas are now at the forefront of conservation in Dominica. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to carry out this project and play such a vital role in keeping this incredible species alive.”

3

Grantees are working to save threatened or endangered species.



DR. ENRICO PIROTTA
Mediterranean
Food competition between male and female sperm whales

RESEARCH

“We found the sexes are partitioning food resources, with males targeting larger and possibly deeper prey. Such information will be critical when designing solutions for the management of boat traffic and other potential threats.”

10

Grantees are helping to improve our understanding of marine mammals.

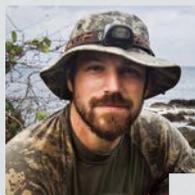


DID YOU KNOW?

97% of the reptiles and land mammals in Galápagos are found nowhere else on Earth.



GALÁPAGOS | GRANTEES



CHAD HANSON
Project Director, Island Conservation

CONSERVATION

On North Seymour Island, the survival of native species depended on eliminating the invasive rodent population. Chad Hanson's team accomplished this feat. "Our project was groundbreaking due to its use of unmanned aerial vehicles to conduct the operation," says Hanson. The success on North Seymour has catalyzed development of improved technology and methods, and has advanced the field of invasive species management.



DR. INTI KEITH
Marine Biologist, Charles Darwin Foundation

RESEARCH

Invasive species are well-documented as a critical and growing threat to the sustainability of coastal and marine ecosystems around the world. Dr. Inti Keith's research seeks to better understand this threat. "Invasive species can radically and rapidly alter marine ecosystems, with direct consequences for local livelihoods," says Keith. She shares scientific knowledge with local and regional policymakers to foster a multi-lateral approach to marine biosecurity.



Traveler donations in Galápagos support efforts to safeguard precious native and endemic species and bolster environmental stewardship through education. From launching a new fisheries-monitoring mobile app to conducting the world's first ever rodent removal project using drones to administer bait, our grantees are preserving and protecting Galápagos and supporting educational initiatives across the archipelago—thanks to you.



DIANA VINUEZA
Galápagos Project Manager, WildAid



TECHNOLOGY

Diana Vinueza and a team from the Galápagos National Park launched a mobile app to monitor fisheries in the Galápagos Marine Reserve. “This new technology will provide concrete improvements to the collection of data for decision making,” says Vinueza. “This is incredibly important for managing fishery resources, conserving biodiversity, and promoting the economic well-being of the local people who depend on these resources.”



REYNA OLEAS
Former Director, Scalesia Foundation



EDUCATION

“The Scalesia Foundation’s work focuses on education that values each student and inspires them to become guardians of the Natural World Heritage site they are inheriting,” says Oleas. In 2019, working with the Galápagos Conservancy and the Ministry of Education, the foundation helped some 400 teachers gain skills and knowledge to enhance their teaching practices and foster environmental stewardship among their students.



Now in its 14th year, the Grosvenor Teacher Fellowship sends Pre-K–12 educators from North America and U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity schools abroad on global expeditions for field-based, professional development. In 2019, 45 Fellows traveled to the High Arctic, Galápagos, Antarctica, and beyond, using the experience to inspire their students to become changemakers.



GROSVENOR
TEACHER FELLOWSHIP | INITIATIVE





LYANNE ABREU
Miami, FL

EDUCATION

“Participating in the Fellowship created a level of connectivity between the urban landscape of Miami and the intangible realities of the South Atlantic. To be able to connect students to these wild spaces by sharing my own stories fosters a true sense of curiosity and exploration.”

11

Fellows motivated students to protect wildlife.



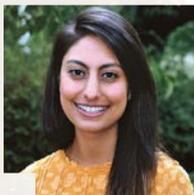
MICHAEL POPE
Zama City, Japan

EDUCATION

“The student action plan component of my fellowship experience enabled me to help my students find a topic to address, develop their ideas, and make their voices heard. One of the topics they chose was the issue of food inequality in their school and community.”

10

Fellows engaged students in exploring human cultures.



NOREEN SYED
Gladstone, NJ

EDUCATION

“The Grosvenor Teacher Fellowship brought climate change to life in my classroom. My expedition provided students with a lens to witness glacial melt and recession in Alaska, and helped them see how actions in New Jersey affect oceans and glaciers across the world.”

16

Fellows empowered students to reduce human impact on ecosystems.



RACHAEL ARENS
Omaha, NE

EDUCATION

“After learning about the impact of plastic pollution on Galápagos wildlife, my students felt empowered to fight plastic pollution in our state. They co-wrote a bill with our state senator and testified about the importance of reducing plastic waste entering Nebraska's watersheds.”

8

Fellows inspired students to reduce plastic pollution.



SOUTHEAST ALASKA | GRANTEE

Your support enabled the **ALASKA WHALE FOUNDATION** and partners from the National Park Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and universities to research whale abundance, foraging behavior, and health, including launching an innovative study to examine whale stress and reproductive hormones, diet, and genetics.



MARTIN VAN ASWEGEN
Graduate Fellow, Alaska Whale Foundation



RESEARCH

Alaska's humpback whales display some of the most mesmerizing, complex behaviors of any animal. "I feel privileged to be part of research utilizing state-of-the-art technology to gain extraordinary insights into the region's whales," van Aswegen says. "Through consistent field research, we are better able to understand Alaska's whale populations, their ever changing environment, and how humans are affecting them." By monitoring whale health over time, researchers like van Aswegen can provide critical information to key decision-makers.



DID YOU KNOW?

Alaska's waters serve as a feeding ground for roughly 10,000 humpback whales.



PERUVIAN AMAZON | GRANTEE

MINGA PERU helps improve the lives of people in rural, indigenous communities in the Peruvian Amazon. Thanks to traveler donations, Minga broadcast 75 radio episodes on natural resource conservation, engaged 200 students in environmental stewardship, and aided in agroforestry and fish pond development.



TONY MAYTAHUARI LÓPEZ
Community Member, Amazonas (Marañon River)

CONSERVATION

Tony Maytahuari López was 10 when he became interested in environmental conservation and attended his first Minga Peru workshop on agroforestry. Now age 18, he has planted over 200 fruit trees, which reduces stress on local natural resources and provides income for his family. “Attending the workshops allowed me to grow as an entrepreneur, and that gives me a higher level of growth and satisfaction,” he says. He is one of more than 80 young people who have received training from Minga on developing eco-friendly, income-generating projects.



DID YOU KNOW?

Agroforestry can improve soil quality, reduce runoff, and increase habitat for biodiversity.



BELIZE | GRANTEE

HEALTHY REEFS FOR HEALTHY PEOPLE

is working to restore coral reefs in Belize by introducing herbivorous crabs to reefs decimated by algae. The project will also benefit local communities by engaging fishermen in rearing crabs that have high commercial value.



DR. MELANIE MCFIELD

Founder & Director, Healthy Reefs for Healthy People



CONSERVATION

Smithsonian Institution researcher Melanie McField is applying innovative approaches to help reefs stressed by increasing temperatures, overfishing, and pollution recover from algal overgrowth. By introducing crabs to degraded reefs, she aims to have a big impact on local fishing communities as well as reef recovery. “Reefs are critical to the economy, ecology, and culture of Belize,” McField says. The project’s next step is to release juvenile crabs in a pilot reef to measure the decrease in macroalgae as a result of the crabs’ natural grazing.



DID YOU KNOW?

Coral reefs cover less than 1% of the ocean floor but support about 25% of marine creatures.

2008-2019 FUND SUMMARY*

The LEX-NG Fund is celebrating 12+ years of conservation victories, research milestones, educational accomplishments, inspiring storytelling, and advances in technology. Thank you for being a critical part of these stories and showing the world that travelers—when given the opportunity—can make a lasting, positive impact while exploring!

\$13,549,969

Invested in Grants & Programs

122+

Projects Funded

200

Grants Awarded

24,588

Traveler Donations

7

Continents

33

Countries

265

Grosvenor Teacher Fellows Traveled

74

Early Career Grants Awarded

5,833,835

Square Km of Ocean Protected

* Numbers included on this page reflect data collected through December 31, 2019. Data on 2020 donations and expenditures are not yet available.



“Traveling with Lindblad and National Geographic has provided us with access to amazing places around the world. The staff have educated and inspired us to act as stewards of our beautiful planet Earth, protecting and improving the ecosystems wherever we go. One person, one dollar at a time, we can all make a difference.”

**BRENDA AND JOHN M.
TRAVELERS**





THANK YOU | \$1.97 MILLION MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The planet needs all of us. Thank you for joining an expedition and choosing to support the work of passionate, smart, dedicated individuals. Together, we are creating a sustainable future for the ocean, people, and planet for generations to come. To renew your support of the LEX-NG Fund, visit give.ngs.org/LEXimpact.

LEX-NG FUND BOARD MEMBERS

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Chairperson, MAR Fund*

The Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic Fund supports projects to understand and protect our world's ocean, restore critical marine and coastal habitats, and foster environmental stewardship in the regions visited by our fleet, and beyond. Funding for our work comes from shipboard travelers inspired by our shared mission.

To give online and increase the positive impact we make together, please visit give.ngs.org/LEXimpact.

For more information about the LEX-NG Fund or the projects we support around the world, contact Amy Berquist (Lindblad Expeditions) and Teresa Leonardo (National Geographic Society) at ocean@ngs.org.



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