



NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

A YEAR OF  
IMPACT

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2022 ANNUAL REPORT







Cover: Gobonamang "GB" Kgetho, a *mokoro* (canoe) poler for the Okavango Wilderness Project and main subject of the recently released film *Nkashii: Race for the Okavango*, stands by the Okavango Delta, which he has crossed every year since 2010. This page: Gentoo penguins take a break on a drifting iceberg between rounds of foraging in the Antarctic Peninsula.





With your support, the National Geographic Society is taking bold steps toward a brighter future, supporting the world's most innovative scientists, conservationists, educators, and storytellers who are leading the way in a new age of exploration. Because of you we are seeing real impact in our work to protect our oceans and precious landscapes, safeguard threatened species, and preserve our natural and cultural heritage. **Thank you for supporting the National Geographic Society.**

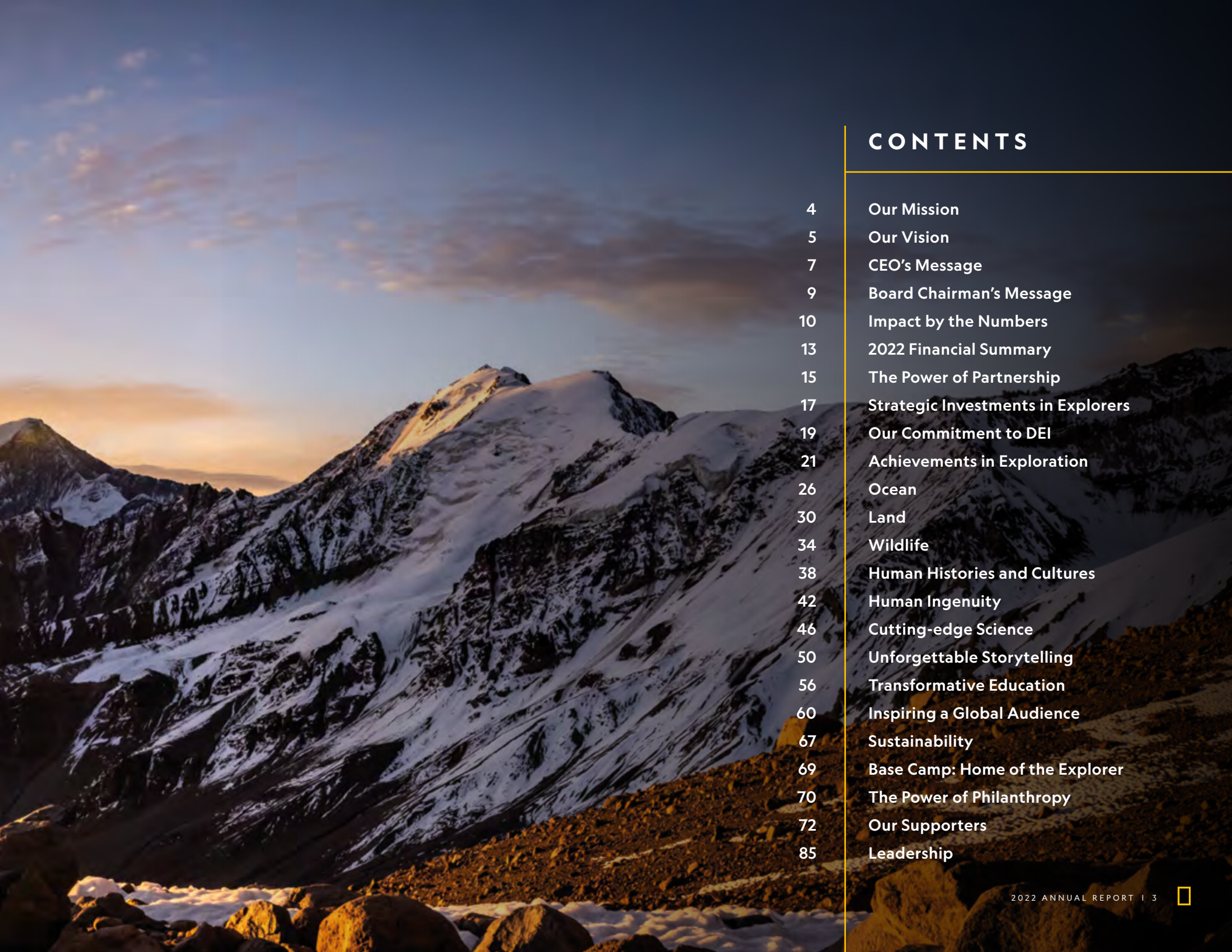






A scenic view of the sunset and mountains surrounding the Maipo Valley in Chile, photographed during the National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Tupungato Volcano Expedition. The 2021 National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Tupungato Volcano Expedition, in collaboration with the Government of Chile, explored a critical water tower in the Southern Andes by placing the highest weather station in the Southern and Western Hemispheres. The expedition built on successes from the 2019 Mount Everest Expedition.





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An underwater photograph showing a vast school of small, silvery fish swimming in clear blue water. On the right side, there is a dark, rocky reef structure with some marine life like anemones and urchins. The lighting is bright, creating a sense of depth and clarity.

## OUR MISSION

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**The National Geographic Society  
uses the power of science,  
exploration, education, and  
storytelling to illuminate and  
protect the wonder of our world.**

Anemones, shrimps, kelps, and urchins seek refuge in rock crevices in the depths of the Ottawa Islands (Arqviilit) in Canada. In 2022, National Geographic Pristine Seas and its partners embarked on an expedition to the Canadian Arctic to support Indigenous-led marine conservation. The expedition spanned seven weeks and covered 7,000 miles.





## OUR VISION

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By 2030, the National Geographic Society will be known globally for its bold and impactful Explorer-led programs that spark curiosity in hundreds of millions of people, inspiring them to learn about, care for, and protect our world.







Photographer and National Geographic Explorer  
Kiliii Yüyan on a photography expedition in Palau.



## CEO'S MESSAGE

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Dear Friends,

When you consider the individuals who truly inspire you, what qualities leave the greatest impression? Bravery, fortitude, ingenuity, vision? Inspiration can transcend limitations—real or perceived—to explore new possibilities, push boundaries, drive us forward, and give us all hope. In 2022, we saw inspiration and hope come to life at the National Geographic Society in myriad ways thanks to our extraordinary global community. I am grateful for all we accomplished last year: I'm proud of our collective efforts, confident in our NG Next strategy, and truly inspired by our donors, partners, supporters, staff, and National Geographic Explorers.

The stories in this Annual Report focus on the global impact of our indefatigable Explorers—the scientists, conservationists, educators, and storytellers who turned their interests into action to illuminate and protect the wonder of our world. You'll read about scientists summiting the planet's highest peaks to reveal insights about shrinking glaciers, conservationists safeguarding pristine ocean habitats and lands, and ecologists protecting at-risk species. You'll read about storytellers who are amplifying the history of African people in the Americas as well as those documenting the impact of the global climate crisis on communities to drive positive change for the planet. And you'll read about educators who are exploring meaningful ways to engage learners in a time of global disruption.

These are the kinds of efforts that motivate us at the Society, not only because Explorers made significant contributions to the fields of science, education, and storytelling but because your generosity tremendously impacted their success. In 2022, our supporters and partners funded and scaled Explorer-led programs at unprecedented levels by committing more than \$117.9 million to the Society—the most

ever raised in our 135-year history. And every dollar of your investment supported our Explorers and innovative programs in alignment with NG Next. I am incredibly grateful for the vision, commitment, and generosity of the many individuals, foundations, and corporations that stepped forward in 2022 to elevate our mission-driven work.

We all play an integral part in helping build a brighter, healthier future—a source of purpose and pride. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, our strong foundation has enabled us to advance important goals that set the pace for transformative new realities, like our \$250 million revitalization of our headquarters campus in Washington, D.C., into a state-of-the-art hub for exploration that will engage millions more people with the magic of our mission. With your continued commitment, we can significantly accelerate our global impact in 2023 and beyond.

In the words of National Geographic Explorer and photographer Anand Varma: "I see wonder as a doorway into exploring and valuing the complexity of our world." Thank you for helping us to explore new possibilities, drive progress, and instill hope and positive change at the National Geographic Society and around the world.

With gratitude,



**JILL TIEFENTHALER**  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Geographic Society







Community organizer and National Geographic Explorer Louise Mabulu, who promotes environmentally friendly, disaster-resilient agriculture, on her family farm in San Fernando, Philippines.



## BOARD CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

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Dear Friends,

At the National Geographic Society, we believe in the power of fearless exploration and bold innovation to change the world. As global challenges like climate change, pollution, and wildlife extinction escalate, the Society's mission to illuminate and protect the wonder of the world is vital and urgent—and we are taking action.

In 2022, we continued our important mission work, advancing science and discovery, inspiring curiosity in learners of all ages, and engaging the public. At the same time, thanks to the leadership of the Society's Board of Trustees and CEO Jill Tiefenthaler, we took key steps to strengthen our impact and reach boldly into the future. Guided by our NG Next strategy, we embarked on our most ambitious and transformative chapter yet, continuing a landmark effort to significantly accelerate the impact of our National Geographic Explorers through critical investments in our Place, People, and Programs.

We started with Place by reimagining our Base Camp headquarters in Washington, D.C. We are transforming our campus into a global exploration hub and must-see destination that inspires the Explorer in everyone. Complete with state-of-the-art technology and immersive experiences, our revitalized Base Camp will bring together changemakers from around the world for uniquely National Geographic experiences, welcoming millions more people of all ages, abilities, and identities to join in our mission. In October 2022, we celebrated a major milestone when we broke ground on the project, and construction is underway.

In addition to Base Camp, we are deepening our investment in our People—our National Geographic Explorers—with bigger, better, and more focused investments to support their groundbreaking work. We're advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion to ensure a broader cross section of Explorer voices and supercharge innovation. We are also doubling down on investments in our signature programs: ambitious, multiyear initiatives with outsize impact for our planet and its people.

The stories and individuals you're going to read about in this report reflect the kind of exciting exploration and illumination of our world that is so emblematic of our mission work: like glaciologist and National Geographic Explorer Alison Criscitiello, who is harnessing technology to unlock secrets of the Earth's past and insights about today's climate challenges. She and her team ascended Canada's highest peak to excavate an ice core containing perhaps 30,000 years of data. And our Okavango Wilderness Project team, which has surveyed more than 13,000 kilometers in their quest to secure sustainable protection for the greater Okavango Basin in southern Africa.

National Geographic is taking a giant step forward, which enables us to advance our mission and catalyze positive change for our planet at an unprecedented scale. Achieving a vision of this magnitude requires extraordinary support. As we begin this next chapter, donor support of the Society and increased investment in our National Geographic Explorers are more crucial than ever before.

We're energized by our momentum and audacious plans for the Society in 2023 and beyond. We look forward to partnering with you on our shared mission for many more years to come.

With gratitude,



**JEAN M. CASE**  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees  
National Geographic Society





2022

# IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

\$117.9M+

contributions by generous donors and partners to support the Society's mission

This page, clockwise from left: An aerial view of Congaree National Park in South Carolina. National Geographic Pristine Seas team member Alan Friedlander takes samples in the remote reefs in the northernmost region of the Seafloor Biosphere Reserve in Colombia. National Geographic Explorer Dalal Hanna meets with students during an Explorer Classroom session in Arlington, Virginia. Opposite page, clockwise from left: An African leopard, *Panthera pardus pardus*, photographed for the Photo Ark project at the Houston Zoo. A cinematographer works on location with Nature, Environment and Wildlife Filmmakers, part of the Africa Refocused program. A Karuk man and his father search for Chinook salmon on the Klamath River, California. National Geographic Explorer Florence Goupil takes photographs in the Wayqecha Cloud Forest Biological Station, Peru.



\$169,000

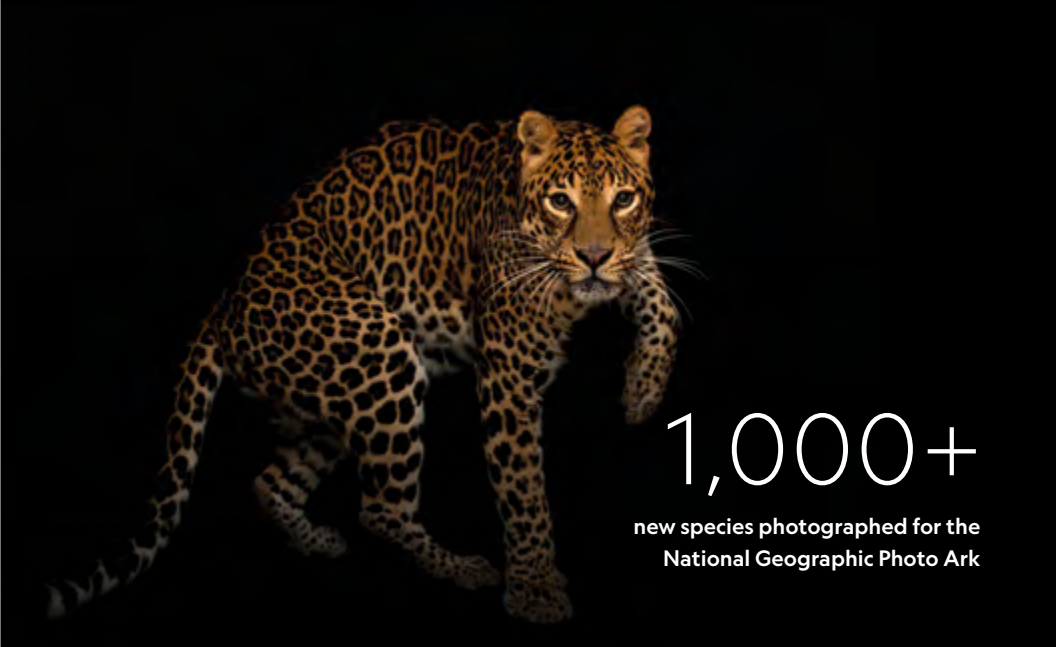
average monetary investment to funded National Geographic Explorers



135,000+

students participated in Explorer Classroom events





1,000+

new species photographed for the National Geographic Photo Ark



53

African storytellers supported through the Africa Refocused program



238

new grants awarded to support National Geographic Explorer-led projects



84M

readers of *National Geographic* print and digital content across 58 editions and 28 languages





“ During a year of significant growth and impact for the National Geographic Society, the record-setting contributions of our supporters, combined with our recent Moody’s rating upgrade, reinforce our confidence in a secure financial outlook for the Society’s future. We remain grateful for our supporters’ investment in Explorer-led programs, allowing us to continue working toward a better tomorrow.



**MICHAEL L. ULICA**  
President and  
Chief Operating Officer  
National Geographic Society

Algae at the bottom of the shallow sea floor in the Ottawa Islands (Arqviilit) photographed during the National Geographic Pristine Seas 2022 expedition to the Canadian Arctic.



# 2022 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## National Geographic Society Consolidated Statements

(in thousands)

### SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	
Product and other educational sales	\$4,506
Licensing	18,601
Contributions and grants	75,303
Investment distribution to fund operations	115,797
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>214,207</b>
EXPENSES	
Storytelling and outreach	59,166
Scientific research and exploration	59,979
Education	19,229
<b>Program Expenses</b>	<b>138,374</b>
Management and general	37,525
Fundraising	7,360
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>183,259</b>
<b>Operating Gain</b>	<b>30,948</b>
Income tax benefit	28,070
Investment distribution to fund operations	(115,797)
Non-operating activities*	(249,354)
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>(306,133)</b>
<b>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>2,494,127</b>
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	<b>\$2,187,994</b>

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Cash and cash equivalents	\$75,044
Receivables, prepaids, and other assets, net	53,346
Deferred tax assets	29,902
Investments (including endowments)	2,423,336
Property and equipment, net	89,072
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$2,670,700</b>
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 29,338
Deferred revenue	13,260
Loan payable	250,000
Pension and postretirement benefits	19,305
Deferred tax liabilities	158,978
Other liabilities	11,825
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>482,706</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>2,187,994</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$2,670,700</b>

### TOTAL EXPENSES

**75.5%**  
Program Expenses



**100%**

of contributions  
fund our Explorers  
and our mission work.

\*Non-operating activities primarily consist of net realized and unrealized investment gains (losses), building rental revenue and expenses, and pension and postretirement activities.





Clockwise from left: 2022 Rolex National Geographic Explorer of the Year Tara Roberts works with a team of divers to reclaim the stories of African people lost to slave ship wrecks. National Geographic Explorer Bertie Gregory emerges camera-first through a huge mackerel bait ball. Herpetologist and National Geographic Explorer Bruce Means holds an unnamed species of scorpion found in high-altitude streams and small ponds in the Pakaraima Mountains of Guyana.





# THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

Since our founding in 1888, the National Geographic Society has continued to reach and resonate with people worldwide. Since that time, we've stayed true to our mission to pursue and celebrate exploration, scientific excellence, education, and unforgettable storytelling while evolving with nimbleness and fortitude in a rapidly changing world. Today, guided by the tenets of our strategic plan, NG Next, we are thoughtfully expanding our business model, global reach, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts in order to remain a vibrant, relevant, world-class organization at the forefront of exploration and knowledge.

One of the powerful ways we build on our legacy and accelerate our impact work is through an innovative, sustainable business model. Through a joint-venture partnership with The Walt Disney Company that combines National Geographic's media and consumer-facing products, the Society is able to invest every philanthropic dollar—100 percent of donations—into critical support for our Explorers and mission programs.

Another iconic global brand, Disney shares our legacy of innovation, inspiration, and storytelling. By leveraging Disney's brand recognition and international footprint, the Society now has an even broader platform to share our nonprofit mission with multigenerational audiences who share our curiosity about the world and passion for exploration. The impact of this collaboration is exemplified in our Enterprise-Wide Moments—major opportunities each year for the Society to lean into a particular program or focus area—often in alignment with our partners at Disney. In 2022, we collaborated to support seven Enterprise-Wide Moments, accelerating our plans to be more globally known for our Explorer-led programs.

In 2022, 50 *National Geographic* magazine articles featured the work of our Explorers, collectively reaching 332 million readers. On social media, National Geographic hero accounts published 611 posts about Explorer-led projects and the Society's nonprofit mission, generating 2.3 billion total impressions. Explorers also made notable

appearances on several Disney+ streaming programs, including *Epic Adventures with Bertie Gregory*, featuring the eponymous Explorer Bertie Gregory, and *Explorer: The Last Tepui*, featuring Explorers Bruce Means and Mark Synnott. Programs like these connect more than 161 million Disney+ subscribers to the Society's important work.

This powerful partnership ignites and furthers our brand promise—to inspire the Explorer in everyone—and provides an unparalleled opportunity to amplify the critical work of National Geographic Explorers and expand the impact of our programs.

## SPOTLIGHT

### Into the Depths with Tara Roberts

In January 2022, the National Geographic Society and The Walt Disney Company collaborated to elevate the impactful work of Explorer Tara Roberts and celebrate the launch of her powerful podcast, *Into the Depths*.

Roberts documented her journey alongside a group of Black scuba divers, historians, and archaeologists to investigate the wrecked remains of ships that carried enslaved Africans to the Americas—both to expand the historical record and to honor the estimated 1.8 million souls who perished during the Middle Passage. She shared her account, and the stories of those she met along the way, in a highly acclaimed, six-part podcast series funded by the Society in collaboration with Disney.

*Into the Depths* was an extraordinary example of how the Society's partnership with Disney can amplify meaningful stories that inform and inspire audiences around the world. Coordinated press outreach about the podcast led to coverage in more than 125 media outlets and garnered more than 12.7 million social media impressions across National Geographic platforms. In March, Roberts became the first Black woman Explorer featured on *National Geographic* magazine's cover, leading millions of readers to discover her work for the first time. In June, the Society honored Roberts as the 2022 Rolex National Geographic Explorer of the Year.

“Our partnership with Disney, one of the most beloved brands in the world, enables the Society to increase our investment in Explorers who are making an impact, scale solutions that are addressing the greatest challenges we face, and inspire a global community to join us in illuminating and protecting the wonder of our world.”



JEAN M. CASE  
Chairman of the  
Board of Trustees  
National Geographic  
Society







National Geographic Explorer Thiago Silva (front) and team ride by boat to a new parcel of forest for possible laser mapping in Brazil's Mamirauá Sustainable Development Reserve as part of the National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Amazon Expedition.



# STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS IN EXPLORERS



**In 2021, CEO Jill Tiefenthaler led the development of the National Geographic Society's new strategic plan, NG Next, which charts a dynamic, five-year path to strengthen our foundation, embed diversity, equity, and inclusion into every aspect of our work, and build on our momentum. National Geographic Explorers are a key component of the plan's clear vision to drive significant impact in the future, which is why the Society is increasing our investments in and deepening engagement with Explorers across five key focus areas: Ocean, Land, Wildlife, Human Histories and Cultures, and Human Ingenuity.**

The Society has made great strides in building a richer infrastructure to support Explorers and Explorer-led programs through funding combined with new tools, resources, and opportunities. Our goal is to create a framework that strategically guides our approach to funding Explorers who align with our priorities and focus areas while also expanding and improving access to individual leadership development. While we have reduced the total number of grants awarded each year, we have significantly increased our financial investments in Explorer programs with the greatest potential to make an impact on our world. In 2022, we invested an average of \$169,000 per funded Explorer, more than doubling our \$61,000 average investment in 2019. In addition, the Society has intentionally expanded professional development, training, leadership and speaking opportunities, networking

and community building, technology resources, and opportunities for Explorers to convene and collaborate. National Geographic Explorers are pushing the boundaries of knowledge, uncovering new insights about the natural and cultural worlds, and strengthening our connection to them and one another. They are leaders and changemakers—the best and brightest individuals dedicated to rigorous science and exploration, combined with powerful storytelling and education. Their important work is made possible by investments from our dedicated supporters, and the Society remains committed to the thoughtful stewardship of this investment to drive meaningful, sustainable impact for our planet and its people.

## OUR FOCUS AREAS

-  **Ocean**
-  **Land**
-  **Wildlife**
-  **Human Histories and Cultures**
-  **Human Ingenuity**





# DEI SPEAKER SERIES

ACTUALIZING INCLUSIVITY  
BY MOVING FROM INTENT  
TO ACTION

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC  
ROLEX  
COMMITTED TO A PE

EXPLORE  
FEST

EXPLORE  
FEST

NATI  
GEO  
COMMIT

National Geographic Society Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer Shannon Bartlett (far left) moderates the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Speaker Series panel with National Geographic Explorers Luján Agustí (second from left), Keolu Fox, Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, and Santiago Said at the 2022 National Geographic Explorers Festival.



# OUR COMMITMENT TO DEI

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## Your Story Matters

**We are not all the same. It is our differences that make the National Geographic Society, and our world, a better place. We embrace each person's identity, experiences, and abilities, and we commit to cultivating an environment where everyone benefits from opportunity, mutual respect, and a sense of belonging. We all have a story to tell. When we share and celebrate our stories, the yellow border comes to life.**

Our mission to illuminate and protect the wonder of our world can only be achieved when people of every race, identity, experience, and ability play a role in our work. The National Geographic Society has taken important steps to advance systemic, long-term change at the Society and among the communities we support. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are embedded in our strategic plan and will continue to play an essential role in shaping the Society's more inclusive next chapter.

In 2022, the Society's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) team continued to grow under the leadership of Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer Shannon P. Bartlett. Over the course of the year, the team hosted a number of events around the Society, including learning opportunities for Explorers and staff members on DEI-related topics. It also launched the Society's own staff affinity group organizations, hosted a convening of women Explorers around Asia, and consulted with staff on how best to

incorporate DEI principles and values across the Society's programmatic and operational work.

An important part of the Society's journey includes active recruitment of a diverse cross section of Explorers and staff members. In 2022, the DEI team worked closely with the programmatic and Human Resources teams to redesign recruitment and retention processes to minimize bias and maximize inclusivity. This will allow the Society to continue to diversify our staff and Explorer communities as we aspire to reflect the rich diversity of our world.

While we acknowledge that there is additional work to do to fully actualize the Society's DEI guiding principles, we are proud of the hard work accomplished in 2022 throughout the organization to ensure our commitment to DEI is reflected in our internal and external culture, systems, and practices.

**To learn more about our DEI guiding principles, visit [natgeo.org/dei](https://natgeo.org/dei).**









# ACHIEVEMENTS IN EXPLORATION

## Wayfinder Awards

Each year, the National Geographic Society recognizes and elevates a group of innovators and changemakers who are leading a new age of exploration.

Recipients of the 2022 Wayfinder Award are using new technology, research, photography, and impactful storytelling, among other techniques, to illuminate and protect the wonder of our world.



### MÓNICA ALCÁZAR-DUARTE

British-Mexican photographer and artist whose work acknowledges her Indigenous heritage as she explores current ideas of progress using AR and other immersive technologies.



### SAMANTHA CRISTOFORETTI

European Space Agency astronaut and crew commander of the International Space Station who brings the issues of biodiversity and landscape conservation to a wider audience from the unique perspective of space.



### RESSON KANTAI DUFF

Conservationist who works to decolonize conservation and renew Kenyan communities' sense of ownership over their land, culture, and wildlife.



### FARWIZA FARHAN

Forest conservationist who uses policy and advocacy to galvanize involvement by women and local communities in the conservation and restoration of the Leuser Ecosystem in Sumatra, Indonesia.



### ZOLEKA FILANDER

Deep-sea researcher who identifies and documents seabed species in South Africa's uncharted ocean to lay the groundwork for offshore marine protected areas.



### GIBBS KUGURU

Scientist and conservationist who studies the DNA of sharks and uses innovative genetic research to better understand the unique DNA elements that shape their populations.



### YAEL MARTÍNEZ

Storyteller who uses photography to document and address fractured communities in his native country, Mexico.



### ARIAM MOGOS

Designer and researcher who works in Kenya and Spain to investigate the ways that game design technology can foster learning experiences that bridge communities and cultures.



### THAI VAN NGUYEN

Conservationist and founder of Save Vietnam's Wildlife who works to protect pangolins and other species through wildlife rehabilitation centers and anti-poaching units in Vietnam's national parks.



### MARGARET PEARCE

Cartographer and tribal member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation who uses cartographic language to explore dialogues across cultures and express Indigenous geographies.



### SUZANNE PIERRE

Transdisciplinary scientist whose work in critical ecology explores the phenomena of global ecological change in response to systems of global colonialism and capitalism.



### SAMMY RAMSEY

Entomologist and founder of The Ramsey Research Foundation who works to understand and preserve insect species and the ecosystems that they make possible.



### BABAK TAFRESHI

Science photojournalist and cinematographer who merges art and science through visual stories that explore the wonders of the night sky and connect cultures through a common interest.



### CARLOS VELAZCO

Biodiversity consultant who promotes biodiversity protection through education and citizen science tools, that have led to the documentation of more than 5,600 species.



### XI ZHINONG

Self-taught photographer, filmmaker, and founder of the Wild China organization who uses his camera and voice to advocate for endangered species and protect China's wildlife.

Opposite page, clockwise from left: Astronaut and National Geographic Explorer Samantha Cristoforetti. Entomologist and National Geographic Explorer Sammy Ramsey examines a beehive. Wildlife photographer and National Geographic Explorer Xi Zhinong uses visual storytelling to protect China's wildlife. National Geographic Explorer Gibbs Kuguru researches sharks in the Maldives.





## ACHIEVEMENTS IN EXPLORATION

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### Hubbard Medal

The Hubbard Medal is National Geographic's highest honor, recognizing lifetime achievement in research, discovery, and exploration.

The late National Geographic Explorer at Large **Thomas Lovejoy** was a member of the National Geographic community for more than five decades. Fondly known as the "godfather of biodiversity" and credited with coining the term "biological diversity," Lovejoy made profound contributions to the field of biology. He began his work in the Amazon in 1965, received his first Society grant in 1971 to study the ecology of rainforest birds in the Amazon, and remained an unyielding champion for the planet for the rest of his career. His field research and expertise brought much needed attention to the fragile state of our environment and keystone species as well as the interactions between climate change and biodiversity.

Over the course of his career, Lovejoy served as a mentor and adviser to many individuals and organizations, including three U.S. presidential administrations, the United Nations, the World Bank, and the Society. He served in many invaluable roles at National Geographic, including founder and chair of the Conservation Trust and member of the Society's Committee for Research and Exploration. More recently, Lovejoy served as a critical scientific adviser and spokesperson in the development of the National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Amazon Expedition. He was instrumental in launching the program and was a co-author of a 2019 study that led to the development of the Tropical Forest Vulnerability Index, which helps policymakers plan for conservation and restoration of the world's tropical rainforests to avoid tipping points. The 2022 Hubbard Medal recognizes Lovejoy's extraordinary achievements as a conservation biologist and his legacy as an advocate for the Amazon rainforest.

From top: Biologist and National Geographic Explorer at Large Thomas Lovejoy poses with a macaw. Thomas Lovejoy on an expedition in the Amazon rainforest.



## Rolex National Geographic Explorer of the Year

The Rolex National Geographic Explorer of the Year award recognizes an individual whose actions, achievements, and spirit push the boundaries of leadership in exploration and show a commitment to sharing knowledge with the world.

National Geographic Explorer and storyteller **Tara Roberts** learned how to dive to help tell the story of *Diving With a Purpose*, a team of Black scuba divers, historians, and archaeologists searching for the wreckage of ships that carried an estimated 12.5 million enslaved African people to the Americas. Roberts documented her life-changing journey and the stories of the many individuals and communities she met along the way for the National Geographic Society-funded, six-part podcast series *Into the Depths*. The podcast follows Roberts from Florida to Costa Rica, and from the continent of Africa back to Roberts' family home in Edenton, North Carolina, where her journey leads to a personal crossroads concerning her identity as a Black American. Rooted in exploration, history, identity, and humanity, Roberts' storytelling is helping to illuminate and preserve cultural heritage and knowledge—critical components of the Society's mission. Throughout her work, she emphasizes the importance of shifting the narrative: putting the people most affected by these stories in charge of the storytelling. She also hopes to empower and bring nuance to the stories that have shaped the Black community.

The National Geographic Society thanks Rolex for its partnership in recognizing and elevating the work of remarkable individuals like Tara Roberts who are pushing the boundaries of exploration and storytelling.

From top: Arnaud Boestch, Director of Communication & Image, Rolex, and Jill Tiefenthaler, Chief Executive Officer, National Geographic Society, stand with 2022 Rolex National Geographic Explorer of the Year Tara Roberts at the 2022 National Geographic Explorers Festival. Tara Roberts poses with Diving With a Purpose instructor Kamau Sadiki in Key West, Florida.







## ACHIEVEMENTS IN EXPLORATION

### Eliza Scidmore Award for Outstanding Storytelling

The National Geographic Society's Eliza Scidmore Award for Outstanding Storytelling recognizes powerful communicators whose work bridges immersive storytelling with scientific rigor in a relevant and accessible way to advance our understanding of the complex ideas and issues facing our world today. The award is named after one of the great trailblazers in National Geographic's history, Eliza Scidmore, who was the Society's first female journalist, photographer, and board member.

**Lynsey Addario** received the 2022 Eliza Scidmore Award for Outstanding Storytelling for her work covering conflict and humanitarian crises. One of the most influential photojournalists of our time, she is a Pulitzer Prize winner and a regular contributor to prestigious media outlets including *National Geographic* and *The New York Times*. To date, she has worked in more than 70 countries, including Darfur, Somalia, Syria, and Libya. Despite the demanding nature of her work—the dangers and uncertainties—Addario has pressed forward to tell the stories of the people who are impacted and displaced by conflict.

During the pandemic, she received a grant from the Society's COVID-19 Emergency Fund for Journalists to share the story of four family-run funeral homes in a farming community in south West England. She documented the new and unconventional ways undertakers bury the dead with respect and dignity, and how families had to find new ways to say goodbye to loved ones. Her story on this project was featured in *National Geographic* in July 2020.

Addario has also continued to pursue her National Geographic Society-funded project about women at the forefront of climate change—one of the defining conflicts of our time.



From top: National Geographic photojournalist Lynsey Addario on assignment in Afghanistan. Addario's portrait of camel herders in Bulaleh, Ethiopia, who walked for days to draw water for their animals after hearing rumors of rain near the Somali border.



## National Geographic/Bufnett Awards for Leadership in Conservation

The National Geographic/Bufnett Awards for Leadership in Conservation were established in partnership with the Howard G. Buffett Foundation to recognize and to celebrate unsung conservation heroes. Two awards are presented each year: one for achievement in Africa and the other for achievement in Latin America. The outstanding 2022 winners have demonstrated leadership in managing and protecting the natural resources in their regions and countries, and are inspirational conservation advocates who serve as role models and mentors.

National Geographic Explorer and Nigerian conservationist **Rachel Ikemeh** has been working to protect the last population of the Niger Delta red colobus monkey. This critically endangered species is listed as one of the top 25 most endangered primate species in the world, with fewer than 500 individuals surviving in the wild. Working in the country's conservation sector, she encouraged key leaders to sign a memorandum of understanding in September 2020, stating the need for protection for the monkey. This work led to the creation of a new community conservancy in Nigeria's Apoi Creek Forest—a 10,000-hectare (2,741-acre) protected area managed by the Apoi community—which is home to potentially the world's most significant remaining population of Niger Delta red colobus. Ikemeh is also a

champion for the endangered Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee, and has encouraged government authorities to designate specific areas to protect these chimpanzees, particularly from poaching.

Chilean conservationist and Explorer **Giuliana Furci** focuses on understanding and protecting the fungal diversity of her country. With no information about the diversity of this kingdom in Chile, she learned independently and started studying fungi in 2000. She built the first field guide of Chilean mushrooms, and became the first mycologist expert in the country. She also founded the Fungi Foundation in 2012—the first NGO in the world dedicated solely to the research and protection of fungi. Setting an example for Latin American countries, she worked to incorporate fungi at the highest legislative level for conservation and has positioned Chile as a leader in public policies in protecting fungi. More recently, she has been working with the communities that depend on mushrooms, learning about their traditional use, and building conservation initiatives to preserve that traditional knowledge and the biodiversity of this critical kingdom.

The National Geographic Society thanks the Howard G. Buffett Foundation for its generous support of the National Geographic/Bufnett Awards for Leadership in Conservation.

From top: Conservationist and National Geographic Explorer Rachel Ikemeh conducts fieldwork in Nigeria. Mycology expert and National Geographic Explorer Giuliana Furci researches fungi in Chile's Patagonian fjords.







# OCEAN

Covering 72 percent of the Earth and supplying half its oxygen, the ocean is our planet's life-support system. It is also home to an incredible diversity of species and a source of natural resources that are vital to the livelihoods of billions of people around the world. The National Geographic Society funds Explorers across disciplines like oceanography, marine ecology, climate science, and more, who are seeking solutions to the most critical challenges facing our marine and coastal systems. Their important work aims to better understand and preserve our ocean, and to inspire and empower people across the globe to make an impact.



Left: The Mesoamerican Reef near the Pelican Cayes region of Belize.  
Right: Sponges and corals at the Scotts Head drop-off in Dominica,  
where the National Geographic Pristine Seas team traveled in 2022.

## 2022 IMPACT

# 20,698

square kilometers of ocean protected through National Geographic Pristine Seas' efforts to support the expansion of the marine protected area at the Malpelo Flora and Fauna Sanctuary

# 45

grants awarded to support National Geographic Explorer-led projects that seek to illuminate and protect our ocean

# 3

National Geographic Pristine Seas expeditions undertaken to Colombia, Canada, and the Commonwealth of Dominica







**“ Investing in the ocean is a powerful solution to many of our planet’s most critical challenges. The Bezos Earth Fund is delighted to partner with National Geographic Pristine Seas to protect vital marine ecosystems, provide jobs, help local communities, improve food security, and address climate change. Together, we’re helping to create a healthier, more resilient ocean in this decisive decade.**

**DR. ANDREW STEER**  
 President and CEO  
 Bezos Earth Fund

PRISTINE SEAS

## Protecting Our World’s Ocean

Since 2008, National Geographic Pristine Seas, founded by Explorer in Residence Enric Sala, has worked to protect the world’s ocean by inspiring the creation of marine protected areas (MPAs). Collectively, this effort has led to 38 expeditions, and the designation of 26 MPAs covering more than 6.5 million square kilometers by the end of 2022.

In March, Pristine Seas conducted a locally-led expedition to Colombia to support former President Iván Duque’s pledge to protect 30 percent of the country’s seas. As a result of its efforts, and with the support of the Colombian Ministry of Environment and Sustainability, the Colombian Ocean Commission, and local institutions, the MPA at the Malpelo Flora and Fauna Sanctuary was expanded by 20,698 square kilometers. With this expansion, the Sanctuary now protects 47,377 square kilometers of the region’s vital biodiversity hotspots.

The team then journeyed to Canada, joining local partner Oceans North on an expedition across the Arctic and subarctic regions to research priority marine conservation sites identified by Indigenous leadership and the Canadian government. The Pristine Seas team worked with Indigenous and local experts to collect scientific data and imagery to support the creation of marine protections.

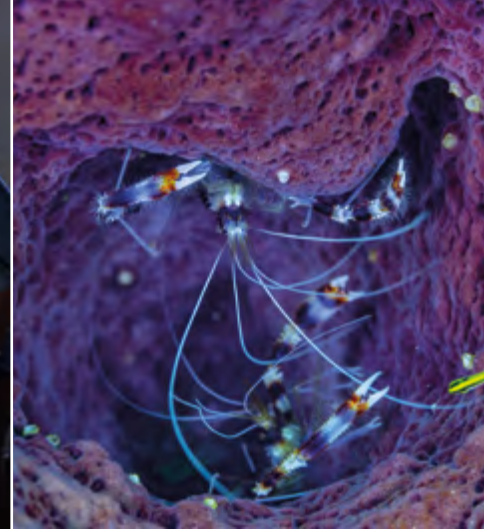
Meanwhile, in Chile, the Pristine Seas team supported a powerful call to action from Indigenous communities.

During the premiere of the National Geographic Pristine Seas film *Canoeros: Memoria Viva*, members of the Kawésqar people called on the Chilean government to ban salmon farming in the Kawésqar National Reserve by designating it a national park. The film features a 2020 Pristine Seas expedition that worked with members of the Kawésqar and Yagán peoples to research and share stories about the local marine ecosystems in the reserve.

To cap off the year, Pristine Seas voyaged to the Caribbean to conduct a full-island survey of the Commonwealth of Dominica. In collaboration with the Dominican government, the team led a scientific survey of the island’s marine ecosystem, working with local scientists and young leaders from Project CETI’s (Cetacean Translation Initiative) Dominica Marine Conservation Fellowship program, led by National Geographic Explorer David Gruber.

The Society thanks the Bezos Earth Fund, Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment, Inc., Don Quixote Foundation, the Heinz Family Foundation, Inclusive Capital Partners Foundation, LGT Venture Philanthropy, Novamedia/Postcode Lottery Group, Oracle, the Philip Stephenson Foundation, and the Walmart Foundation for their support of Pristine Seas in 2022 and for their ongoing commitment to helping National Geographic Explorers restore the health of the ocean.





#### SPOTLIGHT

## Protecting 30% of the Planet by 2030: A Global Conservation Goal

In 2018, the National Geographic Society joined forces with the Wyss Foundation to develop the Campaign for Nature (CFN), harnessing science, exploration, storytelling, and our power to convene thought leaders from around the globe to inspire the action needed to protect 30 percent of the planet by 2030 (30×30). In December 2022, CFN representatives attended negotiations at the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, calling on policymakers to include this goal in the global biodiversity framework. Through CFN's efforts, the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, an intergovernmental group of countries pledging their support for this science-driven, ambitious conservation goal, grew to over 116 members in the lead-up to the conference. As a result, the Kunming-Montreal Agreement was approved by 196 parties to the convention in a historic deal for biodiversity. The agreement includes a commitment to the 30×30 target, as well as an important corresponding affirmation recognizing and respecting the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories, in this critical work.

#### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORERS IN ACTION



### Rachael Zoe Miller

National Geographic Explorer Rachael Zoe Miller is working to protect the ocean by shedding light on the threat

that microplastics pose to the unique ecosystems of the Hawaiian Islands. To achieve this, she empowers citizen scientists to collect and process air and water samples as part of a global microplastic mapping and monitoring program that will help reveal sources of microplastic pollution and inform innovative solutions to safeguard this essential natural resource.



### Ved Chirayath

National Geographic Explorer Ved Chirayath is harnessing technology like NASA's MiDAR remote sensor to understand and address two

global environmental problems: coral bleaching, and the increase in plastics in our marine ecosystem. Chirayath's work demonstrates how this innovative sensor can be used to scan the ocean and map the locations of marine plastics and coral bleaching at large scales, addressing a critical barrier to the implementation of environmental solutions.

From left: A variety of corals offshore in Colombia, as seen during a National Geographic Pristine Seas expedition. National Geographic Pristine Seas team member Kike Ballesteros takes samples from remote reefs in the northernmost region of the Seaflower Biosphere Reserve in Colombia. Three sperm whales near Dominica, documented by the Project CETI team as part of their work to study and understand the vocalizations of whales. National Geographic Explorer Ved Chirayath (right) with assistant Stephanie Larie Wright at the University of Miami. Cleaning shrimps inside a sponge off the coast of Dominica.







# LAND

The National Geographic Society funds Explorers working to document and conserve terrestrial and freshwater systems around the globe. Their work helps foster critical solutions to the ongoing threats facing our land and wildlife. From freshwater oases to the deserts of Africa and every mountain in between, Explorers—scientists, conservationists, educators, and storytellers—are working to protect our world's diverse landscapes, support healthy, sustainable ecosystems, and improve our understanding of the impacts of climate change on our lands, lakes, and rivers.



Left: A ranger stands at a vantage point in Mounts Iglit-Baco National Park on the Filipino island of Mindoro, where efforts are being made to save the tamaraw—the world's rarest and most endangered bovid species—from extinction. Right: A motorboat transports arapaimas across a floodplain in the Amazon rainforest, located near the Lago Serrado community in Brazil. This image was captured as part of the 2022 National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Amazon Expedition, an extensive science and storytelling journey that spans the entire Amazon River Basin from the Andes to the Atlantic, leveraging local National Geographic Explorers, multiple science disciplines, and photojournalism to illuminate the diversity and connectivity of the people, wildlife, and ecosystems that make up this critical region, and the solutions needed to ensure its protection.

## 2022 IMPACT

1,634

square kilometers of peatland mapped for the first time in the Angolan highlands

143

species new to science in Angola documented by the National Geographic Okavango Wilderness Project team to date

40+

Batswana teachers enrolled in Educator Expeditions to enhance conservation education and Indigenous knowledge-sharing in Okavango Delta classrooms





## LAND

“ De Beers is proud to join the National Geographic Society in helping to address one of Africa’s most critical conservation challenges: protecting the source waters of the Okavango Delta. Through Okavango Eternal, we’re aiming to help provide long-term wildlife corridor protection for endangered species, develop livelihood opportunities for over 10,000 people, and enable water and food security for over one million people. By working together with local communities, NGOs, and governments in southern Africa, we’re making progress toward securing protection for the Okavango Basin for generations to come.

AL COOK  
CEO  
De Beers Group



### OKAVANGO WILDERNESS PROJECT

## Telling the Stories of the Delta

Since 2015, the National Geographic Okavango Wilderness Project (NGOWP) has worked with local communities, NGOs, and the governments of Angola, Namibia, and Botswana to secure permanent, sustainable protection for the greater Okavango Basin. The basin is the source of water for more than one million people and one of the most biodiverse places in Africa. In 2021, the Society partnered with De Beers to launch Okavango Eternal—an initiative designed to expand and accelerate the critical work of the NGOWP team.

To date, the team has studied all major rivers that feed the Okavango Delta. Altogether, team members have crossed over 13,000 kilometers: on foot, in dug-out *mekoro* (canoes), on fat-tire bikes, and on motorcycles, from the highlands of Angola to the delta in Botswana. Their ongoing expeditions are vital for monitoring the health of this critical ecosystem and making the case for ongoing protection of the entire Okavango Basin.

During the 2022 delta crossing, the NGOWP team launched two simultaneous expeditions, each with its own local storyteller on board. The eastern path followed a regimented route in which the team tested predetermined sample sites, whereas the western route was used to test data variance of long-term monitoring methodologies,

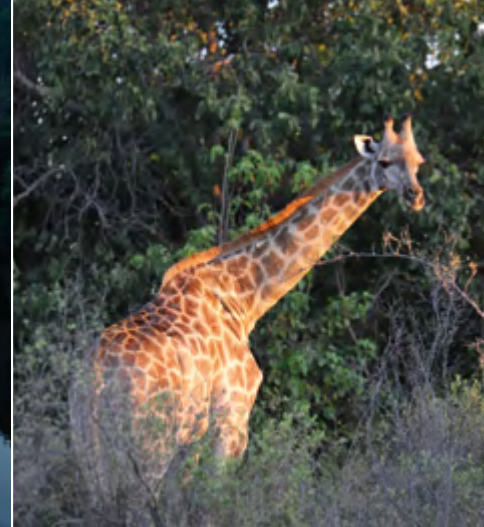
and included a specific focus on gathering traditional place names from local community members with the aim of creating traditional language and place-name maps.

The NGOWP team consists of National Geographic Explorers including Steve Boyes and Koketso “Koki” Mookodi, partners at the Wild Bird Trust, and an interdisciplinary group of scientists, local educators, storytellers, community leaders, skilled *mokoro* polers, and other experts from the region and around the world. In 2022, the team also added NGOWP Storytelling Manager Thalefang Charles to its list of National Geographic Explorers working with the project.

After a prolific 16-year career in journalism, Charles is now using the power of storytelling to help protect the greater Okavango Basin. He has been telling the human stories of the Okavango through award-winning films and podcasts, and is developing an audio series featuring interviews with village elders, whom he calls the “living libraries of the delta.” Charles also took part in the 12th annual delta crossing to collect and share stories from local communities as the team journeyed along the delta’s waterways.

National Geographic is grateful for the partnership of De Beers in helping make a lasting, positive impact on the protection of the Okavango Basin.





#### SPOTLIGHT

## Photo Camp in the Okavango Delta

Founded by Explorer Kirsten Elstner, National Geographic Photo Camp sends world-class photographers and editors around the globe to teach young people how to harness the power of photography. Over the past 20 years, Photo Camps have been held in more than 100 locations in 30 countries.

In September 2022, National Geographic Photo Camp collaborated with the Okavango Wilderness Project to provide a meaningful introduction to photography for 20 African youth from Bana Ba Letsatsi and Okavango Kopano Mokoro Community Trust, in Botswana.

During the weeklong course, students embarked on field assignments to take photographs of the places, people, and things that moved them. They interviewed community members, visited businesses and farms, took a game drive through the Moremi Game Reserve, and explored the Okavango Delta. Explorers Jahawi Bertolli, Federico Pardo, Esther Ruth Mbabazi, Thalefang Charles, and Botswana-based photographers and educators offered mentorship and guidance along the way. Explorer Koketso “Koki” Mookodi met with students to teach them about the important natural resources the delta provides to communities in the region. Students left the experience feeling empowered to share their perspectives and ideas with their communities and the world beyond.

#### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORERS IN ACTION



### Deepti NA Asthana

National Geographic Explorer Deepti NA Asthana’s documentary photography project, “Weight of the Water,” focuses on the water crisis

in the northwestern Himalayan region in India, and particularly how it is impacting young women. Asthana explores how the global water crisis intersects with local challenges like dangerous terrain and systemic gender bias. Through the portrayal of the struggles of women and teenage girls in rural households, this project highlights the disproportionate effects of the water crisis on their health and education.



### Dalal Emily Lucia Hanna

National Geographic Explorer Dalal Emily Lucia Hanna is investigating the impact of timber harvesting on streams in Canada and the

long-term effects on freshwater biodiversity and water quality. Her team of National Geographic Explorers, Canadian scientists, and community members is collecting environmental DNA and water quality information from streams with varying histories of timber harvesting in Canada’s provinces. This research will be used to develop recommendations that minimize long-term effects of timber harvesting on freshwaters.

From left: An elephant, surrounded by water lilies, treads through the waters in the Okavango Delta. National Geographic Explorer Gobonamang “GB” Kgetho (front), lead poler and guide, competes on a mokoro in the Nkashi Classic race. National Geographic Photo Camp students photograph the sunset over the Thamalakane River in Maun, Botswana. National Geographic Explorer Dalal Hanna canoes in Canada. A giraffe glances back while feeding on native plants in the Okavango Delta.







# WILDLIFE

The National Geographic Society invests in Explorer-led projects that seek to illuminate and protect all wildlife, including animals, plants, and fungi. Through science, conservation, exploration, storytelling, and education, our Explorers are working around the world to protect threatened species, safeguard biodiverse habitats, and foster peaceful coexistence between people and local animal populations.



Left: A baby elephant walks with its family on one of many paths that generations of forest elephants have cut through the rainforest in Lopé National Park, Gabon. Right: A small herd of zebra hide in the thick brush in Tanzania.

## 2022 IMPACT

1,000+

species documented for the National Geographic Photo Ark

63

grants awarded to support National Geographic Explorer-led wildlife projects

40

National Geographic Wildlife Watch stories published, reaching more than 11 million readers







**“ I believe each of us has a responsibility to protect the Earth’s wildlife and natural places for future generations. I chose to leave a gift in my will to the National Geographic Society because their scientists and Explorers have so much knowledge—and they are as passionate as I am about wildlife and nature.**

**REBECCA PAPKE**  
Alexander Graham Bell Legacy  
Society Member

PHOTO ARK

## An Archive of Biodiversity

In 2022, photographer and founder of the National Geographic Photo Ark Joel Sartore continued his efforts to document every species in the world’s zoos, aquariums, and wildlife sanctuaries—approximately 20,000 in total. Sartore is using the power of photography to inspire people to help protect at-risk species before it’s too late. In July, the spoon-billed sandpiper (*Calidris pygmaea*) became the 13,000th species to be added to the National Geographic Photo Ark.

Known affectionately as the “spoonie,” this rare wading bird is about the size of a mouse and, as the name suggests, has a distinct spoon-shaped bill. Its population has plummeted due to hunting and habitat degradation, and it is currently listed as critically endangered on the IUCN Red List.

Sartore photographed the spoon-billed sandpiper at the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge Wetland Centre, in Gloucestershire, U.K., which is the only place in the world where the bird exists under human care. Researchers and conservationists are working urgently to reverse the sandpiper’s decline, but the species’ future remains uncertain.

The spoonie is not alone. With estimates of more than a million species worldwide currently threatened with extinction, there has never been a more critical time to take action and empower people to protect our world’s

biodiversity. Every photograph in the Photo Ark is a vital record of each species’ existence and a meaningful testament to the importance of protecting it for future generations.

Sartore is committed to locating and documenting the remaining species to complete this important photographic archive of global biodiversity. With Photo Ark, he hopes to connect people with the wildlife on our planet and give a voice to animals that urgently need our protection. Through education, public engagement, and support for on-the-ground conservation, Photo Ark continues to raise awareness and seek solutions to address the most critical issues facing threatened wildlife and their habitats.



SPOTLIGHT

## Wildlife Watch: Journalism with Impact

Wildlife Watch is a Society-funded investigative journalism project that reports on wildlife crime and exploitation in an effort to identify weaknesses in conservation programs and inspire institutions and individuals working to protect at-risk species. In 2022, reporting spanned the globe, from Namibia to Cuba to Iceland and beyond.

In 2019, lawmakers received copies of a powerful Wildlife Watch investigation by Explorers Sharon Guynup





and Steve Winter that detailed the dangers of tiger cub-petting attractions, the threats they pose to humans and animals, and the need for legislative action. In December 2022, spurred by their reporting, the United States Senate passed the Big Cat Public Safety Act with unanimous bipartisan support. Shortly thereafter, President Biden signed the Act into national law. The Act prohibits owning lions, tigers, or other big cats as pets, and ends public contact with cubs and adults.

In November 2022, Wildlife Watch reporting also influenced discussions at the global Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Following Wildlife Watch journalist Dina Maron's investigation into ongoing illegal fishing, participating countries took steps to sanction Mexico for failing to protect endangered totoaba, a marine fish species. A representative of Mexico's delegation credited the Wildlife Watch story for increasing pressure on decision-makers to take action.

These successes are a testament to the power of storytelling to drive tangible action—and reiterates how illumination leads to protection. Wildlife Watch will continue to investigate the threats faced by wildlife around the world to inspire people to understand, care, and enact meaningful change.

#### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORERS IN ACTION



#### Clement Kiragu

National Geographic Explorer Clement Kiragu's film project aims to retell the story of the rare black leopards

in the Laikipia region of Kenya. Believed to be a myth for years, these animals are now jeopardized by drought and human-animal conflict. Kiragu's project will highlight local stories and perspectives about the wildlife that have existed in the valleys of Laikipia for hundreds of years. The film, in Swahili and English, will help inform communities and dispel misconceptions about these majestic black leopards.



#### Aviad Scheinin

National Geographic Explorer Aviad Scheinin is working to understand why some shark species thrive in the

eastern Mediterranean Sea despite the warming effects of climate change. Through scientific data collection and research, he is seeking to reveal species-specific behaviors and new insights into seasonal shark distribution. His work aims to positively impact long-term conservation outcomes.

From left: A spoon-billed sandpiper, *Calidris pygmaea*, photographed by Joel Sartore at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust Slimbridge Wetland Centre in Gloucestershire, England. A Malabar pit viper, *Trimeresurus malabaricus*, photographed by Joel Sartore in Billerbeck, Germany. Clay, Daniel, and Enzo, three of 39 tigers rescued from an animal park, gather at a pool at the Wild Animal Sanctuary in Keenesburg, Colorado. A National Geographic Pristine Seas diving team examines the marine life surrounding Rapa and Marotiri in French Polynesia, including Galápagos and tiger sharks, huge amberjacks, spiny sea urchins, and creeping algae. A Nubian ibex, *Capra nubiana*, photographed by Joel Sartore at the Al Mayya Sanctuary in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates.





A night sky with the Milky Way galaxy and a large, illuminated rock formation. The Milky Way is visible as a bright, hazy band of stars stretching across the dark sky. The rock formation is a large, craggy rock face, illuminated from the right, showing a warm orange and yellow glow. The sky is filled with numerous stars, and the overall scene is a mix of natural beauty and scientific exploration.

# HUMAN HISTORIES AND CULTURES

From human rights issues and stories of survival to the evolution of ancient species, revealing stories from the past brings nuance and context to the challenges we face today. The National Geographic Society funds Explorers who are dedicated to investigating our planet's history, uncovering the roots of humanity, and preserving cultural knowledge and practices. These anthropologists, journalists, community organizers, artists, and others are elevating important stories that enable global audiences to better understand our complex, interconnected world.



Left: A Pahrnagat-style anthropomorphic figure at Shaman Knob in Nevada's Mount Irish Archaeological District, photographed by National Geographic Explorer Stephen Alvarez for his project about Native American rock art stories. Right: National Geographic Explorer Keneiloe Molopyane (right) and team member Maropeng Ramalepa prepare to map and excavate a new site at the Rising Star cave system in South Africa.

## 2022 IMPACT

13,000+

total miles reached by Paul Salopek on the Out of Eden Walk since 2013

6

interactive stories recorded as Esri StoryMaps that capture the omitted history behind significant cultural sites and events for the 2892 Miles to Go project

2

global cultural and natural heritage sites funded by National Geographic Society included in the Preserving Legacies project





“ The National Geographic Society is uniquely positioned to take on some of the most challenging issues facing our planet. Through scientific research and powerful storytelling, the Society is deepening our knowledge of the world and inspiring people everywhere to be stewards for the Earth. My wife, Inna, and I know that our family’s investment is making a real impact by supporting the most visionary and talented Explorers who are leading this new age of exploration.

MARK C. MOORE  
National Geographic Society Trustee  
Base Camp Founding Donor  
Hubbard Council Chair



OUT OF EDEN WALK

## The Pace of Perspective

The Out of Eden Walk, led by National Geographic Explorer Paul Salopek, is a multiyear journalistic project documenting his journey across the globe as he walks along the pathways of human origins from Africa to South America. The walk is an exercise in “slow journalism”: covering the major stories of our time holistically, by slowing down to share the full context and voices of local people behind the headlines. Salopek arrived in China in 2021 to begin his trek across the Middle Kingdom. He is traveling the country from south to north through a vast and ancient heartland that is largely unseen by the rest of the world, currently covering a route that stretches some 3,600 miles and at least 10 provinces.

In the past year, Salopek met and documented the lives and cultures of people who have often been overlooked by the media. He visited a traditional matriarchal village in the Hengduan Mountains, one of scores of ethnic minority Mosuo communities in southwest China. In another corner of Sichuan Province, Salopek explored a tea plantation and the Wu De Temple, conversing with aging tea pickers who shared their personal stories. In the lush hills of western Sichuan, Salopek teamed up with National Geographic Explorer and 2022 Wayfinder Award recipient Xi Zhinong to lead a weeklong workshop to teach participants about the style of slow storytelling.

The project also supports a new generation of storytellers by bringing them into the field to walk with Salopek. These partners gain firsthand experience with slow journalism and learn to see their native lands and people in new, unconventional ways. Their writings are published as “Lab Talks” on the Out of Eden Walk website alongside Salopek’s dispatches.

Since Salopek arrived in China, a diverse group of people he encountered along the road have joined the Out of Eden project as walking partners and contributors, including a singer, a shaman, an amateur botanist, field researchers, and installation artists. Their narratives, along with Salopek’s, share the intimacy and impact of the stories that emerge when we slow down the pace and rediscover our world.

SPOTLIGHT

## New Programs

### Preserving Legacies: A Future for Our Past

In December 2022, the National Geographic Society, in partnership with Manulife, the global life insurance and asset management company, launched Preserving Legacies: A Future for Our Past to safeguard natural and cultural heritage sites from the impacts of climate change. Led by





National Geographic Explorer and geographer Victoria Herrmann, this initiative draws on scientific and local knowledge to find sustainable and culturally appropriate solutions for their preservation. Climate change today is the fastest growing threat to global heritage sites, underscoring an urgent need for adaptation plans that focus on site-specific threats and impacts. Preserving Legacies aims to collaborate with these communities, providing knowledge, support, and resources to help create climate adaptation plans that safeguard their heritage sites and the values they embody.

### 2892 Miles to Go

In August 2022, National Geographic Explorer and educator Ashley Lamb-Sinclair held the first educator workshop for her project 2892 Miles to Go: Geographic Walk for Justice. This place-based social justice education program draws on the perspectives of leaders, storytellers, and artists in locations where critical facets of history have been erased from the dominant narrative of a place. These communities' stories are compiled into interactive Esri StoryMaps that capture the omitted history behind significant cultural sites and events. The maps will serve as an important resource for educators and storytellers across the United States, helping reshape narratives, overcome mistruths, and foster a more inclusive understanding of each community's history.

#### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORERS IN ACTION



### Lee Berger

The groundbreaking discovery of *Homo naledi* in 2013 by paleoanthropologist and National Geographic Explorer in Residence Lee Berger shifted our understanding of human evolution. In South Africa's Rising Star cave system, Berger's team identified the remains of a new species with humanlike and prehuman features. Since then, the team has expanded its exploration of these cave systems through high-resolution scanning and ground-penetrating radar studies. The National Geographic Society thanks Lyda Hill, Diane and Hal Brierley, and other donors for supporting Berger's work to uncover clues that deepen our understanding of human history.



### Magda Bou Dagher Kharrat

Magda Bou Dagher Kharrat's work focuses on preserving the cultural heritage of Mediterranean communities and their connection to natural resources. Her multidisciplinary project employs scientific and ethnographic research to explore the ancient relationship among local peoples and three Mediterranean trees, aiming to celebrate and preserve Mediterranean heritage and traditions.

From left: National Geographic Explorer Paul Salopek's walking partner, Yang Wendou, crosses the Lu River in Yunnan, China on a restored footbridge. National Geographic Explorer Victoria Herrmann works to safeguard natural and cultural heritage sites from the impacts of climate change. Storyteller Lance G. Newman II of the 2892 Miles to Go project in downtown Louisville, Kentucky. National Geographic Explorer Keliie Molopyane navigates a narrow passage in South Africa's Rising Star cave system. National Geographic Explorer Kiliie Yüyan's portrait of a man carving a totem pole highlighting the Tla-o-qui-aht's recent history in Meares Island, Canada.







# HUMAN INGENUITY

National Geographic Explorers are working on the cutting edge of science, exploration, education, and storytelling to find innovative approaches to solve our most pressing challenges. From developing technology that expands the boundaries of knowledge to uncovering patterns that illuminate the mysteries of our planet, these leaders and innovators are engineering, designing, creating, and synthesizing unique solutions to help build a better future.



Left: In this image taken by National Geographic Explorer Nichole Sobecki, an electric-converted Toyota Land Cruiser is test-driven at the Ngong Hills Wind Power Station in Kenya. Right: National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Amazon Expedition team climber Martin Acosta installs a rope on a tree in the Amazon rainforest in order to collect samples from the uppermost part of the canopy.

## 2022 IMPACT

# 600

Explorers supplied with technology tools and support by the National Geographic Exploration Technology Lab

# 80+

news articles published spotlighting the National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Amazon Expedition, reaching a combined global audience of 300 million readers

# 2

record-breaking weather stations installed on Mount Everest and Nevado Ausangate as part of National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Expeditions







“As the 21st century unfolds, exploration for pure discovery has given way to exploration as a means to preserve the natural world. With the Perpetual Planet initiative, launched in 2019, Rolex is committed for the long term to continuing the legacy of our founder by supporting explorers in their quest to protect the environment.”

ARNAUD BOETSCH  
Director of Communication  
& Image  
Rolex

#### PERPETUAL PLANET EXPEDITIONS

## Expanding the Boundaries of Knowledge

Perpetual Planet Expeditions, supported by the National Geographic Society in partnership with Rolex, were created to study the impacts of climate change on the planet’s most fragile environments: mountains, rainforests, and the ocean.

In 2022, Perpetual Planet Expeditions executed several scientific and storytelling studies across the globe, starting with the launch of the Perpetual Planet Amazon Expedition: a first-of-its-kind, multiyear exploration of the Amazon River Basin. The team of 14 Explorers are studying everything from Andean bears in the cloud forests of Peru to the mangroves on the Atlantic Coast. The expedition has already yielded impressive results: Explorers Angelo Bernardino and Thiago Silva documented the first ever report of freshwater mangrove trees in the Amazon Delta, expanding the existence of mapped mangroves by nearly 20 percent. To the west, Explorers Tom Matthews and Baker Perry installed the highest weather station in the tropical Andes, near the summit of Nevado Ausangate in Peru, at 6,349 meters (20,830 feet). As their research continues in partnership with local communities, scientists, storytellers, and Indigenous peoples, the expedition team will provide a critical perspective into the importance of the Amazon’s far-reaching water cycle.

In May 2022, during a National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Mount Logan Expedition, Explorer Alison Crisciticello extracted a record 327-meter (1,072-foot) ice core from Mount Logan, the tallest mountain in Canada. The ice core contains an estimated 30,000 years’ worth of climate records that can be used to better understand and mitigate the impact of climate change on glacier melt.

Additionally, Explorers Matthews and Perry returned to Mount Everest to install a new weather station on Bishop Rock—the highest exposed rock on Earth. At 8,810 meters (28,904 feet), this station sets a Guinness World Record as the highest weather station on land. This work, made possible through collaboration with the Nepali Sherpa community led by Tenzing Gyalzen Sherpa, expands upon the groundbreaking 2019 Perpetual Planet Everest Expedition, where the team installed a network of five weather stations along the mountain.

By harnessing world-renowned scientific expertise and cutting-edge technology, Perpetual Planet Expeditions help scientists, decision-makers, and local communities plan for and find solutions to the impacts of climate and environmental change while illuminating the wonder of our world through impactful storytelling.





**SPOTLIGHT**

## Exploration Technology Lab

The National Geographic Society’s Exploration Technology Lab offers innovative solutions for Explorers who need specialized tools to achieve their project goals. The Lab provides support ranging from bespoke hardware custom-built for specific projects, to cost-free, off-the shelf solutions for our Explorer community. With support from Iridium, including the donation of satellite communications equipment and other resources, the Exploration Technology Lab is able to ensure Explorers stay connected in the field and around the world.

In 2022, the Lab developed a custom crittercam—a recording device worn by animals—to capture data on the behavior of sperm whales in Dominica. The information is being analyzed by Explorers David Gruber, Robert Wood, and Shane Gero for Project CETI to help understand how these creatures communicate.

One of the Lab’s most widely used technologies is the deep-sea Dropcam, which collects 4K video of biodiversity and marine habitats at up to 6,000 meters (19,685 feet). Dropcams have been deployed in every ocean, resulting in the discovery of at least nine potential new species. Expedition footage has been referenced in over 30 publications, helping to inform and inspire conservation actions around the world.

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORERS IN ACTION**



### David Gruber

National Geographic Explorer David Gruber is leading Project CETI (Cetacean Translation Initiative)—an ambitious

endeavor that aims to combine advanced machine learning and state-of-the-art, noninvasive robotics to decode and translate the language of sperm whales.



### H. Cynthia Chiang

National Geographic Explorer H. Cynthia Chiang studies the cosmic “dark ages,” a time in the history of

the universe that occurred about 400,000 years after the Big Bang. Though this time period has never been observed before, Chiang and her team are developing specialized radio telescopes that will allow scientists to peer back into the universe’s early history by studying neutral hydrogen signals. These telescopes will provide unique insights into the structure of the universe that shaped its evolution over billions of years.

From left: National Geographic Explorer Angelo Bernardino (right) and student Carla Frechiani de Oliveira perform measurements in a mangrove forest in Santa Cruz, Brazil as part of the 2022 National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Amazon Expedition. As part of the Perpetual Planet Expeditions partnership between National Geographic Society and Rolex, Nima Kancha Sherpa (left) and Tenzing Gyalzen Sherpa finalize the construction of a weather monitoring station at Bishop Rock in Nepal, where National Geographic Explorers along with a team of elite climbing Sherpa installed a new weather station just below the summit of Mount Everest at 8,810m/28,904ft, completing the most ambitious scientific undertaking on Mount Everest ever conducted that first installed a network of five weather stations, including the two highest in the world at the time in 2019. Marine biologists and National Geographic Explorers David Gruber and Shane Gero use specialized technology from the Exploration Technology Lab to carry out their work. National Geographic Society Manufacturing Engineer Mohsen Ahmed welds equipment in the Exploration Technology Lab. The National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Amazon Expedition Trait Team scans a leaf in the Amazon rainforest.







# CUTTING-EDGE SCIENCE

Since our founding in 1888, the National Geographic Society has funded the best and brightest individuals dedicated to scientific exploration and deepening understanding of our world. Our Explorers are leaders in every scientific field—from paleontology, to evolutionary biology, to astrophysics, and more. They are harnessing cutting-edge scientific methods to uncover solutions to the most pressing challenges facing our planet and its people, expand our knowledge about nature and cultures, and inform and inspire the next generation of changemakers.



Left: National Geographic Explorer Ruthmery Pilco Huarcaya prepares field recording equipment as part of the National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Amazon Expedition. Right: A photographer sets up a shot in the mouth of a cave located in the Yaxcabá Municipal region of Yucatan, Mexico.

## 2022 IMPACT

# \$10.6M

awarded in grants to support Explorer-led science and innovation projects

# 767

scientific studies by National Geographic Explorers across 90 disciplines published in academic journals

# 111

new Explorer programs funded by the National Geographic Society across conservation, research, and technology





## Advancing Science and Innovation

At the National Geographic Society, our commitment to science lies at the heart of everything we do—through the dauntless pursuit of knowledge and understanding, we are examining the world around us, revealing truths that connect us, and finding solutions to help us build a better future. Our Explorers contribute their significant findings and breakthrough discoveries to globally-respected scientific publications, sharing the results of their important work with audiences around the world.

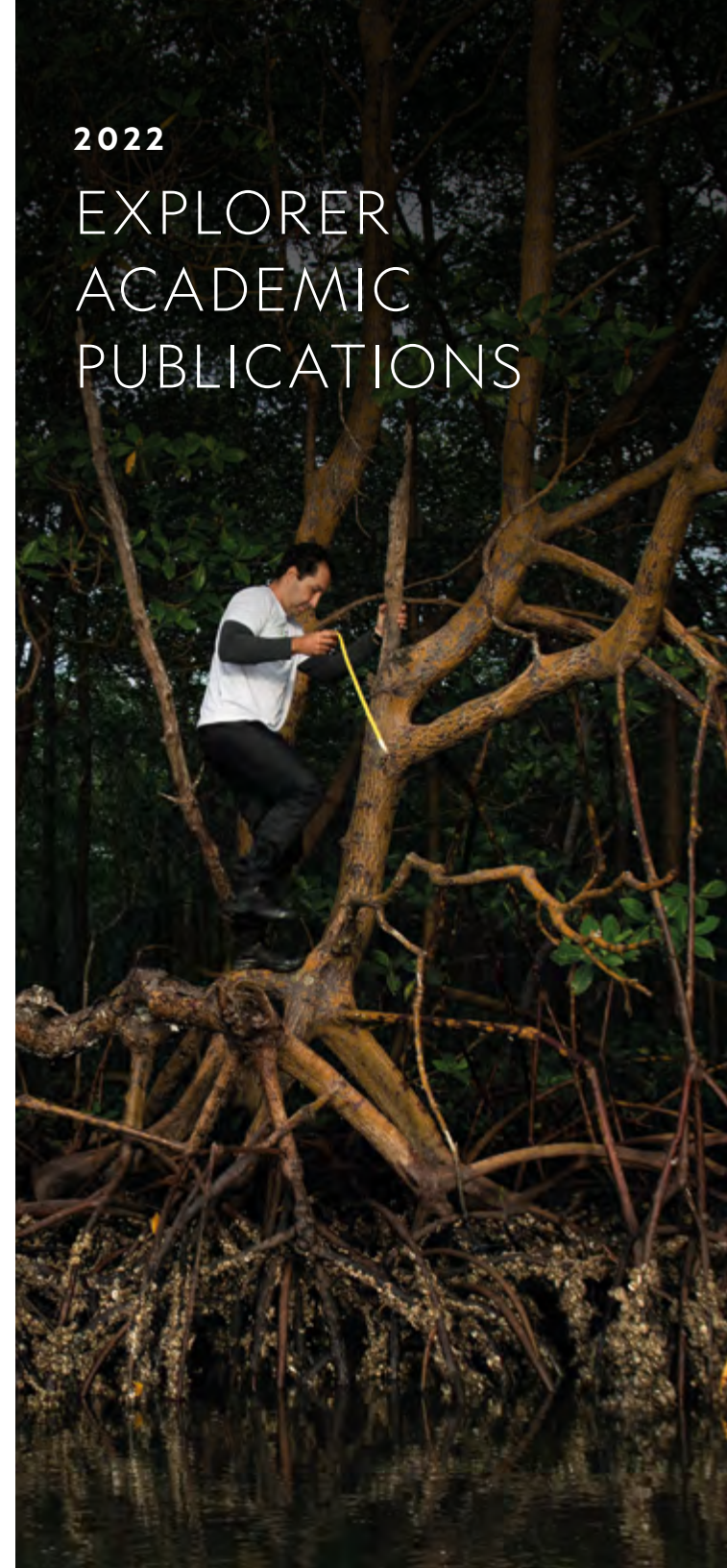
In 2022, Society-funded Explorers and programs contributed 767 articles spanning 90 disciplines to top scientific and academic journals. Included among these groundbreaking studies:

- A study in the journal *Nature Communications*, co-authored by National Geographic Explorer **Pablo Garcia Borboroglu** and a team of researchers showed that 66 million years ago, early penguin species were able to adapt and evolve surprisingly quickly in response to environmental changes after the Cretaceous-Paleogene mass extinction. However, genomic analysis reveals that modern penguins exhibit the slowest known rate of evolution among all birds. This means that their rate of genetic mutations has slowed significantly, leaving them vulnerable to population collapse due to the rapid pace of modern climate change.
- As part of the National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Amazon Expedition, Explorers **Thiago Silva** and **Angelo Bernardino** published a study in *Current Biology* identifying one-of-a-kind mangrove forests found growing in freshwater along the Brazilian coast. Unlike other mangroves that have been studied worldwide, these forests exhibit a unique structure that likely provides distinct ecosystem functioning, carbon stocks, and habitat support for numerous animal and plant species over their large expanse. This discovery is crucial to further understanding the intricacies of the region's mangrove forests and their critical impact on the local communities that surround them.
- Explorers **Mark Wong**, **Benoit Guenard**, and other scientists, produced a study in September 2022 that delves into the tremendous ecological significance of ubiquitous insects such as ants. In response to alarming global declines in insect biodiversity, their work analyzes hundreds of ant studies to estimate total ant numbers worldwide and map their spatial distribution. This information highlights the central role ants play in terrestrial ecosystems and is paramount for predicting how environmental threats may impact ecosystem health and critical inter-species food webs.

This page: National Geographic Explorer Angelo Bernardino climbs over mangroves in the Amazon Delta region of Brazil as part of the National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Amazon Expedition. Opposite page, top row, from left: A group of Warddeken rangers hunts for turtles burrowed into the mud. Centre pivots and agriculture surround the winding Mara River in Kenya. A Kapok tree towers above the Gabon Forest. Archaeologist Gabriel Prieto uncovers artifacts from dedicatory sacrifices in Las Llamas, Peru. Middle row, from left: Hippopotamuses wallow in a river at the Masai Mara Reserve in Kenya. The Mussicadzi River channel in Mozambique's Gorongosa National Park attracts storks, egrets, hammerkops, and waterbuck during the dry season. A rainforest stream in Ecuador's Yasuni National Park. Bottom row, from left: Leafcutter ants carry leaves back to their nest in Costa Rica. The eggs of a female sun glass frog are visible through her semi-transparent body, evolved to help her hide from predators.

2022

EXPLORER  
ACADEMIC  
PUBLICATIONS



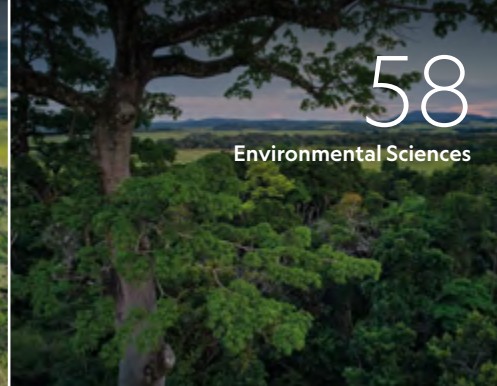




69  
Anthropology



63  
Geosciences



58  
Environmental Sciences



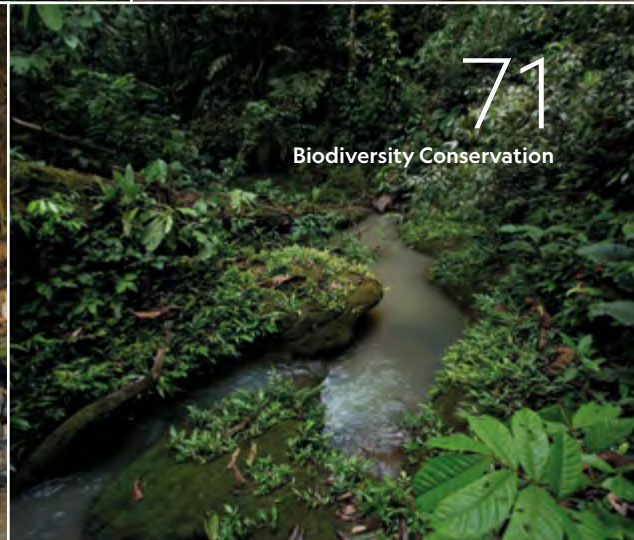
54  
Archaeology



98  
Zoology



72  
Multidisciplinary Sciences



71  
Biodiversity Conservation



184  
Ecology



103  
Evolutionary Biology





A woman with brown hair tied back, wearing a light blue button-down shirt and a black backpack, is holding a professional camera with a large lens up to her eye, taking a photograph. She is looking towards the left of the frame. The background shows a village with several houses and a body of water under a cloudy sky. The overall tone is professional and documentary.

# UNFORGETTABLE STORYTELLING

The National Geographic Society is one of the largest funders of individual storytellers in the world. For 135 years, storytelling has been a central component of the Society's work, and today it plays an integral part in our mission to illuminate and protect the wonder of our world. The Society is deeply committed to championing the diverse voices of our global Explorer community and ensuring that their unique perspectives and stories are reflected throughout our mission work.



Left: Documentary photographer and National Geographic Explorer Luján Agustí captures images in Indonesia. Right: A filmmaker instructs students on how to use cinematography equipment in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, as part of the Africa Refocused program.

## 2022 IMPACT

# \$4.7M

awarded to support National Geographic Explorer-led storytelling projects

# 53

African filmmakers supported by the National Geographic Society through the Africa Refocused program

# 21

National Geographic Explorers representing 13 countries shared the impact of their storytelling work at the 2022 Storytellers Summit





## Global Storytellers Fund

In collaboration with The Climate Pledge, the National Geographic Society established the Global Storytellers Fund to empower photographers, filmmakers, multimedia artists, and other Explorers working to illuminate the planet's most pressing challenges as well as the communities on the front lines of climate change. At the outset of 2022, the Society made five grants to storytellers covering climate change implications, causes, and emerging solutions.

The National Geographic Society thanks The Climate Pledge for its support of the Global Storytellers Fund.

### Environmental Justice Documentary

**Asha Stuart** is producing a documentary film examining climate-related environmental justice themes. Her project reveals how Black and Brown neighborhoods are disproportionately affected by climate change flooding and extreme hot weather. As the conversation about environmental issues around the world continues to grow, Stuart's documentary will include voices from marginalized communities and bring attention to the African American community's particular vulnerability to climate change.

### Climate Change Resilience and the Water Towers of the World

**Ciril Jazbec** is documenting the resilience of mountain communities attempting to fight climate change in a three-chapter, multimedia project comprising portraiture, landscapes, photography, and short films. His reporting will investigate scientific research and inspiring solutions that are working to slow down the process of glacier melt—including ice stupas created by Indigenous leaders in the Himalayas, attempts to save glaciers in the European Alps, and efforts to protect glaciers sacred to Indigenous religions in the Andes.

### Keepers of Life

As the climate crisis intensifies, the world is seeking solutions and hope. While technological advancements and innovations show promise for the future, Indigenous communities have been stewarding their lands and seas for millennia, and mitigating the effects of climate change at a large scale. **Kiliii Yüyan's** work explores traditional Indigenous methods of conservation land management and climate change mitigation through photography and storytelling, including among communities in Russia's Bikin National Park and in Palau.

### #FindYourPeat

Peatlands are the world's largest terrestrial organic carbon stock, and are highly significant natural resources to combat climate change. Through photography and documentary film, **Luján Agusti** explores how peatlands are vital to the future of our planet by acting as carbon sinks. She also elevates this message globally by creating new and positive imagery of peatlands. For her project, Agusti will document five significant peatlands in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Europe, and will invite people to join the conversation globally on social media using the hashtag #findyourpeat.

### Kéré

Southern Madagascar is facing a food insecurity crisis, or "Kéré," a period of hunger. The crisis is exacerbated by drought, climate change, and residual effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in what the United Nations has called the "world's first climate change-induced famine." **Miora Rajaonary** will highlight the work of the people and organizations striving to implement innovative agricultural solutions that can withstand drought and increase soil fertility as well as the challenges that they face in light of climate change.

Opposite page, clockwise from left: An aerial view of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor in South Carolina taken by National Geographic Explorer Asha Stuart. National Geographic Explorer Ciril Jazbec photographs an individual standing in front of the giant Shara ice stupa in Ladakh, India. A photo of pigeon peas taken by National Geographic Explorer Miora Rajaonary in the village of Sampona in southern Madagascar. National Geographic Explorer Luján Agusti (middle) and her partner, filmmaker Nico Deluca (left) connect with residents of the South Sumatran Menang Raya village in Indonesia. National Geographic Explorer Kiliii Yüyan takes underwater photographs of a fish caught by using a traditional Palauan technique called drop-stone fishing near Koror, Palau.





“ The Climate Pledge is dedicated to inspiring change and driving real climate action. We’re thrilled to work with the National Geographic Society on this important work. It’s critical that we continue to show people all around the world how communities are impacted, to underscore the urgency we all must have in fighting this global climate crisis.

SALLY FOUTS  
Global Lead for The Climate Pledge  
at Amazon





## Empowering Storytellers Worldwide

National Geographic Explorers inspire millions of people around the world through unforgettable storytelling. Their photography, prose, films, art, and reporting spark curiosity and create connections across cultures, experiences, and identities. Their stories challenge prevailing narratives, elevate unique perspectives, and drive meaningful action. Thanks to generous donors, the Society funds several programs that support the development of emerging storytellers and empower the voices of those who inform and motivate people to care for our planet.

### Africa Refocused

Launched in June 2022, Africa Refocused is a Society-funded storytelling program led by Nature, Environment and Wildlife Filmmakers (NEWF), co-founded by National Geographic Explorers Noel Kok and Pragna Parsotam-Kok. The program aims to elevate African filmmakers and storytellers, to ensure that the stories of Africa are told by and from the perspective of African people. Africa Refocused magnifies the reach and impact of NEWF's training, mentorship, and professional development offerings in order to support African storytellers across the continent as they navigate the global film industry.

### Field Ready

The National Geographic Field Ready program offers one-on-one guidance from seasoned filmmakers to early career filmmakers or photographers interested in expanding their skill set to explore large-scale natural history, science, exploration, and documentary filmmaking. Alongside mentorship opportunities, the program

offers training, including a discussion series to introduce participants to industry leaders, as well as specialized workshops that help them navigate the unique world of factual production.

### Fulbright-National Geographic Storytelling Fellowship

The Fulbright-National Geographic Storytelling Fellowship, a component of the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, provides selected Fulbright grantees the chance to participate in an academic year of storytelling on a globally significant theme. The program selects five Fulbright Fellows each year and awards funding to support their storytelling work in addition to providing mentorship and training with National Geographic Explorers and staff.

### Second Assistant

The Second Assistant program supports early-career photographers who have been historically excluded in the field of technical photography, focusing on women and people of color. The program provides opportunities for participants to assist established photographers in the National Geographic Explorer community on an editorial assignment or larger storytelling project. This pairing provides early-career photographers with mentorship and hands-on experience on a photo assignment. The Second Assistant program is expanding access to important career development opportunities for a diverse range of burgeoning photographers and working to increase equity and inclusion in photojournalism and technical photography.

Opposite page, clockwise from left: The Society-funded Africa Refocused program supports NEWF's work to train and elevate African filmmakers and storytellers. Second Assistant program participant Sirachai Arunrugstichai captures National Geographic Explorer Kilili Yüyan showing photos to Akilino Albis, one of the last traditional navigators from Koror, Palau. A NEWF photography trainee takes an image of an elephant.









# TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION

National Geographic is where education meets exploration. We are transforming the learning experience for young people and the educators who reach them by creating meaningful connections with the important work of our Explorers. Through externships, online courses, and leadership opportunities, we provide students with support and resources to feed their curiosity and inspire them to become the Explorers of tomorrow.



Left: Seventh and eighth grade students from Dora Kennedy French Immersion School in Greenbelt, Maryland, participate in the National Geographic Society's Dig Day, attending workshops on sustainability and helping relocate plants from the Society's headquarters to their school's campus. Right: A group of Grosvenor Teacher Fellows on an expedition to Antarctica.

## 2022 IMPACT

# 46M+

users engaged with materials  
in the online National  
Geographic Resource Library

# 135,000

students participated in  
99 National Geographic  
Explorer Classroom events

# 300

college-aged youth from  
75+ countries participated in  
conservation externships, a  
partnership of the National  
Geographic Society and  
The Nature Conservancy





## Building the Next Generation of Explorers

### Explorer Classroom

With the support of donors and partners, the Society is connecting young people and educators with National Geographic Explorers who are building a better world. Explorer Classrooms are free, live, interactive sessions featuring behind-the-scenes stories and opportunities to learn from scientists, conservationists, educators, and storytellers from across the globe in real time.

In 2022, the Society's Education team hosted 99 Explorer Classroom sessions, reaching over 135,000 students around the world. Participants eagerly engaged with Explorers, asking questions that inspired their curiosity and cultivated their interest in the world around them.

To name two examples: National Geographic Explorer and canopy ecologist Meg Lowman shared her work navigating the treetops of Ethiopia to uncover the biodiversity of the canopy. Explorer, ice core scientist, and mountaineer Alison Criscitiello broadcast live from Canada's Mount Logan while experiencing a windchill of minus 40 degrees F, giving students a glimpse of the conditions Explorers endure for their fieldwork.

The team also launched its first series of Explorer Classrooms in Spanish, centered around youth in Mexico. During one event with Explorer and Indigenous storyteller Ismael Vasquez, students were encouraged to ask questions in their native tongue first, a powerful acknowledgement of Indigenous heritages that are rarely recognized in public forums.

In 2023, several more Explorer Classroom sessions will be hosted in Spanish, featuring a cohort of Explorers from Latin America. This effort will help build a foundation that enables us to expand our educational programs, reaching even more young people across the globe.

### Grosvenor Teacher Fellowship

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, National Geographic resumed the Grosvenor Teacher Fellowship program in partnership with Lindblad Expeditions. In 2022, the Society awarded funding to 50 educators to travel aboard

one of Lindblad Expeditions' 29 voyages to destinations around the world for a once-in-a-lifetime, field-based experience. The Fellowship equips educators to transfer their onboard experience into new ways to teach students, engage colleagues, and bring geographic awareness into their learning environments and communities.

#### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATORS IN ACTION



#### Fausta Pereira

National Geographic Explorer Fausta Pereira has helped dozens of children and teens living in refugee camps in Greece learn how to tell their own stories through short animated films, using materials such as stones, flowers, and paper. Through multiple animation workshops, Pereira and her team created a safe space where participants could freely express their emotions and share their experiences in order to begin the process of healing. They also worked to equip community trainers to continue leading workshops following the team's departure. Pereira hopes the films will be "a humanitarian bridge between those inside the refugee camp and the general audience outside."



#### Jaclyn Foster

Jaclyn Foster is a middle school teacher from Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and a Grosvenor Teacher Fellow. As part of her fellowship, Foster joined a Society-funded expedition to the Arctic in summer 2022. She describes the experience as transformative: "It's one thing to know that climate change is happening, but it really hits home when you actually see the sea ice melting." Since her return, Foster has encouraged her students to research Arctic animals and global climate change impacts, inspiring them to take pro-environmental action in their own communities. As a result, her students raised money to start a school garden, completing their greenhouse in January 2023.

Opposite page, from top: National Geographic Society educator Jim Bentley leads group of students on a conservation field trip. A young woman records herself speaking on camera.



**SPOTLIGHT**

## Externships

In partnership with The Nature Conservancy, the Society completed three externship cohorts in 2022 focused on marine and freshwater community conservation. The program engaged 300 college-aged youth from over 75 countries, empowering them to become the planetary stewards of tomorrow. Program evaluations show the strong impact the externships had on participating students, including a 50 percent increase in their average level of knowledge about the marine conservation industry. Additionally, 42 externs were awarded \$2,000 in seed funding to support the development of their community-based conservation solutions.



**SPOTLIGHT**

## Slingshot Challenge

In 2022, thanks to generous support from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, the National Geographic Society launched a new global video challenge called the Slingshot Challenge. The initiative provides a platform for students ages 13-18 to voice their ideas about the future of conservation work in five areas: cleaning the air, restoring the ocean, protecting nature, reducing waste, or addressing climate change.

Participants were asked to create a one-minute video in English and Spanish outlining an innovative solution to an environmental issue they're passionate about. The Challenge is intended to empower the next generation of problem solvers to tackle environmental issues, take action for their planet, and inspire a more sustainable future. The Society announced the winners of the first Slingshot Challenge in May 2023.







# INSPIRING A GLOBAL AUDIENCE

The National Geographic Society supports a global community of Explorers who are learning about, caring for, and protecting our planet—and their important work is inspiring millions of people around the globe to do the same. Through annual events like the Storytellers Summit and Explorers Festival, as well as traveling and resident museum exhibitions, the Society is committed to sparking curiosity, cultivating connections, and inspiring the Explorer in everyone.



Left: National Geographic Explorer Louise Mabulo presents at the 2022 Explorers Festival at the Society's headquarters in Washington, D.C. Right: A family visits the National Geographic Museum's "Beyond King Tut: The Immersive Experience" exhibit in Washington, D.C.

## 2022 IMPACT

12M+

visitors experienced a National Geographic exhibition

2,700+

people joined the National Geographic Society's annual Storytellers Summit event

50

Explorers from 25 countries shared their work at the 2022 National Geographic Explorers Festival





## The National Geographic Museum

After being closed for two years because of the pandemic, the Washington, D.C.-based National Geographic Museum reopened to the public. Guests were welcomed back with two exhibitions: “Greatest Wildlife Photography,” which featured powerful images of some of the most fascinating animals on our planet, and “Once Upon a Climb: Stories from Everest,” which told the stories of Explorers who have faced extreme conditions to document and better understand the world’s tallest mountain.

Millions more people enjoyed National Geographic’s traveling exhibitions. In 2022, three new exhibitions attracted more than 12 million visitors across 22 countries. Proceeds from the National Geographic Museum and exhibitions provide critical support for the Society’s nonprofit educational, conservation, and scientific work.

### ‘Inside the Curve: Stories from the Pandemic’

At the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, National Geographic quickly responded by creating a new fund to support journalists and storytellers worldwide. The resulting stories were deeply personal, honest, and evocative. The Society featured this work in a new exhibition, “Inside the Curve,” that richly illustrated the myriad aspects of a world in crisis and further elevated their reach. Curated by Claudi Carreras, an independent photography scholar who has organized numerous exhibitions in more than 50 countries, this collection made its U.S. debut at the United Nations headquarters in New York City.

### ‘Pristine Seas’

The “Pristine Seas” traveling exhibition showcases the importance of marine protected areas (MPAs) in protecting biodiversity, preserving carbon stocks, and ensuring economic and food security for communities who depend on the ocean for their survival. National Geographic Explorer in Residence Enric Sala founded Pristine Seas and leads expeditions around the globe that combine exploration,

scientific research, media, and strategic communications to inspire global leaders to protect the ocean. Since 2008, Pristine Seas has helped create 26 of the largest MPAs in the world.

### ‘Wolves’

Launched in fall 2022 and produced in collaboration with the National Museum of Wildlife Art, “Wolves” is a new traveling exhibition featuring stunning images and videos by National Geographic Explorer and photographer Ronan Donovan. A field biologist turned conservation photographer and filmmaker, Donovan uses storytelling to explore the relationship between humans and wildlife, and dispel the misconceptions that drive human-wildlife conflict. The exhibition features photos and videos from Donovan’s National Geographic Society-funded work in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and at Ellesmere Island in the Canadian Arctic.

### Q SPOTLIGHT

## ‘Beyond King Tut: The Immersive Experience’

Produced in collaboration with Paquin Entertainment, “Beyond King Tut: The Immersive Experience” was a cinematic, immersive National Geographic Museum exhibition celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the discovery of Tutankhamun’s tomb. In its record-breaking nine-month run, the exhibit welcomed more than 100,000 guests to the Museum at our Washington, D.C., Base Camp. In 2022, “Beyond King Tut” also premiered in Vancouver, B.C., Boston, New York City, and Los Angeles, driving national attention for the Society and *National Geographic* magazine’s corresponding feature story about the anniversary. “Beyond King Tut” broke records to become the Society’s highest performing exhibition, with monthly attendance and revenue earned among the highest in Museum history. This dazzling exhibition set the stage for the Society’s reimagined Base Camp experience, giving guests a glimpse into the future of National Geographic exhibitions.

Opposite page, clockwise from left: The National Geographic Society’s traveling exhibition, “Inside the Curve,” is shown in the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Underwater sea life in the Southern Line Islands, photographed on the second National Geographic Pristine Seas expedition to the region. Visitors at the National Geographic Museum’s “Beyond King Tut: The Immersive Experience” exhibit in Washington, D.C. Wolf siblings howl to distant family members, photographed as part of National Geographic Explorer Ronan Donovan’s “Wolves” exhibition.







## Celebrating Our Explorer Community

### Storytellers Summit

In January 2022, over 2,700 people virtually joined the National Geographic Society for our annual Storytellers Summit to celebrate the power of storytelling to change the world. Journalists, photographers, and filmmakers from around the globe transported attendees to mesmerizing, complex, and deeply personal worlds. Esther Ruth Mbabazi shared inclusive approaches to portraiture in Uganda. Artist, journalist, and photographer Davide Monteleone highlighted the art of using data and breathtaking photography to visualize the abstract. Zuni tribal member and Colorado Plateau Foundation CEO Jim Enote challenged us to rethink our conventional understanding of maps and embrace the rich stories rooted in memories, families, and places. Photographer and author Deborah Willis showed us her fight for equality and the critical importance of representation through photography. The National Geographic Society also welcomed two new storytellers to our esteemed group of Explorers at Large: artist and environmentalist Maya Lin, and photojournalist and educator Shahidul Alam, who play an integral role in furthering our mission and strengthening our legacy in storytelling.

The National Geographic Society thanks Anne Page Chiapella and The Climate Pledge for their sponsorship of the Storytellers Summit.

### Explorers Festival

In an incredible week filled with moments of inspiration and connection, the annual National Geographic Explorers Festival continued to bring together scientists, conservationists, educators, and storytellers worldwide who are working to advance our mission. One of the most powerful moments from

the 2022 Festival came from entomologist and 2022 Wayfinder Award recipient Samuel Ramsey, who said to “never let anyone tell you how your story ends.” His advice resonated with our National Geographic Explorer community, who shared their experiences with and perspectives on the complex challenges of fieldwork and conservation, and the joy of discovery. More than 800 attendees joined the two-day symposium, either in person or virtually. Fifty National Geographic Explorers, representing 25 countries, shared captivating presentations of their work, from helping people and lions coexist in northern Kenya, to studying the DNA of sharks, to exploring the hidden world of microorganisms, and more.

The National Geographic Society thanks Rolex for its continued support of the National Geographic Explorers Festival.

### London Explorers Festival

In March, the National Geographic Society’s London Explorers Festival convened a fascinating and innovative group of scientists, conservationists, educators, and storytellers from Europe and Africa to share their discoveries and solutions for creating a healthier and more sustainable planet.

Over three jam-packed days, nine Explorers took part in training, networking opportunities, and an “Explorer Spotlight” series of lightning talks about their work in the U.K. and beyond. Featured presenters included animal tracking expert Lucy Hawkes and paleontologist Nizar Ibrahim.

This multiday event, made possible by Rolex, gives our Explorers and partners a special opportunity to shine a light on the power of bold exploration and storytelling to make an impact across the globe.

Opposite page, from left: Marine biologist and National Geographic Explorer Giovanni Chimienti presents at the Society’s 2022 Explorers Festival in Washington, D.C. Participants in a panel discussion at the Society’s 2022 London Explorers Festival. National Geographic Explorer Phoebe Griffith speaks about crocodile conservation at the Society’s 2022 London Explorers Festival. Participants attend a forum at the 2022 Explorers Festival in Washington, D.C.









A green sea turtle photographed on a National Geographic Pristine Seas expedition to the Maldives.



# SUSTAINABILITY

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**The chief goal of our Sustainability program is to ensure the way we do business reflects our respect for the people, cultures, and ecosystems we explore, celebrate, and support through our educational, scientific, and grant-giving programs.**

The National Geographic Society is committed to responsible and sustainable business practices. We are conscious that all our decisions have an impact, not just on our financial bottom line but also on the people we employ and the environments we inhabit.

Through demand management programs that allow our Washington, D.C., headquarters to function as a virtual power plant, we are helping support the local energy grid and responsibly managing our resource expenditures. We also invest in local renewable energy to cover half of our energy use and help reduce emissions.

Among other ways we are actualizing our sustainability goals, the Society donates useful items that we no longer need to dozens of schools, museums, libraries, and local organizations. In 2022, we shared 48 tons of material with our community, including books, magazines, art supplies, fixtures, furniture, pallets, and banners. Our outreach and active recycling and compost programs lead to less than 50 percent of our “waste” going to landfills or incinerators.

All National Geographic Society buildings follow the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards to ensure that our operations are as efficient as possible and maintain a safe

and healthy atmosphere for occupants and guests of our buildings. In 2022, we submitted our seventh LEED rating application. This certification would continue our headquarters’ distinction as the longest continuously certified and most recertified buildings in the world. It’s a record that began in 2003 when we received the world’s first LEED certification for existing buildings—including then 99-year-old Hubbard Hall.

All of the Society’s efforts depend on the engagement of our staff, tenants, and guests. Through ongoing communication, training, guidelines, and policies, our staff are supported in embracing a sustainable mindset for making decisions and purchases on behalf of the organization. Our volunteer Green Team teaches all occupants of our buildings about existing initiatives and solicits new ideas for protecting campus resources. In 2022, we were excited to bring back our biggest in-person events: courtyard green markets to support local sustainable businesses and artists, our popular Bike to Work Day pit stop for commuters, and swap meets for trading personal items. The Green Team also continued our onsite beekeeping projects and offered an e-bike class to support our free campus e-bikeshare.

**To learn more about our sustainability efforts, visit [natgeo.org/sustainability](https://natgeo.org/sustainability).**





“ Explorers from around the globe have been returning to National Geographic’s headquarters for more than a century—to share their experiences in the field and collaborate to find innovative solutions to the greatest challenges we face. By expanding and transforming this historic space into a vibrant, interactive, immersive Base Camp, we will continue to welcome Explorers as well as millions of others, from every corner of our planet, who share our passion for exploration.

BRENDAN BECHTEL

National Geographic Society Trustee  
Base Camp Founding Donor







**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**  
**BASE CAMP**  
 ▶ HOME of THE EXPLORER

**Let's Build It Together**

To learn more about Base Camp or to support the project, please contact Kara Ramirez Mullins, Chief Advancement Officer, at [kmullins@ngs.org](mailto:kmullins@ngs.org) or visit [natgeo.org/basecamp](https://natgeo.org/basecamp).

Opposite page: Groundbreaking celebration at the National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington, D.C. This page, from left: Artist's rendering of the courtyard now under construction at National Geographic headquarters; Artist's rendering of the new entrance pavilion now under construction at National Geographic headquarters; Artist's rendering of a new photography exhibit now under construction at National Geographic headquarters.

**Home of the Explorer**

With NG Next as our roadmap, the National Geographic Society is reaching boldly into the future, embarking on our most ambitious and transformative chapter yet. In the next decade and beyond, we will strengthen and accelerate our efforts alongside our Explorers, donors, and partners to tackle bold goals, advance meaningful change, and inspire visitors from across the globe to join us in creating a healthier planet.

Our first priority on this journey is revitalizing the Society's historic Base Camp in Washington, D.C. Made possible through philanthropic support from our partners and donors, our new Base Camp represents the most significant expansion in our 135-year history.

The National Geographic Society has always been the Home of the Explorer—beginning when our earliest Explorers returned from their expeditions to our headquarters to share their findings, experiences, and stories with the public and each other. Now, we are transforming our public space to advance our commitment to exploring, protecting, and illuminating the

wonder of our world. Our reimagined Base Camp will be an unprecedented destination with an expanded museum and new shared spaces where visitors will experience cutting-edge immersive technology, stunning photography, bold storytelling, and glimpses into the life of an Explorer.

On October 27, 2022, Chief Executive Officer Jill Tiefertaler, Chairman of the Board of Trustees Jean M. Case, and the Society's Board of Trustees welcomed leadership and Base Camp Founding Donors, Explorers, and partners to a groundbreaking celebration to commence this next chapter at our Washington, D.C. headquarters. Marine geologist, oceanographer, and National Geographic Explorer at Large Robert D. Ballard and biologist, ecologist, and Explorer Rae Wynn-Grant, joined by National Geographic Explorers Anand Varma and Rosa Vásquez Espinoza, shared how the reimagined space will help to amplify the work of Explorers and elevate the Society's mission. The Base Camp renovation is expected to be complete in spring 2026.

**We are grateful to our Base Camp Founding Donors:**

- Brendan and Helen Bechtel
- Katherine and David Bradley
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- Jack and Laura Dangermond
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An underwater photograph of a kelp forest. The water is a clear, vibrant blue. Several thick, brown kelp stalks rise from the bottom, supporting large, flat, green kelp blades. The scene is illuminated from above, creating a bright, sunlit atmosphere. The overall composition is vertical and fills the frame with natural textures and colors.

# THE POWER OF PHILANTHROPY

Thanks to the generous support of our global community of donors, the National Geographic Society had another record-breaking fundraising year in 2022. Because of incredible contributors like you, the Society and our Explorers are driving impact and transformation around the world, helping to create a healthier planet and a brighter future.

In 2022, the Society generated more than \$117.9 million in new commitments, representing the largest fundraising year in our history and a 58 percent increase over the prior year. These donor investments represent a tremendous vote of confidence in the Society's mission to illuminate and protect the wonder of our world, and in the National Geographic Explorers who live that mission every day.

We are deeply grateful to our Chief Executive Officer, Jill Tiefenthaler, and our Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Jean M. Case, for being at the forefront of this historic effort to inspire a global community to learn about, care for, and protect our world.



A *Lessonia* kelp forest, photographed during a National Geographic Pristine Seas expedition to Tierra del Fuego, Argentina.

## BY THE NUMBERS

\$117.9M

raised in 2022

100%

philanthropic participation  
by the Society's  
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\$324

average gift amount  
donated to the Society

“ Thanks to you, our incredible community of donors, the Society is continuing its forward momentum to transform our organization and inspire meaningful change across the globe. Your extraordinary support in the past year has made it possible for us to elevate the work of our Explorers, who are driving change through impact-driven research, conservation, education, and storytelling. We couldn't do it without you.



KARA RAMIREZ  
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Chief Advancement Officer  
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The Principal Donors Society is the National Geographic Society's highest designation for lifetime giving, recognizing individual, corporate, and foundation donors who have supported the Society through cumulative philanthropic support of \$1 million or more.

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From top: Hubbard Council member Laura Ng (left) with National Geographic Explorer Rae Wynn-Grant at a reception hosted by Ng in Denver, Colorado. Hubbard Council members B Wu (left), Kevin Rask (second from left), and Eric Larson (right) join National Geographic Society Chief Executive Officer Jill Tiefertalher at a donor event hosted by Wu and Larson in Chicago, Illinois. National Geographic Explorers at Large Maya Lin and Shahidul Alam with Hubbard Council members Rodney Cook and Mark Moore listen to the exhibition curator of "One Life: Maya Lin" at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. Jill Tiefertalher with Principal Donors Society and Hubbard Council member Jean Trebek at "An Evening with Joel Sartore" in Los Angeles, California.

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Wertheimer  
B Wu and Eric Larson

**For more information, please contact Megan Kimmins, vice president, leadership giving, at (800) 373-1717 or [mkimmins@ngs.org](mailto:mkimmins@ngs.org).**



# CLARK COUNCIL

The Clark Council is a group of supporters deeply committed to helping the Society remain at the forefront of exploration and knowledge. Members make an annual contribution of \$25,000 to \$49,999 and receive exclusive benefits and special access to the places and work that make up the National Geographic Society. The Clark Council convenes through two annual calls with National Geographic Explorers and senior leadership, and members are invited to the Society's signature annual events.

Support from Clark Council members helps the Society address critical issues, challenge accepted beliefs, and push the boundaries of knowledge about our world in order to ensure a healthy and sustainable future for all. The National Geographic Society would like to thank members of the Clark Council for their meaningful generosity and support.

**“ The protection and preservation of wildlife and ecosystems for future generations, in a way that sustainably incorporates the needs of the local people, is very important to us. As part of the Clark Council, we experience more fully the awe in knowing we are making a real difference. We are proud to support the efforts of National Geographic Explorers to generate hope and to protect our planet for years to come.**

**MICHAEL AND SANDRA RUDDICK**  
Clark Council Members

From top: Clark Council members Justin Daab and Lois Morrison attend a donor event featuring National Geographic Explorers in Chicago, Illinois. Clark Council member Dr. Eric Stein (right) with National Geographic Explorer Babak Tafreshi at the Leadership Donor Dinner and Reception, held for National Geographic Society's Hubbard Council and Clark Council members as well as the Board of Trustees. Clark Council members tour the Society's Exploration Technology Laboratory. Clark Council members Ned and Jean Brockenbrough aboard E/V Nautilus during a National Geographic Society expedition to the Hawaiian archipelago.

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    Mrs. Eileen Washburn  
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**For more information, please contact  
Megan Kimmins, vice president, leadership giving,  
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# ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL LEGACY SOCIETY

The Alexander Graham Bell Legacy Society, named after the famed inventor and the Society's second president, honors those who have included the National Geographic Society in their estate plans through a will, trust, charitable gift annuity, or by beneficiary designation of a retirement plan such as an IRA or a 401(k). Legacy gifts from the dedicated members of this group fund the Society's science, exploration, education, and storytelling efforts around the world, helping to advance meaningful, lasting change for generations to come.

In addition to the satisfaction of knowing they are making a difference, Bell Society members have the chance to come even closer to our work and get to know our National Geographic Explorers and leadership through exclusive invitations to receptions, exhibitions, and lectures in Washington, D.C., and across the United States.

From top: A male giraffe feeds on an acacia tree in the Mara Naboisho Conservancy, Kenya. An injured female cheetah discovered near the old airstrip in the Samburu National Reserve, Kenya. A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket streaks above a stand of bald cypress trees in Blue Cypress Lake, Florida. Right: Alexander Graham Bell Legacy Society member Kristy Cohan.

For more information, please contact Lisa Herzog, deputy to the chief advancement officer and campaign director at (800) 373-1717 or [lherzog@ngs.org](mailto:lherzog@ngs.org).

## MEMBER PROFILE

### Kristy Cohan: Preserving the Planet for Future Generations

As a child, Kristy Cohan spent her time sitting at her grandfather's coffee table exploring the pages of *National Geographic* magazine. At a very young age, Kristy had started to lose her hearing, and having the opportunity to quietly pore over the captivating stories and photographs in the magazine illuminated her world.

She attributes her years spent with these stories, as well as her time exploring the outdoors of California, Colorado, and Washington, to her life's mantra: Always leave the Earth better than the way you found it.

Being an Alexander Graham Bell Legacy Society member has allowed Kristy to contribute to a cause that will preserve the planet, ensuring that generations to come have access to the same kinds of experiences that were hallmarks of her own youth. Since joining the Bell Society, Kristy's conviction of the importance of her estate plan has only grown. "Hearing from young Explorers in events like the Explorers Festival is truly enlightening. It's in moments like these that I am reminded that I made the right choice," she says.





# GROSVENOR COUNCIL

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The National Geographic Society's Grosvenor Council members create a solid foundation for the Society's work at the cutting edge of science, exploration, education, and storytelling by donating \$1,000 to \$24,999 annually.

For 135 years, support from generous donors has allowed the Society to support the work of intrepid Explorers and changemakers, including the groundbreaking primate research of Jane Goodall and Dian Fossey, Robert Ballard's discovery of deep-ocean hydrothermal vents, the conservation education work of Koketso "Koki" Mookodi, Alicia Odewale's archaeological surveys of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, and Anand Varma's photographic explorations of the natural world.

Passionate and committed, Grosvenor Council members play a leading role in some of the most extraordinary science and exploration. Members of the Grosvenor Council receive exclusive benefits, including a complimentary subscription to *National Geographic* magazine, special communications from National Geographic Explorers and senior leadership, exclusive Grosvenor Council Insider Calls to hear directly from Explorers about their passions and experiences in the field, and more.

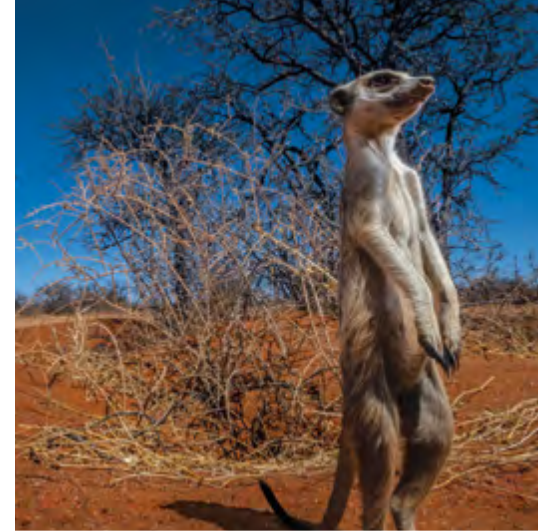
Thank you to our Grosvenor Council members for helping conserve our planet's natural places and cultural treasures today and for future generations.

**“We're proud to support the passionate and visionary National Geographic Explorers who are committed to creating positive, lasting change for habitats and wildlife across the globe. Our Grosvenor Council membership gives us the opportunity to be part of that community, part of that change for the better.”**

DENNIS McEVOY AND KIM WORSENCROFT  
Grosvenor Council Members

From top: Meerkat sentries scan of danger in Tswalu Kalahari Reserve, South Africa. A polar bear in Ottawa Islands, Canada. Aerial view of icebergs in Disko Bay in Qeqertarsuaq Tunua, Greenland.

For more information, please contact Renee Clark, senior director, annual giving and membership, at (800) 373-1717 or [rclark@ngs.org](mailto:rclark@ngs.org).







# CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

Corporate Partnerships at the National Geographic Society engage leading corporations and their key stakeholders to advance our mission to illuminate and protect the wonder of our world. Leveraging the clear mission focus of NG Next, the Society invites companies to become strategic partners in our science, exploration, education, and storytelling efforts to drive transformational change for people and the planet. With the support of our corporate partners, we can scale our science-based solutions to advance meaningful, lasting change.

**“ Understanding and preserving pollinators, especially bees, is an urgent challenge—one of the most critical for biodiversity and environmental conservation today. Bumble is taking action to help save the bees by supporting the National Geographic Society’s critical work to protect pollinators, including their community of Explorers, in particular women, gender nonconforming, and/or underrepresented scientists, educators, storytellers, and conservationists leading the way in research. We are proud to partner and create ways for underrepresented people to explore the importance of pollinators to our ecosystem.**

**WHITNEY WOLFE HERD**  
Founder and CEO  
Bumble Inc.

From top: African elephants inside the Murchison Falls National Park, Uganda. A sea otter pup forages for food in a giant kelp frond in Monterey Bay, California. Coral reef fish, photographed during the National Geographic Pristine Seas expedition to the Maldives.

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\*This list reflects active corporate partnerships as of December 31, 2022, including multiyear commitments.

For more information, please contact Lisa Herzog, deputy to the chief advancement officer and campaign director at (800) 373-1717 or lherzog@ngs.org.



# FOUNDATIONS AND FEDERAL AGENCIES

The generous support of foundations, institutional philanthropies, and U.S. federal agencies enables National Geographic Explorers to deliver global impact with their work in science, exploration, education, and storytelling in five focus areas of Ocean, Land, Wildlife, Human Histories and Cultures, and Human Ingenuity. Pivotal foundation funding in 2022 was received from the following:

- The **Bezos Earth Fund**, **Bloomberg Philanthropies**, **Inclusive Capital Partners Foundation**, **The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment**, **LGT Venture Philanthropy Foundation**, and the **Novamedia/Postcode Lottery Group** provided funding to propel the Pristine Seas initiative toward its goal to help protect 30 percent of the wild ocean by 2030.
- Support from the **Paul G. Allen Family Foundation** helped launch the Slingshot Challenge, a competition to encourage 13-to-18-year-olds to submit solutions to solve environmental problems and create a better world.
- With an investment from the **Templeton World Charity Foundation, Inc.**, National Geographic will identify and support three stellar researchers working with uncaged creatures on land, in the sea, and in the air, to learn more about the natural world and ourselves.
- Funding from the **Burroughs Wellcome Fund** helped Explorer Anand Varma establish the WonderLab in Berkeley, California, a space to experiment with new ways to present science with a sense of awe and wonder.
- 2022 was an intense year in paleoanthropology for Lee Berger and his team in the Cradle of Humankind in South Africa. This exploration into the lives of our earliest ancestors is possible due to the dedicated and continuing support of **Lyda Hill**.

For more information, please contact Lisa Herzog, deputy to the chief advancement officer and campaign director at (800) 373-1717 or lherzog@ngs.org.

- At a time when climate issues are a matter of utmost concern, an investment by the **Chan Zuckerberg Initiative** has enabled National Geographic to support climate storytellers around the world, driving awareness of climate change and potential solutions to some of the most profound threats of our time.
- **Emerson Collective** supported the National Geographic Summer Internship Program, enabling a diverse cohort of students to learn, network, and get firsthand experience at our Base Camp in the nation's capital.
- Funding from the **Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation** enabled National Geographic to make a range of early career field biology grants, as well as to bring individuals from under-resourced communities into science through our STEM Field Assistant program.

“ We at the Templeton World Charity Foundation are pleased to join with the National Geographic Society to support promising scientists doing field research to enable us to learn more about the natural world and ourselves. Together we’re committed to empowering scientists and changemakers in the footsteps of Templeton Prize Laureate Jane Goodall. We’re excited to support individuals who can connect with diverse audiences and inspire them to see the world with fresh eyes, new empathy, and greater understanding.

ANDREW SARAZIN  
President  
Templeton World Charity Foundation, Inc.







Poler Tumeletso "Water" Setlabosha stands in a mokoro (canoe) during the National Geographic Okavango Wilderness Project's annual expedition across the Okavango Delta.



# 2022 LEADERSHIP

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“As a member of the Society’s Board of Trustees, I had the special privilege of traveling to Botswana to witness how Explorers and local communities are working together on sustainable solutions that benefit the natural world and the people who inhabit it. It was inspiring to see Explorers, partners, educators, and storytellers all working together in common purpose.”

#### KATHERINE BRADLEY

Vice Chairman

National Geographic Society Board of Trustees  
Base Camp Founding Donor







# THANK YOU

From inspiring people around the world to care about wildlife under threat, to preserving the ocean through the creation of marine protected areas and safeguarding natural and cultural heritage sites from the impacts of climate change, **your generosity makes a difference every day.** Your support of the National Geographic Society allows our global community of Explorers to take on some of the most urgent challenges our planet faces, creating hope for a more sustainable future. Thank you for being among our community of contributors and for your dedication to our mission to illuminate and protect the wonder of our world.

[GIVE.NGS.ORG/REPORT](https://www.give.ngs.org/report)





A floodplain in Carauari, Amazonas, Brazil, photographed during the National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Amazon Expedition.





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Mamirauá Sustainable Development Reserve, Brazil, photographed during the National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Amazon Expedition.

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