



TWO DECADES OF WINGS WOMEN EXPLORERS

WINGS

20th

ANNIVERSARY

100 FELLOW S

100 FLAG CARRIERS

2 0 2 3

Photo by: Felicity Aston



Dear Friends of WINGS,

Over the past two decades, WINGS has proudly awarded more than 200 grants, totaling over \$1 million, to extraordinary women who are pushing the frontiers of science, exploration, and conservation. Our Fellows and Flag Carriers have made groundbreaking discoveries —from uncovering active volcanoes and identifying novel venom peptides to setting records in deep-sea exploration and traversing both poles. These women are trailblazers, exemplifying grit, tenacity, and an unwavering commitment to their work.

As we look toward the future, we are profoundly grateful for the continuing support of our donors, partners, and volunteers, whose contributions have been instrumental in making our work possible. Together, we are paving the way for a world where women's contributions to science, exploration, and conservation are fully recognized and funded. We invite you to join us on this journey by supporting WINGS and championing the extraordinary women who are shaping a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

The impact of investing in women's leadership is undeniable, as it leads to innovation and ignites inspiration in future generations.

With sincere appreciation,

Meredith Ayan
Chief Executive Officer, WINGS

EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN. EXTREME DISCOVERIES.

MISSION

We fund, elevate, and build community around visionary women pushing the boundaries of science, exploration, and conservation.

VISION

We envision a world where women are fully recognized and funded for driving transformational change in science, exploration, and conservation.

VALUES

WINGS empowers women innovators in the pursuit, discovery, and understanding of things unknown. We believe that collaboration accelerates equity and problem solving, and that diversity is critical to driving a deeper understanding of our world.

CURIOSITY



INNOVATION



EMPOWERMENT



COLLABORATION



DIVERSITY



SCAN HERE
TO LEARN HOW
YOU CAN DONATE



*Tiffany Duong,
Antarctica*

What Sets Us Apart

Founded in 2003, WINGS is the only organization of its kind awarding unrestricted funding to high-achieving women scientists and explorers making important discoveries in traditionally male-dominated fields. We shine a light on their research, impact, and leadership; ignite collaboration through our global network; and support them as role models for future generations.

OVER \$1 MILLION IN FUNDING



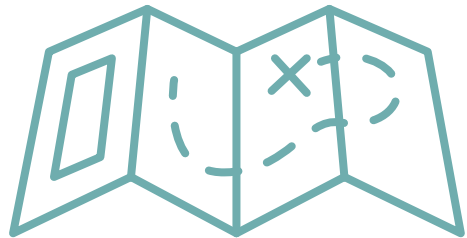
200+
GRANTS
AWARDED

200+
EXPLORERS



197,000+ MILES TRAVERSED

120+
FLAG CARRIERS



150
EXPEDITIONS



100+
COUNTRIES



ALL
CONTINENTS

2

POLES

100
**WOMEN OF
DISCOVERY**



50+
**ORIGINAL FINDINGS
PUBLISHED**



1000+
STUDENTS EDUCATED & INSPIRED

OUR PROGRAMS

Women of Discovery Awards

We provide unrestricted grants to extraordinary women making significant contributions to world knowledge and science through exploration.



Flag Carriers

This program recognizes and supports women leading original fieldwork focused on the natural world including wildlife and ocean conservation, climate change and human impact.



Emergency Fund

These grants ensure the safety of explorers who require urgent support or evacuation in the event of danger or injury in the field.



Explorer Talks

Held in person and virtually, our Explorer Talks feature the original work of a WINGS Explorer, amplifying their research and highlighting what it takes to become a leader in her field.





*Ruthmery Pillco
Photo by: Charlie Hamilton*



Women of Discovery Fellows

Our signature program recognizes extraordinary women making significant contributions to world knowledge and science through exploration. We have awarded unrestricted grants to over 100 women while providing them with global platforms and a collaborative network to amplify their work and impact worldwide.

2023 FELLOWS



DR. ZUZANA BURIVALOVA

Czech Republic

Forest ecologist and bioacoustics researcher. Principal Investigator, Sound Forest Lab, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Pioneering new technologies and soundscapes to understand how human behavior is impacting biodiversity within forests.



DR. EMMA CAMP

UK/Australia

Corals biologist and climate change scientist. Team Leader, Future Reefs; Co-founder, Coral Nurture Program. Building understanding, tools, and adaptive management solutions addressing coral reef resilience and rehabilitation.



DR. ALIFA HAQUE

Bangladesh

Marine Biologist and ethno-conservationist. Founder, Bengal Elasmobranch Lab Collaboration. Driving action to conserve endangered sharks and rays through sustainable fisheries management and partnerships.



CRISTINA MITTERMEIER

Mexico

Conservation photographer and storyteller. Co-founder, SeaLegacy. Unlocking the power of visual storytelling at the intersection of science and conservation to protect and rewild the ocean.



DR. DAWN WRIGHT

USA Lifetime Achievement Award

Geospatial data scientist and oceanographer. Chief Scientist, Esri. Focusing on data quality, open science, and the development and application of spatial analytic tools to define the oceanic realm.

2024 FELLOWS



DR. PAULA KAHUMBU

Kenya

CEO of WildlifeDirect, Evolutionary Biology Ecologist
Pioneering wildlife conservation via engaging
storytelling and media to inspire worldwide action for
environmental preservation.



DR. PATRICIA MEDICI

Brazil

Chairperson of the IUCN SSC Tapir Specialist Group
(TSG), Conservation Biologist. Leading thirty years
of tapir conservation across a network of over 130
conservationists from 27 different countries worldwide.



RUTHMERY PILLCO

Peru/Costa Rica

Member, IUCN Group of Tree Specialists, Wildlife Biologist,
Inspiring global action to preserve and protect the Andean
forests while leading conservation of rare trees on the Osa
Peninsula.



PROF. ADRIANA VERGÉS

Australia

Professor at UNSW Sydney and the Sydney Institute of
Marine Science, Marine Ecologist. Driving investigation of
the impact of climate change in our oceans and developing
restoration solutions to protect marine ecosystems.



DR. JESSICA WARE

USA

American Museum of Natural History, Chair of the
Division of Invertebrate Zoology, Entomologist. Focusing
on behavioral and physiological adaptations in insects to
improve conservation.



Flag Carriers 2023-2024

This program supports original field research in tandem with specific expeditions and numbered WINGS Flags. Our community of over 120 female scientists and explorers has carried the WINGS Flag across the globe, each bearing its own unique number and forever linked to heroic past global projects and discoveries.



Between 2023 and 2024, we supported 29 global flag expeditions including fieldwork in over 20 countries: Antarctica, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Comoros, Galapagos, Greenland, Himalayas, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Norway, New Zealand, Peru, Uruguay, and USA.



#35

DR. CÉDRIQUE SOLOFONDRAHOATRA

Madagascar

Botany & Conservation
February 2023



#34

ANNA KNOCHEL

Galapagos Islands

Marine Ecology
February 2023



#27

FELICITY ASTON

Iceland

Polar
April 2023



#37

MARIA TZORTZIOU

Northwest Arctic/Alaska

Polar
May 2023



#40

ROCÍO LÓPEZ

Uruguay

Geoarchaeology &
Anthropology
June 2023



GINA MOSELEY
Northern Greenland
Palaeoclimatology
July 2023

#39



NORINA VICENTE
Europe (Multiple Locations)
Conservation & Wildlife
January 2024

#36



DR. AZLIN FAZLINA OSMAN
Japan
Geology for Medical Research
October 2023

#23



GRACE ALAWA
Nigeria
Conservation & Sea, Aquatic Ecology
February 2024

#42



SUNNIVA SORBY & HILDE FÅLN STRØM
Cambridge Bay, Canada (Arctic)
Polar
October 2023

#14



TIFFANY DUONG, LOUISE EDWARDS, AYA WALRAVEN (THREE OTTERS MEDIA)
Antarctica
Conservation & Technology
February 2024

#32



BIRGIT SATTLER
Antarctica
Polar
October 2023

#21



DR. HAIZA HAROON
New Zealand
Geology for Medical Research
March 2024

#23



FIONA OGUTU
Victoria Basin, Kenya
Conservation & Aquatic Ecology
December 2023

#34



HEATHER KUHLEN
Honduras
Conservation & Sea
April 2024

#29



DR. ULYANA HORODYSKYJ PEÑA
Antarctica
Polar
January 2024

#25



DR. CASSANDRA QUAVE
Sardinia
Medical Botany
May 2024

#25



#29

KIERA RUMBOUGH & GAELIN ROSENWAKS

South Carolina
Marine Biology
May 2024



#32

ABEER AL-SAUD & KATIE CONLON

Himalayas
Life Sciences &
Ecology
August 2024



#39

KATHLEEN WEBSTER

Grand Comoro Island (Africa)

Wildlife
June 2024



#29

RANNVÁ JØRMONDSSON & MARIA BOLLERUP

Indonesia
Water Conservation &
Diving
October 2024



#39

MEG O'HARA

Greenland
Polar & Art
June 2024



#TBD

HAILEY SHEPANIK

Darwin Expedition (Leg 25: Australia to Tasmania)

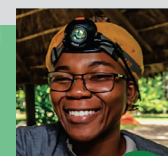
Aquatic Biology
November 2024



#34

LUCY MILLINGTON

Madre de Dios, Peru
Primates & Technology
July 2024



#TBD

LAURA MACAMO

Gorongosa, Mozambique

Wildlife
November 2024



#33

GRACE CORDSEN

Svalbard, Greenland
Polar & Art
July 2024



#TBD

KRUSHNAA PATIL

New Zealand
Mountaineering
January 2025



#37

PAULA PRIST

Brazil
Conservation
August 2024



OUR EVENTS



WOMEN OF DISCOVERY AWARDS GALA

Held annually each October in New York City, our Women of Discovery Awards Gala is a momentous celebration of original work and collaboration among women, explorers, and scientists. With over 200 attendees from around the globe, the event is a joyous reunion for many WINGS Fellows and Flag Carriers, highlighting their groundbreaking work and welcoming new trailblazers to the WINGS family.





GLOBAL EXPLORERS FORUM

Our annual Global Explorers Forum brings together the WINGS community of women pushing the boundaries of human potential and exploration, with Fellows, Flag Carriers, and thought leaders presenting discoveries and solutions for a more sustainable future.

Highlights include original presentations from our WINGS Women of Discovery, as well as panels and interactive exhibits showcasing the work of our Explorers. Attendees not only learn about the different fields of study, but walk away with a better understanding of actionable steps they can take to positively impact the health of our planet.



EVENTS

Our WINGS community stays active throughout the year, educating our community on a wide variety of topics.

Book Launch:
2011 Fellow
Dr. Gladys
Kalema-Zikusoka

APRIL

Jill Heinerth:
Explorer Talk at
South Carolina
Aquarium

JANUARY

Dr. Laly Lichtenfeld: Leading
Change: Women, Wildlife, and
Conservation Innovation

JANUARY

2024

MARCH

Dr. Karen Strier:
Securing a
Future for the
World's Most
Peaceful Primate

MAY

APRIL

Gaelin Rosenwaks:
Explorer Talk at
South Carolina
Aquarium

Sefra Alexandra:
A Seed
Conservation
Safari with The
Seed Huntress

2023

Central Park Seed Safari with
Sefra Alexandra, "The Seed Huntress"

JUNE

Explorer Talk:
Dr. Marla Spivak

APRIL

An Evening with
the "Plant Hunter,"
Dr. Cassandra Quave

JUNE

Explorer Talk:
Flag Carrier
Gaelin Rosenwaks

AUGUST

OCTOBER

2023 WINGS Women of
Discovery Awards Gala

OCTOBER

2023
Global
Explorers
Forum

2024 WINGS Women of
Discovery Awards Gala

OCTOBER

OCTOBER

Callie Veelenturf:
Explorer Talk at South
Carolina Aquarium

2024
Global
Explorers
Forum

OCTOBER



Upcoming
Events





WINGS welcomes you into a sisterhood, that just wants to help you succeed.

CRISTINA MITTERMEIER

Co-founder, SeaLegacy
WINGS 2023 Fellow

We need explorers now more than ever. Explorers see possibilities where others see nothing but problems. WINGS is helping to foster a new generation of women explorers that aren't afraid of the dragons at the edge of the map.

DR. EDIE WIDDER

Deep Sea Explorer and Oceanographer
WINGS 2006 Fellow



I cannot underscore how important unconstrained funding like this is, particularly for women who often have to forge unconventional paths in order to create change and find solutions.

DR. MANDË HOLFORD

Biochemist and Venom Scientist
WINGS 2019 Fellow





*Jill Heinerth,
Terra Nova National Park, Canada*



*Dr. Jessica Ware,
Queensland, Australia*



*Dr. Alifa Bintha
Haque, Bangladesh*



Ruthmery Pillco, Peru



*Dr. Cassandra Quave,
Egyptian Oases*



Dr. Birgit Sattler, Antarctica



*Gina Moseley,
Greenland Caves*



*Dr. Sylvia Earle
Photo by: Kip Evans*

WHY WINGS?

Less than 2 percent of all U.S. charitable giving goes to organizations that serve women and girls. Despite the fact that women represent 1/3 of all researchers and receive little support, the impact of their work punches high above this data. If fully funded and supported, women scientists and explorers could make significant change and progress toward our planets most pressing issues.

We envision a world in which women are fully recognized and funded for leading transformational change in science, exploration and conservation.

WINGS Fellows and Flag Carriers are pioneers in their fields. They have discovered active volcanoes

and novel venom peptides for therapeutic development in cancer; set records for deep-sea discoveries and traversed both poles; completed the first map of the ocean, the first global survey of ocean plastic pollution, and the first successful breeding of rare/threatened coral species. They are changemakers and collaborators. They face difficult choices, challenges, and cultural and social barriers. They never stop questioning and never take no for an answer. For 20 years, WINGS has championed these visionaries - their grit, tenacity and brilliant discoveries - and the profoundly positive impact of their work and stories, which are driving change toward a more peaceful, prosperous and sustainable planet.

WINGS Women of Discovery empowers women explorers to break barriers and pursue their dreams. Supporting this incredible organization has demonstrated the transformative power of investing in women who are making a global impact. We are honored to be part of a community that uplifts and celebrates these inspiring trailblazers.

1830 FAMILY FOUNDATION

GET INVOLVED:

BECOME A PART OF A COMMUNITY UNLIKE ANY OTHER

Attend an Event: Learn more about what we do directly from our Explorers by attending an Explorer Talk throughout the year. Join intrepid Explorers from around the globe and see firsthand the importance of building community around women in science, conservation and exploration and learn about sustainable actions you can take for our planet.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND HELP SPREAD THE WORD

-  @WINGSWorldQuest
-  @wingswomenofdiscovery
-  wingswomenofdiscovery.org
-  info@wingswomenofdiscovery.org
-  company/wingswomenofdiscovery

Make a donation: Your support ensures the funding and recognition of women at the leading edge of discovery, giving them a platform for their findings and ideas, while inspiring future generations.



Partner with Us: For corporate and non-profit partnerships, or if you'd like to connect with a WINGS Explorer, please reach out for more information by contacting:

Meredith Ayan, *WINGS CEO*
646-287-6790

meredithayan@wingswomenofdiscovery.org



Arita Baaijens,
Egypt

PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

Women represent only 33% of all researchers and 12% of national science academies worldwide yet they're routinely given smaller research grants than their male colleagues. Our partners & supporters are changing all of that.





LEADERSHIP

Women-Led Expeditions.
Women-Led Team.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Claire Werner, *CHAIR*
Maud Welles, *VICE-CHAIR*
Mary Britt, *TREASURER*
Jeanine McHugh, *SECRETARY*
Elisabeth Dewailly
Margo Alexander
Ann Bancroft, *FELLOW*
Catherine Chalmers
Samantha Hellauer (2023)
Mandë Holford, *PH.D, FELLOW*
Krithi Karanth, *PH.D, FELLOW*
Marti Marache
Beth Nixon
Nina Rumbough
Hillary Wallace
Kimberly Goldstein-Werner (2023)
Karen Zieff

ASSOCIATE BOARD

Elisabeth Dewailly, *CHAIR*
Olivia Binke, *MARKETING CHAIR*
Mia Nixon, *FINANCE CHAIR*
Sammy Kallman, *ADMINISTRATION CHAIR*
Caroline Williams, *MEMBER ENGAGEMENT CHAIR*
Frankie deGruy
Tinashe Mawoyo
Kat Mikuta
Izzy Nixon
Lily Payton
Sophia Weintraub
Wen Xie
Sefra Alexandra, *ASSOCIATE BOARD EXPLORER IN RESIDENCE*

STAFF

Meredith Ayan, *CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER*
Kat O'Leary, *CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER*
Emilie Welles, *FLAG CARRIER PROGRAM MANAGER*
Alice Pehrson, *MARKETING & COMMS ASSOCIATE*



*Hearts in the Ice:
Sunniva Sorby & Hilde Fålnun Strøm
Arctic Circle*