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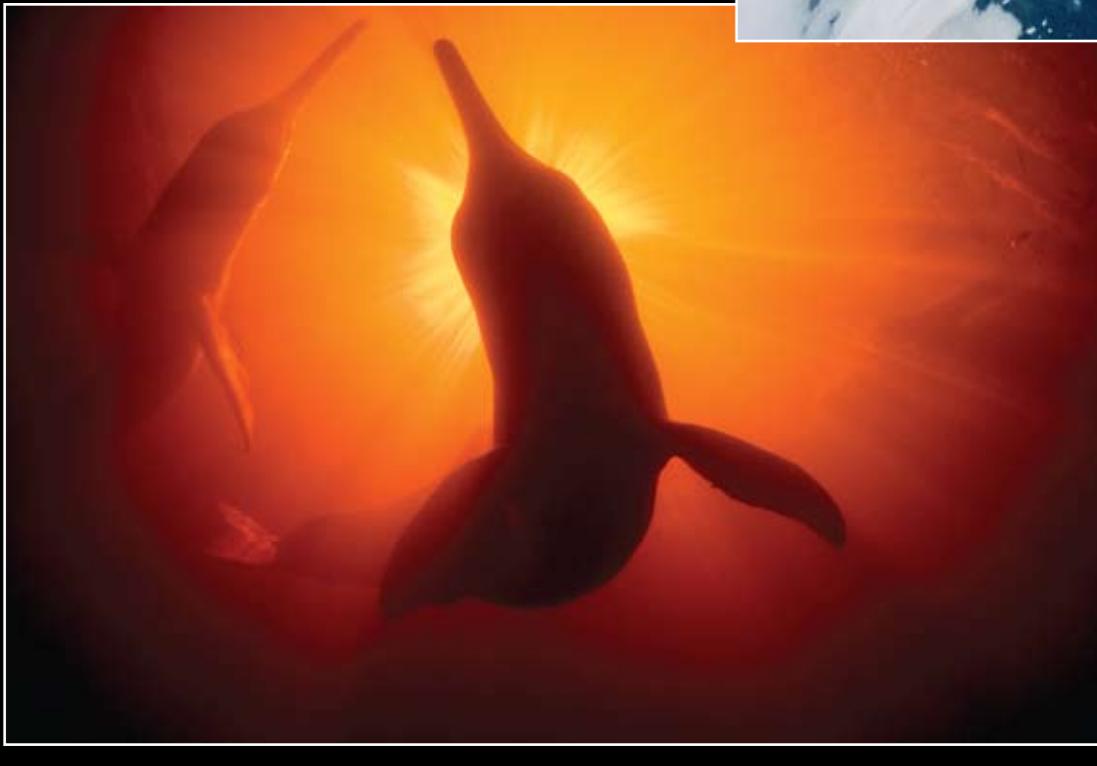
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www.thegmcgroup.com

40 Most influential NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS

OP has selected the top 40 nature photographers from around the globe who go the extra mile to use their images and time to help highlight (and even fix) some of the most pressing environmental and conservation issues



1 Xi Zhinong China



■ **INFLUENCE** Considered one of the leading environmentalists in China, in the last 20 years Xi has tirelessly recorded the plight of China's disappearing wilderness and wildlife, and used those images as a tool to promote the conservation of endangered wildlife and its habitat. He successfully initiated a campaign in 1996 to save the endangered Yunnan snub-nosed monkey, which *Newsweek* called 'China's Budding Green Revolution'. He has also won the Gerald Durrell Endangered Species Award at the Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** The Wild China team and I are continuing to document the endangered species of China.

■ **MOTIVATION** I will always work to invoke more public awareness of nature.

www.wildchina.cn



3 Yann Arthus Bertrand France



■ **INFLUENCE** A pioneer of aerial photography, in the 1990's Yann, under the patronage of UNESCO, photographed the Earth from above as a record of the world's environment. The resulting book, *The Earth from the Air*, has sold over three million copies in 24 languages.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** I am working on a big outdoor exhibition 'Forests and men' for the 2011 International Year of Forests. I am a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Environment Programme on Earth Day.

■ **MOTIVATION** Today I consider myself more as an environmentalist than a photographer. In 2005, I created the GoodPlanet Foundation, an NGO that aims to raise public awareness of environmental protection and to bring concrete solutions to the Earth's ecological crisis.

www.yannarthusbertrand.org www.altitude-photo.com



2 Paul Nicklen Canada



■ **INFLUENCE** Raised in the Canadian Arctic, Paul has produced ten features for *National Geographic* magazine, is a Fellow of the ILCP, and has received five World Press Photo and three Pictures of the Year awards.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** I have recently been working on the ILCP Spirit Bear R.A.V.E. in British Columbia, and been shooting an assignment in Greenland.

■ **MOTIVATION** I cover charismatic, keystone species to get people to understand that if we lose these species then we will lose entire ecosystems. I am slowly evolving from being a strict photojournalist to being a conservation photographer, as we are running out of time on most environmental issues.

www.paulnicklen.com



4 Karl Ammann Switzerland



■ **INFLUENCE** Karl is credited for bringing attention to the bushmeat crisis in Africa. His photos convinced the European Parliament and over 20 African states to sign a proclamation against the slaughter of apes. In 2008, he was named by *Time* magazine as one of their Heroes of the Environment.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** I just completed a film about the reptile skin trade and an upcoming film will deal with zoos in Africa and their role in trafficking wildlife. I also recently completed a book, *Elephant Reflections*.

■ **MOTIVATION** Today, 90% of the life-supporting ecosystems are threatened and if there is no immediate action to deal with these threats the world of the nature wildlife photographer will shrink to just a few places.

www.karlammann.com



5 David Doubilet USA

■ **INFLUENCE** A Contributing Photographer in Residence for *National Geographic*, David has photographed over 65 features for the magazine, documenting the changing ecology of the underwater world. His belief in the power of photography to motivate stewardship of and responsibility for the natural world led him to be a Founding Member of the ILCP, and he has won the Lennart Nilsson Award, which recognises extraordinary image makers in science.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** There are international exhibitions in China and Singapore, while I recently worked on a story entitled 'Mysterious travellers, a vanishing act: Freshwater eels', which was published in *National Geographic* in the



September 2010 issue. I am currently on assignment photographing artificial reefs for NGS, and also working on several book projects with the UK publishers, Phaidon.



■ **MOTIVATION** The seas are 70% of our planet, full of complex light and extraordinary creatures, and each dive is still a voyage of discovery. Whether I photograph a coral reef, shark, shrimp or shipwreck, my goal is to make a graceful and decisive image to convince the unconvinced what is at risk through over fishing and global climate change. Our imagery is a window into nature for most of the world and compelling images can and have made a difference.

www.daviddoubilet.com



7 Chris Packham UK



■ **INFLUENCE** A wildlife nut ever since he could crawl, Chris is now a wildlife photographer, television presenter and passionate conservation advocate. He is involved with many conservation and environmental organisations, including being president of The London Wildlife Trust and vice-president of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. His TV programmes include *Autumnwatch*, and he is a member of the 2020VISION team.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** I'm working on a long running project producing portraits of Britain's birds of prey and owls. I'm also starting work on my 2020VISION project, which is very exciting.

■ **MOTIVATION** For me, the image is everything and needs to be as close to perfect as possible. So, my approach is all about control over every aspect of the picture making process – including post-production. And the image has to be different, novel, original. I plan meticulously and stay focused on my projects. At the end of the day, I want to reflect nature's simple beauty.

www.chrispackham.co.uk

6 Staffan Widstrand Sweden

■ **INFLUENCE** Staffan is widely accepted as one of Europe's most committed conservation photographers. He is a Founding Member of the Swedish Eco-tourism Association, co-founder of the Big Five Swedish National Carnivore Information Centre, a Founding Member of the ILCP and initiator of Sweden's nature tourism quality label, Nature's Best. He was also a driving force behind the major nature communication initiative Wild Wonders of Europe.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** Wild Wonders of Europe – the biggest photo-based nature conservation communication initiative in history. It just might develop into other 'Wild Wonders of' initiatives.

■ **MOTIVATION** Have fun. Work hard. Do good. Think bigger!

www.staffanwidstrand.se
www.wild-wonders.com





8 Jack Dykinga

USA



■ **INFLUENCE** Jack is a Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer and a Fellow of the ILCP. Recognised for his large format landscape work, Jack serves on the board of the Sonoran National Park project, aiming to create a new bi-National Park on the Arizona/Sonora, Mexico border.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** Four other photographers and I became the first ever R.A.V.E. (Rapid Assessment Visual Expedition) for the ILCP, to document the El Triunfo cloud forest in Chiapas, Mexico, drawing attention to the threatened habitat there.

■ **MOTIVATION** I blend large format landscape art photography with documentary photojournalism. My work is driven by my passionate advocacy for preservation of the natural world, preserving the wilderness through appreciation.

www.dykinga.com



11 Kevin Schafer

USA



■ **INFLUENCE** A Founding Fellow of the ILCP, Kevin spent two years documenting threatened eco-regions for the World Wildlife Fund and works closely with conservation NGOs, including the Nature Conservancy, on three continents. In 2007, he was voted the North American Nature Photographer Association Outstanding Photographer of the Year.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** I have been covering the 25 Most Endangered Primates on Earth as part of my Empty Ark project.

■ **MOTIVATION** I have dedicated myself to telling the stories of rare and endangered species worldwide, with the goal of strengthening the case for their protection.

www.kevinschafer.com

12 Peter Essick

USA



■ **INFLUENCE** Peter has produced over 30 features for *National Geographic* magazine. An advocate in the battle against global warming, his images have been seen on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *This Week With George Stephanopoulos*, and in the movie *An Inconvenient Truth*. His images were among *Time* magazine's Great Images of the 20th Century.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** I recently completed a story on the effects of global warming in southern Greenland that was published in the June 2010 issue of *National Geographic*.

■ **MOTIVATION** I try to combine tragedy and beauty into a single picture.

www.peteressick.com



13 Michael 'Nick' Nichols

USA



■ **INFLUENCE** Dubbed the 'Indiana Jones of photography' by *Paris Match*, 'Nick' is Editor at Large for *National Geographic* and one of the most innovative nature photographers of his generation. His groundbreaking photo-documentary, Megatransect aided the creation of a network of new national parks in Gabon.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** I'm just finishing an elephant book on the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust orphans project; the most passionate, caring, well-run project I have ever had the privilege to document.

■ **MOTIVATION** I use my visual voice and the global audience of *National Geographic* to bring attention to those without voice (animals and nature) with as much passion and clarity as possible.

www.michaelnicknichols.com

15 Norbert Rosing

Germany



■ **INFLUENCE** Since 1988, Norbert has been working on his project The World of the Polar Bear, spanning the Canadian arctic and covering its wildlife, people and environment. He is a Fellow of the ILCP, and a member of Polar Bears International.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** I am still working on the Arctic project and especially the Arctic environment and the polar bears of Spitsbergen and Norway. I am also covering the natural wonders and wilderness areas in Germany.

■ **MOTIVATION** Awareness for environmental subjects is more important than ever, no matter if it is small or large, in the backyard or global.

www.rosing.de



14 Thomas Peschak

South Africa



■ **INFLUENCE** A former marine biologist, Thomas is the Chief Photographer of the Save our Seas Foundation.

A Fellow of the ILCP, he is a dedicated conservation photographer who has spearheaded campaigns to proclaim marine reserves and end abalone poaching and illegal shark fishing.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** I specialise in marine conservation photography and am currently pursuing projects on Arabia's seas, shark/manta ray fisheries and southern Africa's marine reserves.

■ **MOTIVATION** Whether you want to motivate governments to proclaim new protected areas or expose environmentally destructive activities, photography is the most powerful weapon in the conservation arsenal.

www.thomaspeschak.com www.saveourseas.com



9 Chris Weston

UK



■ **INFLUENCE** Chris worked on the landmark book *Animals on the Edge: Reporting from the Frontline of Extinction*, written in consultation with the IUCN. He is co-founder of the charity Animals on the Edge, an Ambassador for the African Lion & Environmental Research Trust, a Trustee of the Happy Africa Foundation, and an affiliate member of the US-based NGO, Canopy.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** All my work is now focused on delivering the aims of the NGO Animals on the Edge, including a wide reaching, government backed photo documentary project in West Africa.

■ **MOTIVATION** My professional goal has always

been for my images to make a difference. I look for conservation-led stories about wildlife, and use photography to tell those stories.

www.animalsontheedge.org



10 Daniel Beltra

Spain



■ **INFLUENCE** A Fellow of the ILCP, in 2008 Daniel was awarded the Global Vision Award from the Pictures of the Year International contest. In 2009, he was awarded the Prince's Rainforest Project via the Sony World Photography Awards, granted by Prince Charles. He was also recognised by *ABC News* as its Person of the Week for his work in conservation photography.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** The majority of my shooting time this year was spent covering the Gulf oil spill for two months; 20 of these photos were then exhibited at the 212 Gallery in Aspen.

■ **MOTIVATION** I like to bring the sensibility and craft of a news photographer to the fields of nature and environmental issues.

www.danielbeltra.com



17 Jim Brandenburg USA



■ **INFLUENCE** Jim has written 23 features for *National Geographic* magazine. He received the World Achievement Award from the UN Environmental Program, in recognition of his use of nature photography in raising public awareness of the environment. He is also co-founder of the Brandenburg Prairie Foundation.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** Jim is working on two new books, one on wolves, the other a career retrospective; and the Brandenburg Prairie Foundation.

■ **MOTIVATION** Now that I'm in the later stages of my career, I'm proud that I've now been able to give something back. Through my work I've managed to set aside thousands of acres of boreal forest in northern Minnesota and over 1,000 acres of native tall grass prairie in southwest Minnesota. After photographing the world, I have been most effective working in my own backyard.

www.jimbrandenburg.com



19 Michael Aw Australia

■ **INFLUENCE** Michael is the Founding Director of the charity OceaEnvironment, which documents the status of coral reefs, biodiversity and the impact of man-made pollution. He has initiated the Turtle Nest Adoption Program, in Indonesia, and the Say No to Shark Fins campaign, in southeast Asia. He is a Fellow of the ILCP and is Founder/Editor Emeritus of *Asian Geographic* magazine.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** I am working on the Climate Change Photographic Index covering the Coral Triangle, Maldives and the Antarctic.

■ **MOTIVATION** As an image-maker of our natural world, I strive to portray our ecosystems in their truest forms. As the seas sustain my livelihood and my family, my stewardship takes on an even greater responsibility.

www.michaelaw.com

18 Peter Cairns UK



■ **INFLUENCE** Based in Scotland, Peter is a pioneer of partnership-based conservation photography in the UK. He is a Founding Partner of the Tooth & Claw project, an Associate Member of the ILCP, a Founding Director of Wild Wonders of Europe and a Founding Director of The Wild Media Foundation and 2020VISION.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** Working with other photographers opens up different communication channels. I'm presently working with Wild Wonders of Europe and 2020VISION, that both do exactly that.

■ **MOTIVATION** For me, there is little merit in the scattergun approach to nature photography I once adopted. I now try to focus on telling compelling stories that will influence mindsets and, ultimately, societal values.

www.northshots.com



20 Mark Hamblin UK



■ **INFLUENCE** Mark was the Co-founder of the Tooth & Claw project, a collaboration of photographers working on conservation initiatives in the UK. He is one of the Founders of the Wild Media Foundation, a contributing photographer to the Wild Wonders of Europe, co-founder of the Highland Tiger conservation project and a member of the upcoming 2020VISION project.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** My work with the Wild Media Foundation has brought about Tooth & Claw – living alongside Britain's predators, Highland Tiger and currently 2020VISION, all with the goal of bringing nature's stories to life.

■ **MOTIVATION** In a climate where traditional stock sales are dwindling, I have more recently made a transition to long term communication projects and story-telling involving multimedia and collaboration with other creatives.

www.markhamblin.com



21 Patricio Robles Gil Mexico



■ **INFLUENCE** Patricio created two of Mexico's most successful conservation organisations, Agrupacion Sierra Madre and Unidos para la Conservacion, and his leadership helped Cemex, the world's second largest cement company, become a major player in the conservation arena and a global corporate leader in conservation. He is a Fellow of the ILCP.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** Documentation of the wild goats and sheep of the world, and the wild jaguars in the Mato Grosso, Brazil. I am also undertaking a photo and scientific expedition to Tres Marias islands, in the Gulf of California, and I am advisor for conservation initiatives of several corporations.

■ **MOTIVATION** Taking photographs of wild nature is an amazing job, but wild nature is becoming scarce. It doesn't feel right if I don't try to stop this. Through the years, this commitment has given me a strong peace of mind. I believe in individuals' power to make changes. I think that photographers that commit to protecting wild nature are very important parts of dealing with environmental challenges.

www.patricioroblesgil.com



22 Niall Benvie UK



■ **INFLUENCE** The son of a Scottish farmer, Niall is widely recognised as one of the UK's most thought-provoking photographers. He is a Founding Fellow of the ILCP, a Founding Director of Wild Wonders of Europe, a co-founder of the Rewilding Childhood project and a member of the 2020VISION project.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** I'm involved with 2020VISION (www.2020v.org), as a writer and photographer. The other smaller project is Meet Your Neighbours (www.meetyourneighbours.org).

■ **MOTIVATION** I don't know for sure if photographs can change anything, but I work with the hope that they can; it's like an act of faith in the medium. I'm interested in making pictures that do more than just entertain; now and again it seems to come together.

www.imagesfromtheedge.com



23 Joe Cornish UK



■ **INFLUENCE** One of the world's finest landscape photographers, Joe's photographs, in particular his work for the National Trust, have helped inspire a generation and furthered the cause for conservation.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** I am continuing to shoot for the National Trust, and hope to develop a more photo community-based dimension for my gallery. I am also part of 2020VISION.

■ **MOTIVATION** An audience is much more likely to be engaged by the subject if the photograph inspires them, and they believe in it. Then any accompanying information has a chance of being absorbed. I am looking to dedicate the rest of my career to preservation of the wild.

www.joecornish.com

24 James Balog USA



■ **INFLUENCE** A Fellow of the ILCP, James' latest project – the Extreme Ice Survey – is a photo-documentary revealing the impact of climate change on the world's glaciers. He also founded the Earth Vision Trust, which aims to improve understanding of the environment.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** I continue to pursue the same recurring theme: an exploration of the boundary between humans and nature.

■ **MOTIVATION** Photography is an act of love, a focused, sensory connection with the subject. You feel the subject through your eyes, and if you're really seeing well, photography says to the viewer, look, I had this experience, it was really important to me and it just might be important to you if you take the time to be with it.

www.ExtremelceSurvey.org
www.EarthVisionTrust.org

25 Frans Lanting Netherlands

■ **INFLUENCE** Recognised for increasing worldwide awareness of endangered species and habitat, in 2006 Frans launched the LIFE project – a lyrical interpretation of the history of life on Earth. In 2001, he was inducted as a Knight in the Royal Order of the Golden Ark, his native country's highest conservation honour. He is a Fellow of the ILCP, and on the national council of the World Wildlife Fund.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** Include working with mountain lions in California, documenting wildlife in Ghana and ongoing performances of LIFE.

■ **MOTIVATION** I see animals as ambassadors of ecosystems. In recent years, my core interests have shifted to bridging the gap between the general public's appreciation of nature and a scientific understanding of life on earth.

www.lanting.com www.lifethoughttime.com



27 Cristina Mittermeier Mexico

■ **INFLUENCE** Cristina's work focuses mainly on the critical relationship between indigenous people and biodiversity. She sits on the Board of Directors of the WILD Foundation, the Chairman's Council of Conservation International, and is the Founder and Executive Director of the International League of Conservation Photographers.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** I am focused on several photojournalism projects that deal with what I call the 'Avatar Syndrome' – the struggle of indigenous people to conserve the environment where they live.

■ **MOTIVATION** Photography outside the mission of conserving nature and indigenous knowledge simply does not exist for me. As long as there are threats to our planet's natural treasures, I will be a photographer.

www.cristinamittermeier.com



26 Chris Johns USA

■ **INFLUENCE** After a long association with *National Geographic*, where he was a staff photographer, Chris became the first photographer ever to be appointed Editor in Chief of the magazine (in 2005).

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** In my role as Editor in Chief, I am committed to publishing relevant stories about the environment with accurate, passionate photographs that do not flinch when covering controversy, but also do not shy away from celebrating the incredible world in which we live.

■ **MOTIVATION** The work of W. Eugene Smith, Donald McCullin, Robert Capa and Larry Burrows has fuelled my passion for photojournalism. Their commitment to powerful, compassionate documentary photography inspires me to use my camera to record the dramatic changes I'm seeing in the environment and the profound affect those changes are having on humanity.



28 Martin Hartley UK

■ **INFLUENCE** Martin is one of only a handful of professional photographers who have ever crossed the Arctic Ocean on foot and with dogs. During three recent Arctic expeditions, he has documented the state of the disintegrating Arctic Ocean sea ice. One of these expeditions, The Catlin Arctic Survey, saw him and the expedition team named among *Time* magazine's Heroes of the Environment for 2009. He has completed 20 assignments in the Arctic and three in Antarctica.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** During January and February 2011, I am documenting how tribes along the Niger River are coping with climate change. During March, I am photographing marine scientists on the Arctic Ocean.

■ **MOTIVATION** A passport will get a person a few yards across a country border, a photographer's camera can get you into places that even a passport wouldn't. A camera carried with a clear sense of purpose is a very powerful tool; powerful images stay in peoples' minds, forever.

www.martinhartley.com



29 Gary Braasch USA

■ **INFLUENCE** Gary's work has focused on global warming, illustrating the major effects, discussing the science and identifying habitats that are changing. The website for this project is now one of the top ten most visited websites on global warming. In 2007, he authored the much-praised book *Earth Under Fire: How Global Warming is Changing the World*. In 2008, he was featured in the book *What Matters*, about the most pressing issues facing our world. His work for the Conservation Land Trust helped protect an Argentinian wetland.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** In 1999, I founded World View of Global Warming, which has published two books, mounted major exhibits, and been published as United Nations postage stamps.

■ **MOTIVATION** 'Nature is News' is the most succinct description of my work. My career has been focused on nature photojournalism and the use of artistic, scientifically accurate photographs to advance public understanding of Planet Earth.

www.worldviewofglobalwarming.org
www.braaschphotography.com



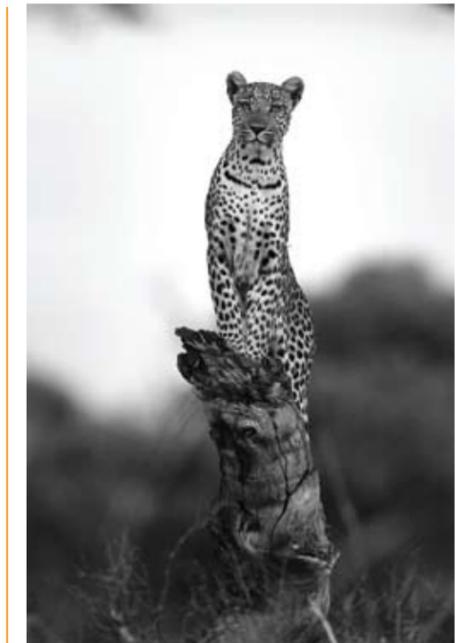
30 Florian Schulz Germany

■ **INFLUENCE** In 2010, Florian teamed up with Earthjustice and Patagonia to launch the visual environmental campaign Visions of the Arctic. His related book *To the Arctic* will be presented to members of the US Congress to continue the battle against oil development in the Arctic. Honoring his commitment to conservation, the Nature's Best Photography Awards and the National Wildlife Federation named Florian as the Conservation Photographer of the Year 2008, and he was named the Environmental Photographer of the Year for 2010.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** Documenting migration, biodiversity and environmental threats along the northern Pacific coast, from Baja to Beaufort (B2B): giving high priority to the Arctic. The project will reach out to the general public and Congress to create awareness about the impact industry has on sensitive areas of the B2B corridor.

■ **MOTIVATION** I focus on long term conservation projects to produce stories that inspire individuals to take action to protect endangered ecosystems.

www.visionsofthewild.com



32 Beverly Joubert South Africa

■ **INFLUENCE** Focusing on the threatened habitats of southern Africa, Beverly is a prolific documenter of wildlife behaviour. Her conservation involvement includes being a member of the Chobe Wildlife Trust and a founding member of the Wild Places Foundation. She is also a Fellow of the ILCP.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** We are about to release a major feature film, *The Last Lions*, with an associated book; as well as a documentary for National Geographic Wild channel, called *Big Cat Odyssey*. This is looking at the past 28 years of us filming predators, where we are today and what knowledge we need to project them for the future; it's an investigative piece showing iconic footage on lions and leopards. We are also working on *National Geographic's* Big Cat Initiative. My life is so intertwined with big cats that each project is a new attempt to get exposure for the last 20,000 lions or 50,000 leopards.

■ **MOTIVATION** With the current status of wildlife, our work as photographers has to not only celebrate the beauty but also speak about the state that wildlife is in right now, either in the frame itself or in the presentation, such as within magazine articles, or books or even a lecture. It's our responsibility. Dereck and I are focusing on big cats at the moment because within the last 50 years, lion numbers have declined from 450,000 to under 20,000; at this rate we anticipate extinction by 2020.

www.wildlifeconservationfilms.com



33 Boyd Norton USA

■ **INFLUENCE** Boyd has served on the Board of Trustees for the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund and he is a Director of Baikal Watch. Norton has testified before numerous US Senate and House hearings on behalf of wilderness and park preservation legislation. He has played a key role in the establishment of many wilderness areas, including the designation of Siberia's Lake Baikal as a World Heritage Site.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** I'm trying to stop a commercial highway from being built across Serengeti National Park; continuing work on Lake Baikal; and also re-photographing the conservation battles of 30 years ago in North America.

■ **MOTIVATION** I've always felt it important for conservation photographers to be totally involved, and to actively inform the public of conservation issues.

www.wildernessphotography.com



34 Tom Mangelsen USA

■ **INFLUENCE** Named as one of the '100 Most Important People in Photography' by *American Photo* magazine, Tom is a co-founder of the Cougar Fund, a Founding Fellow of the ILCP, an International Advisory Council member of the Jane Goodall Institute, and an Ambassador for the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** I've got spring and summer photography expeditions to Brazil's Pantanal for jaguars, Hudson Bay's polar bears, Kenya's wildebeest migration and fall colour in Alaska, Colorado and the Smoky Mountains.

■ **MOTIVATION** I aim to bring joy, enlightenment and awareness to the visual experience of Earth's wildest places, and the less exotic landscapes; to speak out, to make a difference and to payback Nature for what she has given us.

www.mangelsen.com



35 Christian Ziegler Germany

■ **INFLUENCE** A tropical ecologist by training, Christian has worked extensively in tropical rainforests on three continents. He is an Associate for Communication with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and a Fellow of the ILCP. The American Association of Publishers named his 2002 book *A Magic Web*, the Best Biology Book.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** I am working on a big species portrait of an endangered primate in Central Africa, which will occupy a lot of the next year, and I hope to also continue some work in northern Guatemala, where a fantastic forested area is under threat.

■ **MOTIVATION** I try to choose photographic projects based on their potential conservation impact, especially in tropical forests, which I care a lot about.

www.naturphoto.de



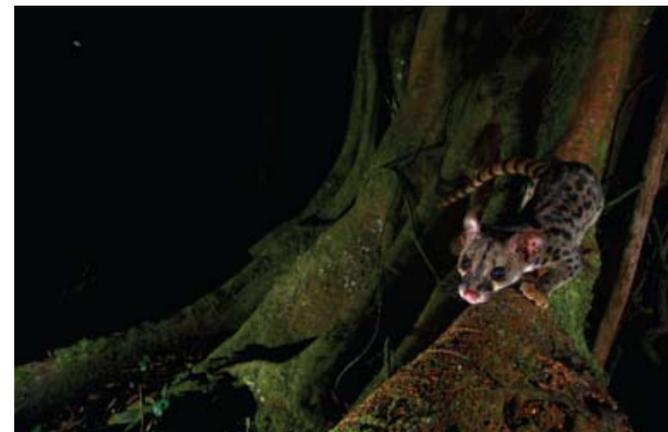
36 Igor Shpilenok Russia

■ **INFLUENCE** Having witnessed the destruction of an important wildlife habitat in his native country, Igor was instrumental in the creation of the Bryansky Les Zapovednik (nature reserve) and became its first Director. He took part in the Wild Wonders of Europe project and is a Fellow of the ILCP. Every day around 100,000 Russians read his daily field dispatches sent via his blog.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** In 2005, I launched a five-year effort to document protected areas of Kamchatka. Yet, new plans for mining and oil and gas development threaten its unique natural ecosystems.

■ **MOTIVATION** I wish to convey the beauty of Russia's protected areas to people around the world and evoke in them the desire to conserve them.

www.shpilenok.com



38 Mark Carwardine UK

■ **INFLUENCE** A zoologist by training, Mark is an outspoken conservationist and widely-published wildlife photographer. For many years he hosted *Nature* on BBC Radio 4 and has gone on to co-present two BBC television series, *Last Chance to See* and *The Museum of Life*. Having worked for several international conservation organisations in the 1980's, Mark is now a consultancy advisor and holds official positions with numerous wildlife charities.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** Several TV and book projects, plus trying to photograph critically endangered Javan rhinos in the wild for a new campaign to save them from extinction.

■ **MOTIVATION** The most important thing in nature photography is to represent what you shoot faithfully, keeping digital manipulation to a minimum and declaring if your subject is captive.

www.markcarwardine.com



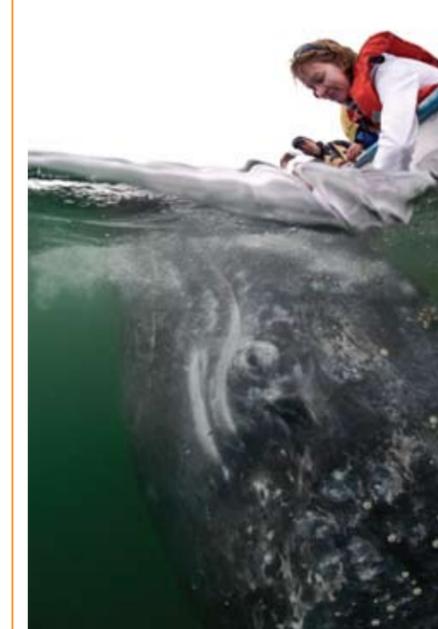
37 Andy Rouse UK

■ **INFLUENCE** A wildlife specialist, Andy has won numerous awards, including the Gerald Durrell Award for Endangered Species at the 2010 Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition; his eighth award in this competition in the past six years. His recent book, *Tigers*, donates 25% of the profits to the 21st Century Tiger conservation partnership. Andy also worked with Páramo to create the Aspira Fund, which uses part of the proceeds from sales of clothing to fund conservation projects.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** I am writing two new books for 2011, working on various Welsh projects, including river otters and wild boar, and continuing my fundraising for the Aspira Fund.

■ **MOTIVATION** My approach is simple, I am an animal hugger, so like to spend my time with animals. Photography is a bonus, not a right and conservation is a life partner to my photography.

www.andyrouse.co.uk



39 Art Wolfe USA

■ **INFLUENCE** Art's photographic mission is multifaceted: art, wildlife advocacy and journalism inform his work. He is a member of Canon's elite list of renowned photographers, Explorers of Light, and Microsoft's Icons of Imaging. Art's hit television show, *Travels to the Edge*, is part-funded by Conservation International. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society and a Fellow of the ILCP.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** I have two gallery exhibits: one hanging, *Unbridled* (horse imagery) and one in production, *Synthesis* (nudes). My current focus is workshops and seminars.

■ **MOTIVATION** I have always tried to bridge the gap between artistic and nature photography. My goal is to create iconic images representing the greater story, to connect with the viewer on a strictly emotional level.

www.artwolfe.com



40 Vincent Munier France

■ **INFLUENCE** Vincent is a nature lover who became a conservationist. The authenticity of Vincent's photographs, where the atmosphere of the image eclipses the subject, reflects his willingness to spend long periods working in extremely testing, often winter, conditions. He was a prizewinner, three years running, of the Eric Hosking Award in the BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition and his images have been exhibited in scientific centres around the world.



■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** I want to continue my work in old temperate forests, like in the Vosges Mountains of France where I was born and still live, where moss-covered trees still grow and where huge lichens surround you. I also keep looking for the 'white' in nature, waiting for extreme winter storms to photograph creatures in the wild. I also explore the taiga and the tundra. These are like forgotten worlds, far enough from civilisation to watch pure wilderness, mysterious enough to make me dream.

■ **MOTIVATION** I try to work as closely as possible to wildlife, and wilderness makes me experience many emotions; delight at the beauties of nature, exaltation when feeling part of its mysteries, but

also, sometimes, fear when facing the threats to our planet. I want my pictures to be like a pleading for the landscapes and creatures.

www.vincentmunier.com

