



Indianapolis Zoo

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Indianapolis Prize Fact Sheet

The Indianapolis Prize

The Indianapolis Prize is the world's leading award given to an individual animal conservationist who has made significant achievements in advancing the sustainability of an animal species or group of species. The \$100,000 biennial award brings the world's attention to the cause of animal conservation and the brave, talented and dedicated men and women who spend their lives saving the world's endangered species. It represents the largest individual monetary award for animal conservation in the world and is given as an unrestricted gift to the chosen recipient.

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Carter S. Roberts

John W. Terborgh, Ph.D.

Jeff Trandahl

*Deceased

The Indianapolis Prize was initiated in 2004 by the Indianapolis Zoo as a significant component of its mission to inspire local and global communities to celebrate, protect and preserve our natural world through conservation, education and research. The Eli Lilly and Company Foundation has provided funding for the Indianapolis Prize since its inception.

Heroes for the Planet

Nominees for the Indianapolis Prize have lived in the wild, been shot at by poachers and spent days and weeks in high altitudes, blazing heat, freezing cold and tropical downpours – enduring the harshest conditions – to save the lives of the world's endangered species. The Indianapolis Prize was created to honor them, tell their stories and inspire others to join them on a lifelong quest to save what can never be replaced.

Prize Recipients

2010

As president and CEO of [Save the Elephants](#), Iain Douglas-Hamilton has been recognized for his relentless protection and preservation of the African elephant. He led anti-poaching aid programs in Africa and continues to sound the alarm about poaching threats spurred by a renewed demand for ivory.

2008

Relentless in his pursuit to save the world's endangered species since 1952, the world's pre-eminent field biologist, George Schaller, Ph.D., vice president of [Panthera](#) and senior conservationist for the [Wildlife Conservation Society](#), was the 2008 recipient of the Indianapolis Prize.

2006

The first Indianapolis Prize was awarded to George Archibald, Ph.D., co-founder of the [International Crane Foundation](#). He is credited with contributing significantly to the preservation of the world's 15 surviving species of cranes, including the whooping crane in North America.

Nominees

Twenty-nine animal conservationists who have dedicated their lives to saving the Earth's endangered species were nominated to receive the 2010 Indianapolis Prize. The nominees' work spans the globe, and they have focused on a wide range of animal species, including – but not limited to – manatees, raptors, cheetahs, bats, sharks, lemurs, elephants, monkeys, iguanas, butterflies, African wild dogs, seahorses, and more. The field of nominees was narrowed down to a field of six finalists by the Indianapolis Prize Nominating Committee from which the recipient was selected by the Prize Jury.

Award Presentation

The Indianapolis Prize Gala highlights not only the finalists and winner, but also the vitality and commitment of the Indianapolis community. This celebration draws international attention to conservation issues. The Prize is not designed to be a quiet, academic, scientist-focused event, but instead an energetic and spectacular celebration of conservation victories. The goal is to inspire the general public to start caring about conservation, and to place heroes, who live in tents in danger of both wild beasts and poachers, on the pedestal usually reserved for sports and entertainment stars. The 2010 gala will be held on September 25, 2010, at The Westin Hotel in downtown Indianapolis. Previous hosts have included award-winning actress and environmentalist Jane Alexander and the equally acclaimed actor and conservation supporter, Sam Waterston. The celebrity host for the 2010 Gala will be announced at a later time. The Gala also features outstanding videos shot all over the world detailing the work being done in the field by the Prize finalists.

Outreach

In addition to the publicity surrounding the announcement of the Indianapolis Prize recipient and the Gala celebration at which Douglas-Hamilton will receive the honor, he will engage in a series of outreach programs designed to spread the conservation message to the public. Douglas-Hamilton will go on a national lecture tour in the week following the Gala, as well as appearing at local events at the [Indianapolis Zoo](#) and in the city of Indianapolis, and on an international live webcast to colleges, universities and schools broadcast from the studios of Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. In addition, the six finalists for the Prize will be featured through audio tours at the Indianapolis Zoo throughout summer 2010. New in this cycle is a special Indianapolis Prize Twitter account, www.twitter.com/indplsprize, featuring live reports from conservationists throughout the world. Follow @IndplsPrize for updates.

To learn more about the Indianapolis Prize, please visit indianapolisprize.org.

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