

2023 WINGS Women of Discovery

The WINGS Women of Discovery Awards were established in 2003 to recognize visionary women making significant contributions to world knowledge, science, and conservation through exploration

WHO: WINGS WorldQuest 2023 Women of Discovery Fellows (see 2023 cohort below)

FORMER HONOREES, including Polar Explorers [Ann Bancroft](#), [Felicity Aston](#), [Liv Arneson](#) and [Sunniva Sorby](#); Conservation Scientist [Dr. Krithi Karanth](#); Biochemist and Venomous Snail Expert [Dr. Mandë Holford](#); Wildlife Veterinarian and Mountain Gorilla Conservationist [Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka](#), Paleontologist [Dr. Bolortsetseg Minjin](#); Entomologist and Honeybee Health Expert [Dr. Marla Spivak](#); Marine Scientist and Filmmaker [Gaelin Rosenwaks](#); Ethnobotanist and "Seed Huntress" [Sefra Alexandra](#); and more.

WHAT: WINGS WorldQuest Women of Discovery 2023 Awards Gala & Global Explorers Forum

WHEN: Awards Gala, Thursday, October 12, 6:30 PM
Global Explorers Forum, Friday, October 13, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

WHERE: Oct 12 Awards Gala @[583 Park Avenue](#), NYC
Oct 13 Global Explorers Forum @[Scandinavia House](#), Victor Borge Hall, 58 Park Avenue, NYC



Dr. Dawn Wright, 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award

DR. DAWN J. WRIGHT is a leader in the development of ocean data science, with research interests in geospatial data science, seafloor mapping, coastal/ocean informatics, and environmental education. Chief Scientist of [Esri](#), "Deep Sea Dawn" has carried out fieldwork in some of the planet's most geologically active regions, including the East Pacific Rise, the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the Juan de Fuca Ridge, the Tonga Trench, and volcanoes under the Japan Sea and the Indian Ocean. In 1991, she became the first female of African descent to dive to the ocean floor in the deep submersible, [Alvin](#). In 2022, she became the first person of African descent to dive to [Challenger Deep](#), the deepest point on Earth, and successfully operate a portable side scan sonar at full-ocean depth.



Dr. Zuzana Buřivalová, 2023 Fellow, Czech Republic

DR. ZUZANA BUŘIVALOVÁ is a tropical forest ecologist and bioacoustics researcher working to equitably protect tropical forest biodiversity. She is an Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of [Forest & Wildlife Ecology](#), [The Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies](#), and the Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment (SAGE). As Principal Investigator of the [Sound Forest Lab](#), Zuzana leads a group of researchers using soundscapes - all the sounds that can be heard in a landscape - to understand the health of rainforests. Zuzana seeks to protect biodiversity in tropical forests, both forests that are used by people, for example for logging, and forests set aside for conservation, from national parks to small community-protected areas.



Dr. Emma Camp, 2023 Fellow, Australia

DR. EMMA CAMP is a coral biologist and marine biogeochemist with research interests in the role marginal reef environments (i.e., mangrove habitats) can play in understanding the impact of future climate change on coral reefs. She is the Deputy Team Leader of the Future Reefs Program within the [Climate Change Cluster at the University of Technology Sydney](#), an Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Early Career Research Award Recipient (DECRA) & [Chancellors Postdoctoral Research Fellow](#). Emma co-founded the [Coral Nurture Program](#), a new approach and collaboration between researchers and tourism operators on the Great Barrier Reef to conserve reef sites by "coral gardening" – outplanting new coral fragments or larval pieces onto depleted reef sites.



Dr. Alifa Bintha Haque, 2023 Fellow, Bangladesh

DR. ALIFA BINTHA HAQUE is a marine biologist and ethno-conservationist focused on conserving sharks and rays in the global south context with an emphasis on diversity, sustainable fisheries and trade. Her research is being integrated into the National Plan of Action for Sharks and rays - Bangladesh as part of the Food and Agriculture Organization's International Plan of Action for Conservation and Management of Sharks. The research explores the ecological, social, and political challenges and opportunities for implementing a more inclusive management regime for sharks and rays in Bangladesh. It also contributes to developing a unified sustainability model for developing countries that embraces baselines and incorporates socio-ecological perspectives in management decision-making.



Cristina Goettsch Mittermeier, 2023 Fellow, Mexico

CRISTINA GOETTSCH MITTERMEIER, one of the most influential conservation photographers of our time, has dedicated her life to protecting the world's oceans and wild places – inspiring millions to do the same. In 2005, she founded the [International League of Conservation Photographers](#) to provide a platform for photographers working on environmental issues, coining the phrase "conservation photography." In 2014, she co-founded [SeaLegacy](#), a nonprofit using strategic communications at the intersection of art, science, and conservation to protect and rewild the ocean for the benefit of biodiversity, humanity and climate. Her work has been published in 100s of magazines and media outlets, including National Geographic, TIME, CNN, McLean's, and O. She is a [Sony Artisan of Imagery](#) and aligns with [Rolex's Perpetual Planet](#) initiative to preserve the natural world.

