

TECHNIQUE
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Wildlife Photographer
of the Year 2010 – see
the winners!



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Stuart Franklin

40 Most influential nature photographers

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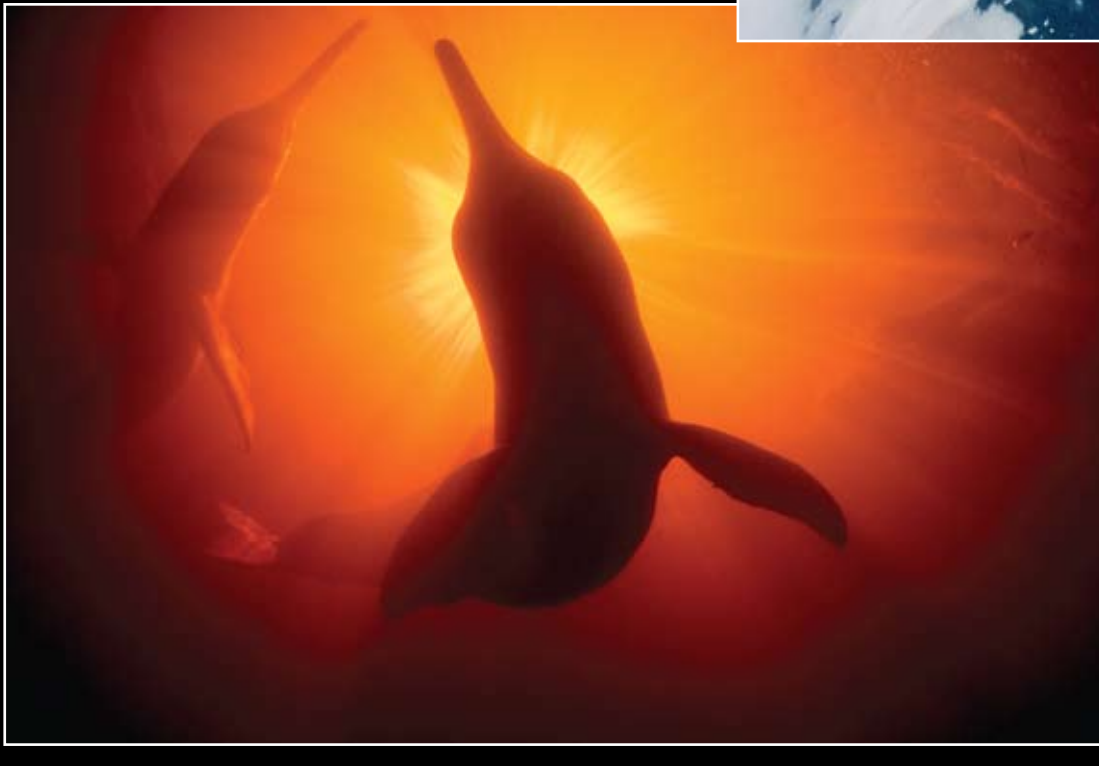


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40 Most influential NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS

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