

WINNERS OF THE 2023 ROLEX AWARD FOR ENTERPRISE EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE AND IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

The five Winners of the 2023 Rolex Awards for Enterprise have been announced.

Selected by a jury of 10 international experts, they share a common goal: to improve lives while protecting the planet for future generations.

Their inspiring projects include: providing clean water to communities in Kenya's arid regions; protecting one of the last primary forests in West Africa; saving East Asia's critically endangered wild camels; mobilizing community-led reforestation in the high Andes; and creating a farm-to-closet supply chain in Indonesia, benefiting rural craftswomen and the environment

The Rolex Awards for Enterprise identify and invest in exceptional people seeking solutions to humankind's most pressing challenges. These visionary individuals are united by a commitment to improve life and protect our planet. They have in common the ability to embrace projects that require creativity and determination in the face of considerable odds.

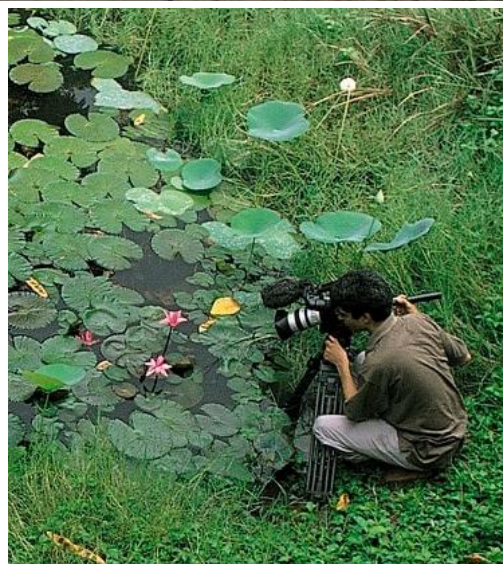
The winners of the 2023 Edition are the following managers of innovative and inspiring projects:

Beth Koigi - Extracting water from the air

The atmosphere contains six times more water than all of the world's rivers combined. Kenyan entrepreneur Beth Koigi's atmospheric water generators draw clean water from the air, helping to alleviate acute water shortages. Her generators are providing drinking water in arid regions all over the world. Kenyan entrepreneur Beth Koigi is deploying a piece of technology that is addressing one of the world's most pressing and complex problems: water scarcity. Her atmospheric water generators (AWGs) draw, filter and mineralize water from the air, all in one unit, powered by solar energy. Her company, Majik Water, is installing the machine in arid and semi-arid regions, providing a crucial resource to those who need it most.

Inza Koné Protecting Africa's forests

The Tanoé-Ehy Forest is one of West Africa's last primary forests and thanks to the work of Ivorian primatologist Inza Koné, it was designated a community-managed natural reserve. He is working to scale up his forest conservation model across the region to better protect its unique biodiversity. Inza Koné, Côte d'Ivoire's first primatologist, has spent almost 20 years working in Tanoé-Ehy, one of West Africa's last primary rainforests. The vast swampy forest, tucked away in the furthest south-eastern corner of his country, is home to animals and plants found nowhere else in the world. Koné has been researching its critically endangered species and creating a model for conservation centred on communities that live there.



Liu Shaochuang Tracking wild camels with satellites

Wild camels have roamed the Gobi Desert for thousands of years, but now they are critically endangered. Chinese remote sensing specialist Liu Shaochuang uses satellite technology to monitor herds far more efficiently than traditional tracking methods allow. His findings will be instrumental in establishing two extensive conservation zones across China and Mongolia. Remote sensing specialist Liu Shaochuang is trying to save critically endangered wild camels using space technology. Wild camels have roamed the arid plains of the Gobi Desert in Mongolia and China for thousands of years, but now only approximately 1,000 remain. Using satellite trackers and remote sensing technology, Liu is offering new insight into changes in their habitat that could be key to preserving them.



Constantino Auca Chutas Community-led reforestation in the Andes

In the high Andes, only two per cent of the original forest remains. Peruvian biologist Constantino Auca Chutas has been working with indigenous communities to reforest the area and to protect its unique ecosystems. Since beginning this project, he has been responsible for planting 4.5 million trees in Peru alone. As the descendent of Quechuan farmers, Peruvian biologist Constantino Auca Chutas felt a responsibility to act when he saw how the forests of his ancestral Andean home were disappearing because of human activity. By working with local communities across the Andes, he has set in motion a massive reforestation effort, leading to the planting of millions of trees.



Denica Riadini-Flesch Regenerating land, lives and tradition in Indonesia

Indonesian entrepreneur Denica Riadini-Flesch is changing the future for rural craftswomen through her farm-to-closet clothing brand. She pays them a fair living wage for traditionally crafted clothing made from materials grown using regenerative agriculture, thereby breathing new life into the country's rich heritage. Social entrepreneur Denica Riadini-Flesch has succeeded in creating one of the world's first regenerative farm-to-closet supply chains – SukkhaCitta, meaning happiness. Determined to empower rural artisans in Indonesia, she has created hundreds of jobs with fair pay for those who craft high-end clothing using traditional and sustainable techniques.



The Rolex Award is seeking innovative projects in the five following areas: science and health; the environment; applied technology; exploration; cultural heritage. The five Laureates will receive substantial funding and worldwide publicity to assist with their projects. They will also be granted access to the Rolex community of Laureates for advice and guidance.

Rolex will offer Awards for Enterprise which are open to anyone age 18 and over. The application must be completed by the person who plays a leading role in the project or the organization. Candidates can apply in English, simplified Chinese and Spanish.

The Rolex Awards were created in 1976 and first five Laureates received their awards in 1978. From the start, the Awards were designed to fill a void in corporate philanthropy by supporting exceptional individuals around the world, pioneers who had no or little access to traditional funding and were responding to major challenges with original and innovative projects that advance on human knowledge and well-being.



More than 35,000 applications have been received since the launch, and 160 Laureates from 191 countries have been selected for an Award. The support given by Rolex to 160 Award winners since 1976 has had a catalytic impact and has in many cases transformed lives and communities. It has also stimulated new ways of thinking about common problems in areas as diverse as creating technologies that improved lives, saving endangered ecosystems, protecting the oceans, exploring new frontiers on the planet, or pioneering advances in science and health.

[All the projects winning the Rolex Awards since 1976](#) in the areas of science and health, environment, applied technology, exploration and cultural heritage are presented on the website allowing to know more and inspire other actors to implement innovative practices.

To know more and participate

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