

EDGE OF EXISTENCE PROGRAMME

The **EDGE** of Existence Programme has been igniting conservation action for the most unique, extraordinary, and overlooked species for over 16 years across 49 countries.

We use a scientific framework to identify the world's most Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered (EDGE) species. EDGE species have few close relatives on the Tree of Life and are often extremely unusual in the way they look, live and behave, as well as in their genetic makeup. They represent a unique and irreplaceable part of the world's natural heritage, yet an alarming proportion are on the verge of extinction. ~70% of priority EDGE species receive little or no conservation attention - we are changing that.

VISION

A world where the most unique and extraordinary species thrive, supported by a global network of diverse conservation leaders spearheading sustainable conservation that delivers equity and justice.

MISSION

We ignite a global movement to recognise and protect Earth's most unique, extraordinary, and overlooked species. To do this, we support, strengthen, and diversify conservation leadership in critical regions, championing local stewardship, capacity-sharing initiatives, and collaborative networks to accelerate the changes we need for a healthy and vibrant planet for all species.

OUR PRIORITY AREAS

- ▶ Identifying priority EDGE species and critical regions for conservation.
- ▶ Diversifying and strengthening conservation leadership globally.
- ▶ Establishing targeted conservation activities for overlooked EDGE species and regions.
- ▶ Raising awareness about the importance of conserving EDGE species.
- ▶ Fostering strategic partnerships for EDGE species conservation.



HOW WE IDENTIFY PRIORITY EDGE SPECIES

We score every species in a particular taxonomic group (e.g. mammals or amphibians) according to the amount of **unique evolutionary history** it represents (Evolutionary Distinctiveness, or ED - a measure of value), and its **conservation status** (Global Endangerment, or GE—a measure of urgency). We then combine these scores to give each species an **EDGE score**, which produces a priority list of endangered EDGE species that represent the diversity of their taxonomic group.



THE EDGE FELLOWSHIP

One of the most effective ways in which we work to secure the future of EDGE species is by strengthening, supporting, and diversifying conservation leadership.

The EDGE Fellowship is a 28-month fellowship for local early-career conservationists from lower- and middle-income countries. We equip emerging conservation leaders—EDGE Fellows—with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities required to advance their careers and spearhead effective conservation efforts for the world's most unique and extraordinary species.

Each fellowship involves a comprehensive programme of support and professional development opportunities.

Six weeks of training in person.

A four-week Conservation Tools Course in the focal region and an advanced two-week Conservation Impact Course in the UK plus access to additional online training.

A grant of at least £10,000 for project implementation.

The opportunity to fully manage your own budget plus dedicated support to leverage additional funding.

Continuous mentorship and access to training and coaching opportunities with ZSL and our partners.

Wrap around mentorship and access to unique training and coaching opportunities with ZSL and our partners.

