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of the Year 2010 – see  
the winners!



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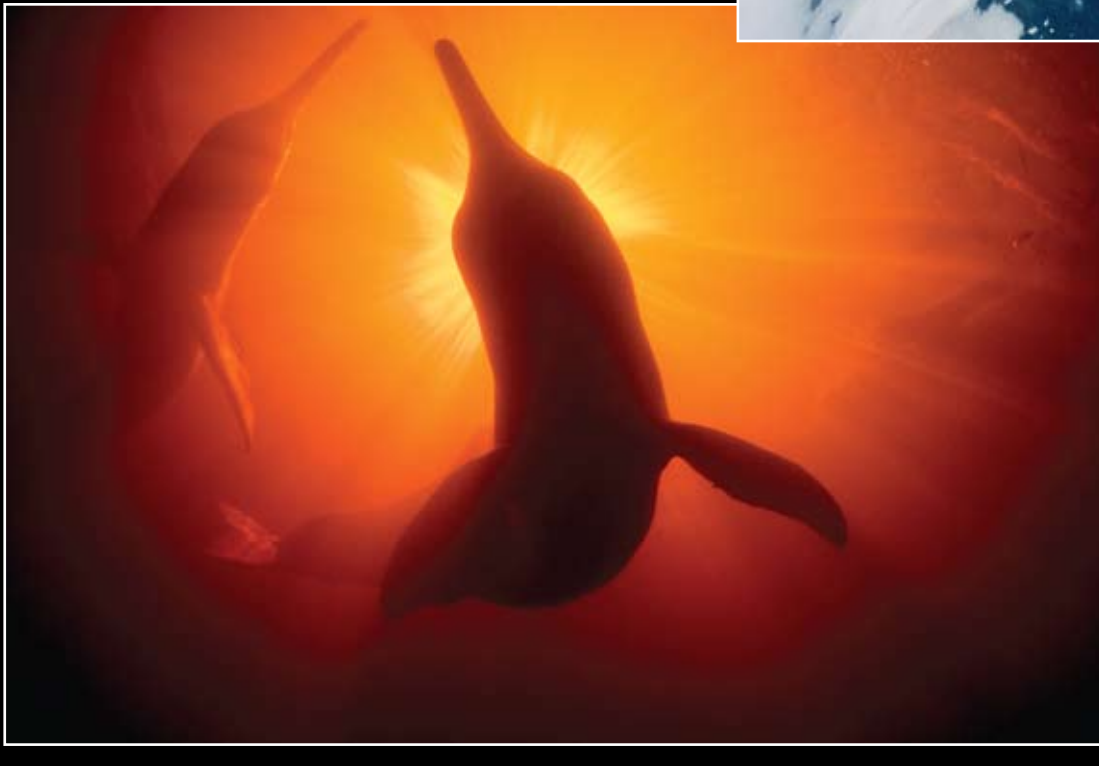


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# 40 Most influential NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS

*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



## 17 Jim Brandenburg USA



■ **INFLUENCE** Jim has written 23 features for *National Geographic* magazine. He received the World Achievement Award from the UN Environmental Program, in recognition of his use of nature photography in raising public awareness of the environment. He is also co-founder of the Brandenburg Prairie Foundation.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** Jim is working on two new books, one on wolves, the other a career retrospective; and the Brandenburg Prairie Foundation.

■ **MOTIVATION** Now that I'm in the later stages of my career, I'm proud that I've now been able to give something back. Through my work I've managed to set aside thousands of acres of boreal forest in northern Minnesota and over 1,000 acres of native tall grass prairie in southwest Minnesota. After photographing the world, I have been most effective working in my own backyard.

[www.jimbrandenburg.com](http://www.jimbrandenburg.com)



## 19 Michael Aw Australia

■ **INFLUENCE** Michael is the Founding Director of the charity OceaEnvironment, which documents the status of coral reefs, biodiversity and the impact of man-made pollution. He has initiated the Turtle Nest Adoption Program, in Indonesia, and the Say No to Shark Fins campaign, in southeast Asia. He is a Fellow of the ILCP and is Founder/Editor Emeritus of *Asian Geographic* magazine.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** I am working on the Climate Change Photographic Index covering the Coral Triangle, Maldives and the Antarctic.

■ **MOTIVATION** As an image-maker of our natural world, I strive to portray our ecosystems in their truest forms. As the seas sustain my livelihood and my family, my stewardship takes on an even greater responsibility.

[www.michaelaw.com](http://www.michaelaw.com)

## 18 Peter Cairns UK



■ **INFLUENCE** Based in Scotland, Peter is a pioneer of partnership-based conservation photography in the UK. He is a Founding Partner of the Tooth & Claw project, an Associate Member of the ILCP, a Founding Director of Wild Wonders of Europe and a Founding Director of The Wild Media Foundation and 2020VISION.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** Working with other photographers opens up different communication channels. I'm presently working with Wild Wonders of Europe and 2020VISION, that both do exactly that.

■ **MOTIVATION** For me, there is little merit in the scattergun approach to nature photography I once adopted. I now try to focus on telling compelling stories that will influence mindsets and, ultimately, societal values.

[www.northshots.com](http://www.northshots.com)



## 20 Mark Hamblin UK



■ **INFLUENCE** Mark was the Co-founder of the Tooth & Claw project, a collaboration of photographers working on conservation initiatives in the UK. He is one of the Founders of the Wild Media Foundation, a contributing photographer to the Wild Wonders of Europe, co-founder of the Highland Tiger conservation project and a member of the upcoming 2020VISION project.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** My work with the Wild Media Foundation has brought about Tooth & Claw – living alongside Britain's predators, Highland Tiger and currently 2020VISION, all with the goal of bringing nature's stories to life.

■ **MOTIVATION** In a climate where traditional stock sales are dwindling, I have more recently made a transition to long term communication projects and story-telling involving multimedia and collaboration with other creatives.

[www.markhamblin.com](http://www.markhamblin.com)



## 21 Patricio Robles Gil Mexico



■ **INFLUENCE** Patricio created two of Mexico's most successful conservation organisations, Agrupacion Sierra Madre and Unidos para la Conservacion, and his leadership helped Cemex, the world's second largest cement company, become a major player in the conservation arena and a global corporate leader in conservation. He is a Fellow of the ILCP.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** Documentation of the wild goats and sheep of the world, and the wild jaguars in the Mato Grosso, Brazil. I am also undertaking a photo and scientific expedition to Tres Marias islands, in the Gulf of California, and I am advisor for conservation initiatives of several corporations.

■ **MOTIVATION** Taking photographs of wild nature is an amazing job, but wild nature is becoming scarce. It doesn't feel right if I don't try to stop this. Through the years, this commitment has given me a strong peace of mind. I believe in individuals' power to make changes. I think that photographers that commit to protecting wild nature are very important parts of dealing with environmental challenges.

[www.patricioroblesgil.com](http://www.patricioroblesgil.com)



## 22 Niall Benvie UK



■ **INFLUENCE** The son of a Scottish farmer, Niall is widely recognised as one of the UK's most thought-provoking photographers. He is a Founding Fellow of the ILCP, a Founding Director of Wild Wonders of Europe, a co-founder of the Rewilding Childhood project and a member of the 2020VISION project.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** I'm involved with 2020VISION ([www.2020v.org](http://www.2020v.org)), as a writer and photographer. The other smaller project is Meet Your Neighbours ([www.meetyourneighbours.org](http://www.meetyourneighbours.org)).

■ **MOTIVATION** I don't know for sure if photographs can change anything, but I work with the hope that they can; it's like an act of faith in the medium. I'm interested in making pictures that do more than just entertain; now and again it seems to come together.

[www.imagesfromtheedge.com](http://www.imagesfromtheedge.com)



## 23 Joe Cornish UK



■ **INFLUENCE** One of the world's finest landscape photographers, Joe's photographs, in particular his work for the National Trust, have helped inspire a generation and furthered the cause for conservation.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** I am continuing to shoot for the National Trust, and hope to develop a more photo community-based dimension for my gallery. I am also part of 2020VISION.

■ **MOTIVATION** An audience is much more likely to be engaged by the subject if the photograph inspires them, and they believe in it. Then any accompanying information has a chance of being absorbed. I am looking to dedicate the rest of my career to preservation of the wild.

[www.joecornish.com](http://www.joecornish.com)

## 24 James Balog USA



■ **INFLUENCE** A Fellow of the ILCP, James' latest project – the Extreme Ice Survey – is a photo-documentary revealing the impact of climate change on the world's glaciers. He also founded the Earth Vision Trust, which aims to improve understanding of the environment.

■ **CURRENT PROJECTS** I continue to pursue the same recurring theme: an exploration of the boundary between humans and nature.

■ **MOTIVATION** Photography is an act of love, a focused, sensory connection with the subject. You feel the subject through your eyes, and if you're really seeing well, photography says to the viewer, look, I had this experience, it was really important to me and it just might be important to you if you take the time to be with it.

[www.ExtremelIceSurvey.org](http://www.ExtremelIceSurvey.org)  
[www.EarthVisionTrust.org](http://www.EarthVisionTrust.org)