

Press Release

The KfW-Bernhard-Grzimek Prize 2022 goes to Rohit Singh and Txai Suruí

Frankfurt, 22/09/2022

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5 **KfW Stiftung has awarded the KfW-Bernhard-Grzimek Prize jointly to Rohit Singh from India and Walelasoetxeige Paiter Bandeira Suruí (Txai Suruí) from Brazil, with each winner receiving half of the prize money. The award, which is endowed with EUR 50,000 in total, recognises inclusive approaches to conservation and focuses on the next generation of conservationists. Both winners of the 2022 award demonstrate outstanding commitment to protecting and**
10 **preserving biodiversity.**

Rohit Singh (age 39) is receiving the award for his commitment to rangers in conservation areas worldwide. He has been instrumental in establishing the Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA) and is currently chair of the organisation's steering committee. Rohit Singh is committed to acknowledging
15 rangers' services, connecting them globally and improving their working conditions. He takes an inclusive approach by involving a broad spectrum of rangers (i.e. state and non-state actors, including indigenous rangers and rangers from local communities; gender equality in the ranger profession).

Walelasoetxeige Paiter Bandeira Suruí (Txai Suruí), (age 25 / *Brazil), is
20 being awarded the KfW-Bernhard-Grzimek Prize for her commitment to climate action and the rights of indigenous peoples. Founded in her home region of Rondônia in the Amazon, the youth movement brings together committed young people to discuss politics, the climate crisis and the need to defend conservation areas. Their main concern is to put indigenous peoples at the heart of the
25 solutions to nature conservation efforts.

At the award ceremony, Dr Lutz-Christian Funke from the Executive Board of KfW Stiftung had the following to say: "Preserving natural spaces and ecosystems for the next generations is one of the major challenges of our time. With the KfW-Bernhard-Grzimek Prize 2022, we are honouring two young
30 conservationists, Rohit Singh and Txai Suruí, who are dedicated to taking on this challenge based on various methods and approaches. Their willingness to work towards the protection of endangered habitats and thus preserve biodiversity for us all is exemplary."

On behalf of the jury of the KfW-Bernhard-Grzimek Prize, Jens Schröder, Editor-in-Chief of GEO, had the following to say: "Rohit and Txai are working to put
35 local people at the heart of conservation efforts. Without professional rangers and indigenous communities, we cannot overcome key challenges to climate change mitigation and biodiversity protection."

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- 40 Every two years, KfW Stiftung in Frankfurt awards the KfW-Bernhard-Grzimek Prize to individuals or institutions that are particularly committed to preserving biodiversity with their creativity and innovative efforts. The award's namesake is Professor Bernhard Grzimek, a pioneer in the field of conservation and animal protection in Germany, the former Director of Frankfurt Zoo and a long-standing president of the Frankfurt Zoological Society. A jury consisting of Christian
- 45 Grzimek, Prof. Dr Axel Janke / Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre (BiKF) of the Senckenberg Society for Natural Research and Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main, Karen Möhring / KfW, Dr Christof Schenck / Frankfurt Zoological Society and Jens Schröder / GEO Editor-in-Chief decide on the winners. The prize was first awarded in 2013.
- 50 For more information, visit: [KfW Stiftung: KfW-Bernhard-Grzimek Prize \(kfw-stiftung.de\)](http://www.kfw-stiftung.de)