

## **KfW Stiftung awards the KfW Bernhard Grzimek Prize 2024 to "hidden heroes" in global nature and species conservation.**

- **EUR 50,000 prize money granted for outstanding commitment to achieving species and climate protection goals**
- **Award winners and "Hidden Heroes" Andhani Hartanti (veterinarian) from Indonesia and Hercília Chipanga Martins (community relations manager) from Mozambique**
- **KfW Stiftung Executive Board member Dr. Michael Helbig: "We honour people with role model character!"**

KfW Stiftung has awarded half of the EUR 50,000 prize to Andhani Hartanti from Indonesia and half to Hercília Chipanga Martins from Mozambique. In doing so, it is honouring inclusive approaches in nature conservation and placing "hidden heroes" at the center of this year's award ceremony.

Both women are hidden heroes of nature conservation. They are exemplary in their field of work. They advocate for endangered species, develop community programmes for people living on the edge of protected areas and are thus working on the frontline to implement the goals of the global biodiversity framework agreement adopted in Montreal in 2022.

**Andhani Hartanti** is fighting for the survival of the orangutans in the last large contiguous lowland rainforest area on Sumatra. She has been working for eight years to establish a new, self-sustaining orangutan population in the Bukit Tiga Puluh region. As a veterinarian and head of the Frankfurt Zoological Society jungle school, she cares for orphaned young animals and prepares them for life in the treetops through specially designed games. The reintroduction programme has already been able to return more than 200 confiscated orangutans to their natural habitat.

**Hercília Chipanga Martins** works in Mozambique in Gorongosa National Park as a Community Relations Manager with the communities living inside and around Sustainable Development Zone communities. She manages three major programs: Conservation Education, Community Based Natural Resources Management and Governance and Human – Wildlife Coexistence. She supports community participation in the decision-making processes regarding nature conservation and livelihoods by both men and women. This includes

environmental education to children that will become future conservationists. Furthermore she implements actions enabling conditions for harmonious coexistence between humans and wildlife. Her work helps to protect biodiversity and at the same time promotes sustainable, resilient local socio-economic development.

Dr. Michael Helbig from the Executive Board of KfW Stiftung said: "This year's prize honours two women who are actively contributing to achieving the goals of the Global Biodiversity Framework adopted in Montreal in 2022 through their work in the field. They are "Hidden Heroes" because they are not in the public eye, but their work has an immense positive impact on the conservation of biodiversity. Their willingness to work for the protection of endangered habitats is exemplary".

On behalf of the KfW Bernhard Grzimek Award jury, Marion Schulte zu Berge, Secretary General of the German Advisory Council on Global Change, said: "With their work, both award winners achieve sustainable results for the natural areas in which they live and thus also contribute to the social and economic situation of the local population".

### **The KfW Bernhard Grzimek Prize:**

The KfW Stiftung in Frankfurt awards the KfW Bernhard Grzimek Prize every two years to individuals or institutions that have made a special contribution to the conservation of biological diversity through their creativity and innovative strength. The prize is named after the pioneer of environmental and nature protection in Germany, former director of Frankfurt Zoo and long-standing president of the Frankfurt Zoological Society, Professor Bernhard Grzimek.

A jury consisting of Christian Grzimek, Dr. Menno de Jong/Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre (BiKF) of the Senckenberg Society for Nature Research and Goethe University Frankfurt, Dr. Timo Schönfeld/KfW, Dr. Christof Schenck/Frankfurt Zoological Society, Dr. Marion Schulte zu Berge Secretary General of the German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU) and Katharina Schmitz/Editor-in-Chief of GEO decided on the winners.

The prize was awarded for the first time in 2013.

Further information is available at KfW Stiftung: [KfW Foundation: Media \(kfw-stiftung.de\)](https://www.kfw-stiftung.de)  
AV media can be found here:

Andhani Hartanti: [Preisträgerin Andhani Hartanti des KfW-Bernhard-Grzimek-Preis 2024 - YouTube](#)

Herciília Chipanga Martins: [Preisträgerin Herciília Chipanga Martins des KfW-Bernhard-Grzimek-Preis 2024 - YouTube](#)

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**About KfW Stiftung:**

KfW Stiftung is an independent, non-profit foundation based in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. It was established in 2012 by the KfW Bankengruppe. The foundation addresses major socially relevant transformative issues on the basis of three fields of activity: Ecology & Sustainability, Economy & Society and Arts & Culture. KfW Stiftung aims to actively shape change by offering opportunities to those who are advancing social transformation.