NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC | LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS

TRAVELER

2024/2025 IMPACT REPORT

DEAR TRAVELER,

In 2024, the Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic (LEX-NG) Fund made a powerful impact on nature and people, marking another year of driving positive change. We invested $2.67 million in support of scientists, educators and conservationists who are leading the way with innovative solutions to some of our planet's biggest challenges. In this Impact Report, you'll find highlights from their inspiring work, and we hope you feel our deep gratitude for the role you play in supporting their efforts.

Last year also marked a significant milestone for our respective organizations: we celebrated 20 years of collaboration! During these last two decades, we shared the wonders of our world with eager, curious travelers like you, engaging minds and hearts. Looking ahead, we feel optimism, hope and excitement about what Lindblad Expeditions and National Geographic will accomplish together. Our partnership has never been stronger, and we are well positioned to build on the successes your engagement has made possible.

The National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions fleet will continue to bring travelers into the world to experience awe-inspiring natural and cultural wonders. In doing so, we remain committed to embodying the mission of the National Geographic Society every step of the way: using the power of science, exploration, education, and storytelling to illuminate and protect the wonder of our world.

National Geographic Explorer in Residence and Pristine Seas founder Enric Sala said, "I don't see a bigger purpose than working to save life on Earth." Thank you for being a part of this incredible purpose and supporting the impactful work we tirelessly champion.

WITH OUR BEST WISHES,

SVEN-OLOF LINDBLAD
Founder & Co-Chair of the Board
Lindblad Expeditions

JILL TIEFENTHALER
Chief Executive Officer
National Geographic Society

TRAVEL FOR GOOD

The National Geographic Society and Lindblad Expeditions care deeply about making a positive impact in the places the fleet explores and beyond. Together with shipboard travelers, the LEX-NG Fund is supporting projects to understand and protect the world's oceans, restore critical marine and coastal habitats, and foster environmental stewardship around the globe.

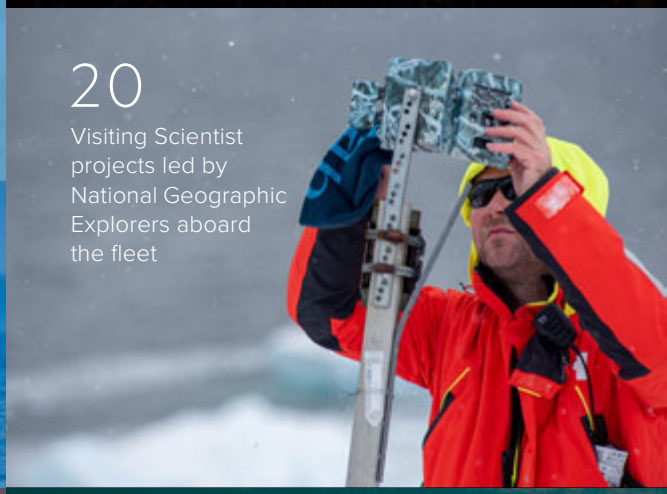
"Thank you for donating to the LEX-NG Fund. Without your support, our climate change data collection would not have been possible, and a vital piece of the puzzle to predict the future ice melting rates would not be available to us and to the scientific community at large."

MATTHIAS HOFFMANN-KUHNT
National Geographic Explorer and Visiting Scientist aboard *National Geographic Resolution*

2024 LEX-NG Fund Impact

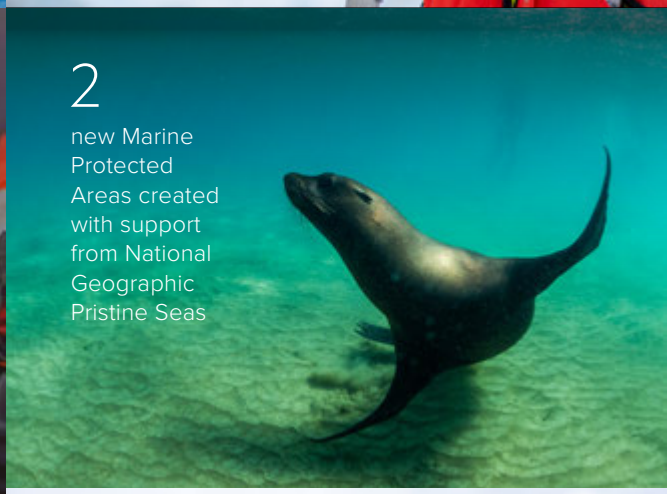
$2.67M
invested

24
countries reducing plastic usage thanks to Unplastify's engagement with students and communities

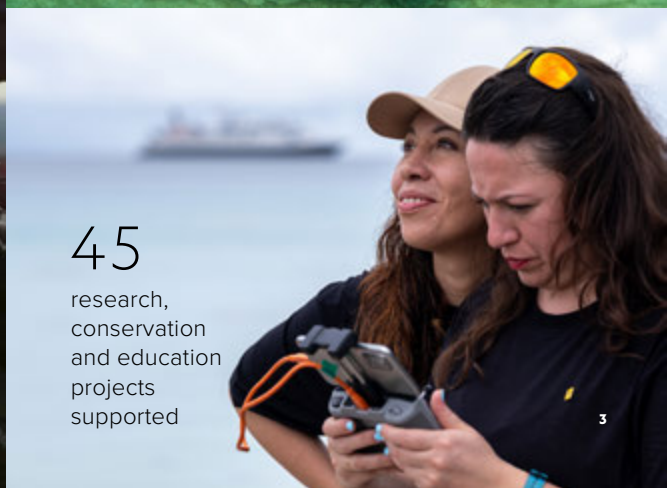


20
Visiting Scientist projects led by National Geographic Explorers aboard the fleet

35
Grosvenor Teacher Fellows who had career-enhancing experiences in the field



2
new Marine Protected Areas created with support from National Geographic Pristine Seas



45
research, conservation and education projects supported

OCEAN CONSERVATION

Ocean health is critical to a planet in balance. With support from travelers, scientists aboard the fleet and organizations in the regions the ships visit are working to protect our life-sustaining ocean for generations to come.

NOELIA HERNÁNDEZ

Mediterranean

Using eDNA to Drive Impact

To inform the creation of Marine Protected Areas where a diverse array of species can thrive, policymakers need more data about unexplored areas of the ocean. Thanks to support from travelers, Visiting Scientist and National Geographic Explorer Noelia Hernández collected water samples from 23 locations along the Mediterranean and Atlantic Iberian coast while traveling aboard *National Geographic Explorer*. Samples are being analyzed using environmental DNA (eDNA) metabarcoding, which detects the presence of microscopic traces of DNA left in the environment. Hernández's team will be able to detect the presence of different species in each area sampled, helping to determine which regions are critical for conservation.

2024 Focus: Tropical Pacific

A GLOBAL EXPEDITION

Since 2008, National Geographic Pristine Seas has partnered with local communities, government bodies, and NGOs to conduct more than 45 research expeditions and help establish 29 of the largest Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the world, covering a total area of 6.8 million square kilometers — including two new MPAs in 2024. With support from the LEX-NG Fund in 2024, the team explored Palau, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, where they collected data to promote effective marine conservation and provided educational programming for local students.

Baja California

PROTECTING MARINE & COASTAL HABITATS

With support from LEX-NG Fund donors, Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (FMCN) works to protect and conserve biodiversity in the Mexican Gulf of California by providing grants to local partners. In 2024, FMCN funded nine impactful projects to support local fishing communities and the conservation of wildlife and marine ecosystems.

Galápagos

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

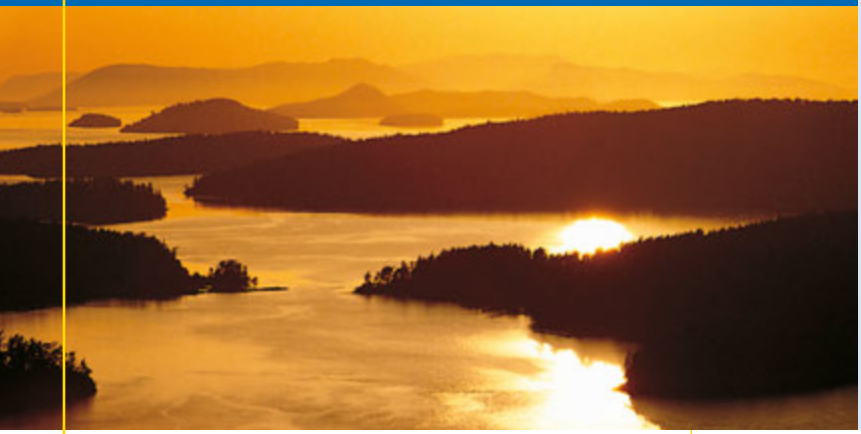
WildAid advances sustainable management of the Galápagos Marine Reserve by addressing gaps in fishing regulations and providing law enforcement support.

"Thanks to you, we are creating a model of conservation and responsible use that will serve as an inspiration for other areas of the Pacific."

MEAGHAN BROSNAN
CEO, WildAid

CLIMATE

Furthering scientific understanding of our changing climate is key to mitigating its impact on ecosystems, wildlife and communities. Thanks to donors like you, the LEX-NG Fund supports crucial climate research and innovative solutions.



"Your support is helping to protect these unique ecosystems, ensuring they remain resilient for future generations. Together, we are making a lasting impact on the preservation of our planet's precious marine life."

INTI KEITH

National Geographic Explorer and Senior Marine Biologist, Charles Darwin Foundation

Antarctica

LISTENING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

National Geographic Explorer Matthias Hoffmann-Kuhnt conducted acoustic recordings of the melt rates of tidewater glaciers in six different areas in the Southern Ocean while aboard the *National Geographic Resolution* as a Visiting Scientist. Together with satellite imagery, this acoustic data will serve as valuable input for climate change models, providing a more complete picture of ice loss processes in Antarctica.

Galápagos

SAFEGUARDING CORAL REEFS

Support from LEX-NG Fund donors in 2024 helped Inti Keith, National Geographic Explorer and senior marine biologist at the Charles Darwin Foundation, conduct critical research to protect the unique ecosystems of the Galápagos Islands. Keith's work to better understand coral resilience in the Galápagos is informing conservation efforts for vulnerable reefs, benefiting marine biodiversity and serving as a model for assessing and responding to climate change impacts on marine ecosystems.

Coastal Norway & Arctic Svalbard

INVESTIGATING OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

As part of the Visiting Scientist program aboard *National Geographic Resolution*, National Geographic Explorer Arianna Mancuso collected water, sediment and mollusk samples along the Norwegian coast. Her research aims to better understand the impact of ocean acidification and pollution on biodiversity and marine ecosystems in the polar seas.

Arctic Svalbard

STUDYING PHYTOPLANKTON DIVERSITY

National Geographic Explorer Catherine Ribeiro collected seawater samples as a Visiting Scientist aboard *National Geographic Resolution* in Svalbard for her MicroWorlds project. Ribeiro will extract and sequence DNA from the seawater samples to better understand the diversity of phytoplankton — the pillars of ocean life — in the Arctic.

Peruvian Amazon

EDUCATING YOUNG LEADERS

With support from the LEX-NG Fund, National Geographic Explorer Eliana Elias, co-founder of Minga Peru, works with local communities in the Peruvian Amazon. In 2024, they trained 60 young leaders in conservation and environmental protection, provided in-person educational activities to 200 children and adolescents, and reached 120,000 listeners through the conservation-focused radio program “Bienvenida Salud” (Welcome Health).

South Pacific

DOCUMENTING A GLOBAL CORAL BLEACHING EVENT

While aboard *National Geographic Orion* as a Visiting Scientist, National Geographic Explorer Hillary Smith studied tropical reef biodiversity. She collected more than 1,200 images from seven countries and 800 macroalgae samples from three countries. Smith’s research will provide insight into the extent and severity of the fourth-ever declared global coral bleaching event, supporting efforts to help reefs survive into the future.

GLOBAL IMPACT

The LEX-NG Fund invested $2.67 million in 2024, supporting 45 research, conservation, and education projects and programs. The generosity of our travelers is driving impact for the ocean, coastal ecosystems and communities. Thank you for helping the environmental leaders of today learn about, care for and protect critical habitats for future generations.

POWERED BY TRAVELERS ABOARD THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC-LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS FLEET

National Geographic Endeavour II • *National Geographic Endurance* • *National Geographic Explorer*
National Geographic Islander II • *National Geographic Orion* • *National Geographic Quest*
National Geographic Resolution • *National Geographic Sea Bird* • *National Geographic Sea Lion*
National Geographic Venture • *Delfin II* • *Oberoi Philae* • *Sea Cloud* • *Sea Cloud II*

GLOBAL

1. Grosvenor Teacher Fellowship
2. National Geographic Pristine Seas
   ENRIC SALA
3. Unplastify
   AGUSTINA BESADA

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC GRANT PROJECTS

4. Untangling the co-evolution of herring and people along the Pacific Rim
   LANE ATMORE
5. Developing a bioinspired robotic solution for ocean conservation
   MRUDUL CHELLAPURATH
6. Diversity and use of Mediterranean wild edible plants
   BENEDETTA GORI
7. Restoring diverse corals through cultivation of stranded eggs
   SAKI HARII
8. Mentorship network for harpy eagle conservation in Panama
   JOSÉ DE JESÚS VARGAS GONZÁLEZ
9. Connections between seafood borne disease and food security in Kiribati
   CHRISTOPHER KNIGHT
10. Preserving the hammerhead shark, the guardians of the sea in Ghana
    ANTHONY ONYANGO
11. Environmental education in the Amazon
    NEMONTE NENQUIMO
12. Understanding drivers of sea lion predation of South American fur seals
    MAURICIO SEGUEL
13. Rediscovering and exploring coral reefs in Benin
    GÉRARD ZINZINDOHOUÉ

REGIONAL PARTNERS

14. Alaska Whale Foundation
15. 16. 17. Charles Darwin Foundation
18. Fundación de Conservación Jocotoco and Island Conservation
19. Minga Peru
20. Fundación Scalesia
21. SR3 SeaLife Response, Rehabilitation, and Research
22. WildAid

VISITING SCIENTISTS

23. Hunting for microplastics and chemical pollution in the Arctic
    MARTINA CAPRIOTTI
24. Quantifying functional redundancy among Antarctic plankton
    DANIEL DICK
25. Conserving Southern Ocean seabirds and seals in the avian flu era
    TOM HART
26. eDNA to study elusive species
    NOELIA HERNÁNDEZ
27. Capturing the moon in Antarctica: image sampling for remote environments
    JENNIFER LOPEZ AND CODY PAGE
28. 29. COLDSHELLS: Climate impacts on mollusks
    ARIANNA MANCUSO
30. Submarine groundwater discharge in Antarctica
    AARON MICALLEF
31. 32. Mapping microplastics and microfibers in water and air
    RACHAEL MILLER
33. Drone detectives: Unveiling beach litter secrets
    IMOGEN NAPPER
34. Mapping French Polynesian atolls
    C. ISABEL NUNEZ LENDO
35. Monitoring macroalgae in the Arctic with eDNA
    CHLOE NUNN
36. Developing eDNA surveillance for non-native species
    ALESSANDRO PONZO
37. MicroWorlds: The Microalgae Diversity Project
    CATHERINE RIBEIRO
38. Microalgal adaptation to coastal darkening
    CATHERINE RIBEIRO
39. 40. 41. Long-term monitoring of rocky shore temperature and biodiversity
    RUI SEABRA
42. Mapping tropical reef biodiversity across the South Pacific
    HILLARY SMITH
43. Climate impacts on Antarctic microbial communities
    DAVID VELÁZQUEZ
44. ROV-assisted sampling in the mesophotic zone
    DANIEL VENTURINI
45. Ice at the Edge: Walls of change
    CATHERINE WALKER

The Baja California project appearing on page 5 and the Antarctica projects appearing on pages 6 and 11 were funded in 2023 and are not represented on this map.

WILDLIFE

The National Geographic Society and Lindblad Expeditions believe in the power of humanity to safeguard precious wildlife and the habitats they call home. With your support, Explorers are advancing conservation-oriented research, deploying cutting-edge technology and furthering key efforts to protect wildlife.

Southeast Alaska, USA

Whale Health

For more than a decade, the Alaska Whale Foundation (AWF) has led a comprehensive program to study and address the health of humpback whales in Southeast Alaska. Under the leadership of Executive Director and National Geographic Explorer Andy Szabo, their research program uses whale abundance surveys, drones, animal tags and tissue sampling to better understand how changing oceans are impacting whales and marine ecosystems. AWF also engages local communities and Tribal, regional, state and federal resource managers, providing data that inform conservation policies in ways that support the needs of communities where they work.

"The support of guests who contribute to the LEX-NG Fund has been integral to all of Alaska Whale Foundation's programs and has allowed us to develop the largest whale health initiative on the planet."

ANDY SZABO
Executive Director,
Alaska Whale Foundation

Antarctica

WILDLIFE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

With support from the LEX-NG Fund, National Geographic Explorer Jane Younger traveled aboard *National Geographic Endurance* to collect biological samples from penguins, seabirds and seals that will help her better understand disease threats to vulnerable wildlife. With hundreds of samples collected during the expedition, Younger will use DNA extractions and virus detection methods to screen the animals for pathogens.

Chile

NOVEL SEA LION PREDATION

Sea lions primarily eat fish and squid; however, National Geographic Explorer Mauricio Seguel's team has observed South American sea lions hunting fur seal pups and, most recently, the unprecedented predation on adult fur seal mothers. This alarming trend poses a significant threat to the fur seal population. Seguel's team is tracking individual sea lions, employing video and photography to observe their behavior to determine the causes of this shift.

Panama

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES IN CONSERVATION

In Panama's Darien rainforest, National Geographic Explorer José De Jesús Vargas González is raising awareness about the connections between ecosystems and community well-being. His team is training 20 community members on the conservation of the harpy eagle, an apex predator and umbrella species identified as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. They will design an education plan and monitoring system to reduce threats to this important species.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Donors like you are helping to conserve the wonder of our world. With support from the LEX-NG Fund, National Geographic Explorers, scientists, educators and local leaders are championing environmental stewardship and working alongside communities to take action to protect the planet.

BENEDETTA GORI

Mediterranean

Wild Edible Plants

Highly adapted to local environments, nutritious and rooted in local cultures, wild edible plants (WEPs) have been integral to food security in the Mediterranean for centuries. However, dramatic changes in food systems and environmental degradation have led to the abandonment of WEPs. With support from our travelers, National Geographic Explorer Benedetta Gori is cataloging WEPs in Sardinia and will produce the first comprehensive checklist of Mediterranean WEPs, filling a critical data gap in regional food biodiversity knowledge. LEX-NG Fund donor support is contributing to building resilient food systems that can help future generations adapt to environmental challenges.

Galápagos

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS OF TOMORROW

With LEX-NG Fund support, the Scalesia Foundation is transforming the educational landscape of the Galápagos Islands by ensuring young people have access to high-quality education. In 2024, the Scalesia Foundation provided scholarships to 30 students at the Tomás de Berlanga School, which places a strong emphasis on sustainable development and innovative Pre-K–12 methodologies such as project-based learning, outdoor education, and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) curricula. The Foundation also led comprehensive environmental education training for 430 teachers in Galápagos.

North America

INSPIRING EDUCATORS

The Grosvenor Teacher Fellowship is a two-year professional development opportunity that brings educators aboard the National Geographic-Lindblad fleet for field-based experiences they share with their classrooms, communities and professional networks. In 2024, 35 fellows were selected to embark on expeditions around the world — to Antarctica, Galápagos, Patagonia, Alaska, the Arctic and beyond. Fellows gain an enriched understanding of the world around them, helping ignite a passion for environmental stewardship in students for years to come.

Ecuador

PREPARING YOUTH AS GUARDIANS OF THE RAINFOREST

In the Ecuadorian Amazon, Waorani history, culture and forest knowledge is disappearing, putting the forests and the Waorani way of life at risk. National Geographic Explorer Nemonte Nenquimo is working with communities to develop an education curriculum that combines Western knowledge with Waorani traditional language, history, geography and forest knowledge to prepare youth to carry on as guardians of their rainforest territory. In 2024, the curricula Nenquimo developed with communities reached a total of 140 Waorani youth at six schools.

PLASTIC

Lindblad Expeditions and the National Geographic Society are committed to combating global environmental challenges. Thanks to contributions from travelers like you, the LEX-NG Fund is providing vital support to Explorers tracking plastic pollution and working to reduce plastic consumption worldwide.

AGUSTINA "TATI" BESADA

Global

Reducing Single-Use Plastics

Founded by National Geographic Explorer Agustina "Tati" Besada, the Unplastify Worldwide program teaches students to rethink consumption of single-use plastics and equips them with the tools and resources to reduce plastic waste in their communities. The program is offered in both Spanish and English and has reached 158 educational institutions in more than 23 countries. In 2024, Unplastify expanded to schools in Canada, India, Kenya, the United Kingdom and the United States, and in June, Besada launched the Unplastify Club to help students aged 12-14 learn more about plastic pollution and take environmental action. With LEX-NG Fund support, Besada and her team are building a global network of changemakers who will carry these values and skills beyond their schools, multiplying the impact at local, regional and global levels.

British & Irish Isles

MAPPING PLASTIC POLLUTION

Traveler support enabled meaningful collaboration between a Visiting Scientist team led by National Geographic Explorer Imogen Napper and Grosvenor Teacher Fellowship alumnus Shane Heath.

"For the first time, we have been using drones to analyze plastic pollution across various environments such as sand, rocks and seaweed. This technology allows us to collect data much faster than traditional fieldwork methods."

IMOGEN NAPPER
National Geographic Explorer

INVASIVE SPECIES

The LEX-NG Fund supports efforts to mitigate the effects of invasive species and restore balance to ecosystems and biodiversity. Thanks to generous donors, innovators and changemakers are leveraging the power of science, education and storytelling to help protect native species across the globe.

Galápagos

Restoring Habitat for Native Wildlife

The Floreana Island Ecological Restoration Project is an ambitious effort to remove all invasive predators and restore native and endemic species. Through the LEX-NG Fund-supported efforts of Fundación de Conservación Jocotoco and Island Conservation, working with the local community, Galapagos National Park, and other collaborators, nearly all invasive predators have been eliminated, and native and endemic species are rebounding. Sightings of the Floreana mockingbird, once considered locally extinct, have been reported in Post Office Bay, and populations of Galápagos dove, native geckos, cuckoos and Darwin's finches are increasing. Monitoring of a sample population of Galápagos petrels from January to August 2024 revealed an increase in chick survival, with 154 chicks successfully fledging and 72 individuals marked for future tracking. Communities are also seeing the benefits of restoration: farmers on Floreana cultivated 100% of their corn, cassava and potato crops without the threat of devastation previously caused by rats.

Antarctica, South Georgia & the Falkland Islands

HARNESSING eDNA

As Antarctic and South Atlantic waters warm, these coastlines may see the arrival of non-native invasive species that can establish themselves and disrupt local ecosystems. Thinking ahead, National Geographic Explorer Alessandro Ponzo and his team are employing the use of environmental DNA to monitor and assess the presence and distribution of non-native species in Antarctica, South Georgia and the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas).

FUND SUMMARY

Since 2008, the LEX-NG Fund has supported hundreds of critical marine research, conservation and education initiatives, investing more than $24 million in impactful projects and programs around the globe. Together with our generous travelers, we are catalyzing a community of changemakers who share our urgency for protecting the ocean and supporting those who depend on it for their livelihoods.

2008–2024 IMPACT*

$24,724,970
invested

255
grants awarded

32,792
LEX-NG Fund gifts

7
continents

77+
countries and territories

400
Grosvenor Teacher Fellows

34
National Geographic Explorer-led Visiting Scientist projects

6.8M
square km of ocean protected

** Numbers current as of December 31, 2024.*

THANK YOU

By contributing to the LEX-NG Fund, you are furthering essential efforts to understand and protect our blue planet. Because of travelers like you, our successes are diverse and lasting — ocean conservation, wildlife protection, combating global environmental challenges such as climate change, plastic pollution and invasive species, and fostering environmental stewardship around the world. Thank you for traveling aboard the National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions fleet and accelerating this important work to create a healthier planet and brighter future.

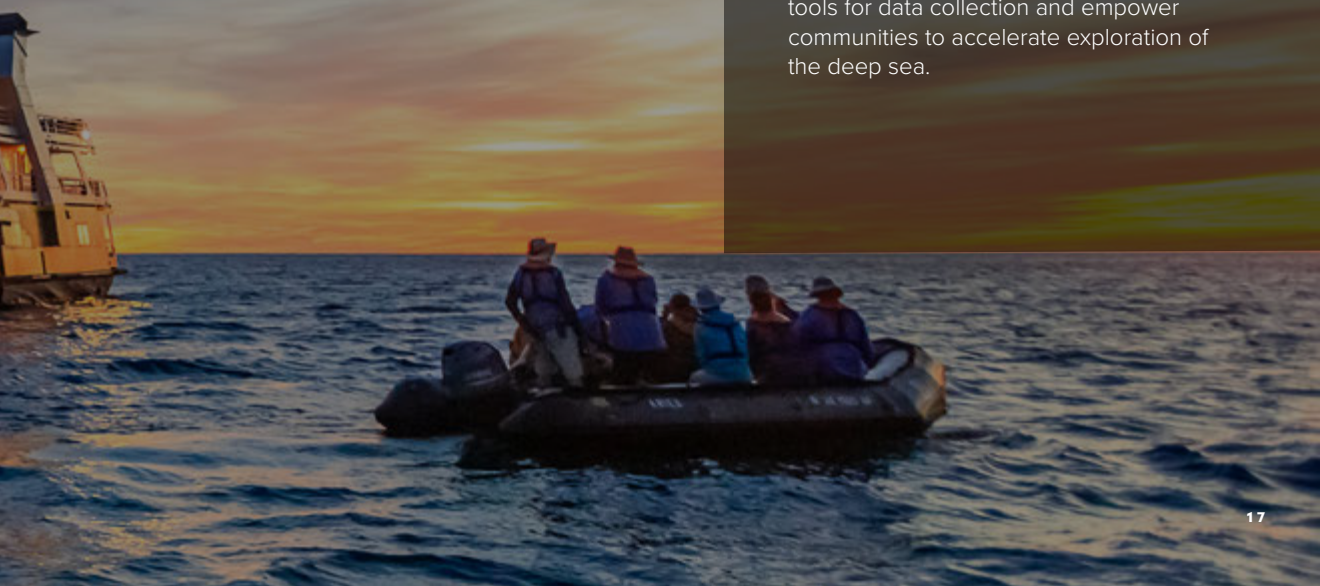
To contribute to or renew your support of the LEX-NG Fund, visit **give.ngs.org/LEXimpact** or contact National Geographic Society Donor Services at **800-373-1717** or **info@give.nationalgeographic.org**.

Coming Up in 2025

National Geographic Photo Camp provides a meaningful introduction to photography for young people around the world through an immersive experience where students receive instruction and guidance from world-class National Geographic Explorers and photographers. With LEX-NG Fund support, Photo Camp will host three camps in National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions destinations, including Galápagos and Baja California, helping youth share the world through their lenses.

In Alaska, Explorers Lauren Eckert, Andy Szabo, Amy Romer, Brian Skerry, Martin van Aswegen and Andrea Reid — supported in part by the LEX-NG Fund — will study the effect of the recent increase in gray whale predation of Pacific herring eggs in Sitka Sound. This project will directly fill pressing data gaps that Sitka community partners and ecosystem managers identified as important for their marine stewardship, decision-making and community initiatives.

The LEX-NG Fund will support Explorer Katy Croff Bell's *Voyages to the Deep: Pilot Deployments of the Deep Ocean Research and Imaging System*, a project aiming to develop scalable, affordable tools for data collection and empower communities to accelerate exploration of the deep sea.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC | LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS

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To give online and increase the positive impact we make together, please visit **give.ngs.org/LEXimpact.**

For more information about LEX-NG Fund projects around the world, contact Amy Berquist (Lindblad Expeditions) and Teresa Leonardo (National Geographic Society) at ocean@ngs.org. To learn more about donating to the LEX-NG Fund, please email David Glass at **dglass@ngs.org**.