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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Dr Anne Innis Dagg to be honored as the 2022 Umvikeli Wildlife Protector

The world's first 'giraffologist' and trailblazing feminist will be honored by Wild Tomorrow Fund at their Annual Gala



Image Credit: The Anne Innis Dagg Foundation

New York NY, 20 October 2022 - Wild Tomorrow Fund, a nonprofit focused on reconnecting and restoring habitat for threatened wildlife in KwaZulu-Natal South Africa, will honor Dr Anne Innis Dagg, trailblazing zoologist, feminist and 'giraffologist' at the charity's **Annual New York Gala on the 11th of November 2022 at The Edison Ballroom in New York City**. Tickets are on sale now at www.wildtomorrowfund.org/gala2022.

Now in its fifth year, Wild Tomorrow Fund's Umvikeli Wildlife Protector Award is an international award that recognizes an individual or organization working tirelessly to protect wildlife and wild spaces. The 2022 award to Dr Anne Innis Dagg recognizes her work deepening understanding of giraffe and other African animal biology and behavior, and her Foundation's focus on saving habitat for giraffe and all species.

In 1956, Anne as a 23-year-old Canadian biologist made an unprecedented solo journey to South Africa to become the first western researcher to study giraffes in the wild. After returning home, despite her

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numerous academic accomplishments, Anne experienced unrelenting and insurmountable discrimination as a female scientist. While this destroyed her career and halted the study of her beloved giraffe, this experience catalyzed Anne to become a feminist activist.

In 2010 at the age of 78, she was sought out by giraffologists, and brought back into the world of giraffe research, with her story subsequently featured in the award-winning 2018 documentary, [The Woman Who Loves Giraffes](#). In much delayed recognition of her work, four Canadian universities awarded her an Honorary Doctorate. Her work and legacy continues with the Anne Innis Dagg Foundation founded in 2020, supporting “the habitat and the people that live amongst the most magnificent creature on the planet, the giraffe”.

The plight of the iconic giraffe has been referred to as the “silent extinction” because people do not realize how precarious their existence is. Today, less than 100,000 giraffe roam the African continent: that’s only one giraffe for every elephant. Anne Innis Dagg’s mission is to draw attention to the challenges wild giraffes are facing in Africa and encourage more people to support conservation.

“I am honored to be the 2022 Umvikeli Wildlife Protector”, said Dr Anne Innis Dagg. “Across Africa, habitat for giraffe is shrinking and their populations have plummeted by almost 40% over the last 30 years. I hope this award helps to bring attention to their plight, and also to women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, who still face discrimination.”

“We are delighted to honor Dr Anne Innis Dagg, whose passion for giraffe, and knowledge of their behavior and unique intelligence, has elevated giraffe as a species, and as a focus for conservation” said Wild Tomorrow Fund’s Founder and Executive Director, John Steward.

Wild Tomorrow Fund’s Annual NYC Gala raises funds for the protection, restoration, and rewilding of threatened habitat in southern Africa. The charity’s newly declared wildlife corridor in KwaZulu-Natal South Africa is restoring wild space for 46 threatened species including the giraffe, critically endangered black rhinoceros, leopards, elephants and other lesser known yet equally important species.

About Wild Tomorrow Fund. Wild Tomorrow Fund is dedicated to the protection of threatened and endangered species and the habitats they depend on for survival. Wild Tomorrow Fund works on the ground in southern Africa with a vision for a world in which wildlife habitats are expanded and protected, and where existing reserves have the resources needed to keep their animals safe.

www.wildtomorrowfund.org

About The Anne Innis Dagg and the (AID) Foundation. Established in 2020, the Anne Innis Dagg (AID) Foundation provides support to organizations and individuals that protect the survival of the most magnificent creature on the planet, the giraffe. The Foundation also directs funding to programs that raise the voices of marginalized individuals in science and education in support of Anne’s lifelong principle that people, animals and their surroundings deserve mutual respect.

Through the AID Foundation, Anne is committed to creating support for women+ and raising the voices of marginalized people in Africa and around the world. More information here

www.anneinnisdaggfoundation.org

Additional Media: Media images available on dropbox [here](#).