



# GEORGINA MACE

CIEEM Medal 2018

for

## Outstanding, Life-Long Contribution to Biodiversity and Ecosystem Change and Resilience

The prestigious CIEEM Medal is awarded in 2018 to Professor Dame Georgina Mary Mace DBE FRS in recognition of her outstanding, life-long contribution to biodiversity and ecosystem change and resilience.

Georgina has a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from the University of Liverpool, and a Doctorate in the evolutionary ecology of small mammals from the University of Sussex.

From 1991-2000, Georgina was a Research Fellow at the Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London. In 2000 she became its Director of Science, a position she held until 2006.

From 2006-2012, she was Professor of Biodiversity and Ecosystems and Director of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) Centre for Population Biology at Imperial College London.

Following this, Georgina took up her current positions at University College London, namely Professor of Biodiversity and Ecosystems and Head of the Centre for Biodiversity and Environment Research (CBER).

Georgina's research interests focus on measuring the trends and consequences of biodiversity loss and ecosystem change. This includes extinction risk assessment, life history and ecological correlates of extinction risk, climate change and its impact on biodiversity, and ecosystem services and natural capital accounting. She has a particular focus on the science and policy interface for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management.

During her time as Director of Science at the Institute of Zoology, Georgina played a pivotal role in developing, testing and implementing the evidence-based criteria for listing species in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The IUCN Red List system is designed to determine the relative risk of extinction, with its main purpose being to catalogue and highlight those plants and animals that are facing a higher risk of global extinction.

From 2002-2005, Georgina was actively involved in the biodiversity sections of the groundbreaking Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA), and contributed to the technical development of measures for the Convention on Biological Diversity 2010 biodiversity target.

Following her work on the MEA, Georgina contributed to the UK National Ecosystem Assessment (2011) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2014 Working Group 2 chapter on the impacts of climate change on ecosystems.

In 2014 she chaired a Royal Society science policy report on *Resilience to Extreme Weather*.

More recently, Georgina has been developing new approaches to measuring the loss of natural capital.

According to Google Scholar, Georgina's work has been cited over 40,000 times in academic papers.

Georgina has held a number of distinguished positions in the ecology and conservation community. She has served as President of the Society for Conservation Biology (2007-2009) and the British Ecological Society (2011-2013). She was the last Chair of the international programme on biodiversity science *Diversitas* (2012-2014) before it was merged into the Future Earth Programme. She was a member of the UK Government's Natural Capital Committee (2012-2015), and has served on the governing bodies of both the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and the Royal Society. Most recently, Georgina has been appointed to the Committee on Climate Change's Adaptation Sub-Committee for a term from January 2018 to February 2021.

Georgina served as Editor of the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society (Series B, Biological Sciences)* from 2008-2010, and is currently an Advisory Board Member of *PLOS Biology*.

For her services to environmental science, Georgina was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1998 and a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 2007. In 2016, she was appointed Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) for her services to science. In 2002 she was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS).

In 2007, Georgina was the winner of the International Cosmos Prize, which is awarded for outstanding research work and/or achievement which promotes the philosophy of "*the harmonious coexistence between nature and mankind*".

Also in 2007, she was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science degree by the University of Sussex for her work on biodiversity.

In 2016, she won the Dr A.H. Heineken Prize for Environmental Sciences, and, jointly with Sandra Knapp, the Linnean Medal of The Linnean Society of London.

Georgina is the recipient of the exclusive President's Medal from the British Ecological Society.

Georgina Mace is an undoubtedly worthy recipient of the CIEEM Medal.

*Stephanie Wray CECol CEnv FCIEEM, President*

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