

2023 Women of Discovery

The WINGS Women of Discovery Awards were established in 2003 to recognize extraordinary women making significant contributions to world knowledge and science through exploration.



2023 FELLOW

[DR. ZUZANA BUŘIVALOVÁ](#), Czech Republic

Tropical forest ecologist, bioacoustics researcher and conservation scientist

Dr. Zuzana Buřivalová is a conservation scientist with a goal to find ways to equitably protect tropical forest biodiversity. An Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, she is affiliated with the department of [Forest & Wildlife Ecology](#), [The Nelson Institute](#) for Environmental Studies, and the Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment (SAGE). As Principal Investigator of the [Sound Forest Lab](#), Zuzana leads a group of researchers using soundscapes - all the sounds that can be heard in a landscape - to understand the health of rainforests. The Sound Forest Lab collaborates with NGOs, governments and local communities to design research projects that can help on the ground.

In her research, Zuzana looks for ways to protect biodiversity in tropical forests, both forests that are

used by people, for example for logging, and forests set aside for conservation, from national parks to small community-protected areas. She uses new technologies, such as soundscape analysis, where traditional field methods aren't enough. Zuzana also collaborates with the environmental news platform Mongabay on understanding which conservation strategies succeed and fail in tropical forests.

Zuzana is originally from a small village in the Czech Republic's Moravian Karst. She completed her undergraduate degree in Biology at Oxford University, and her MSc in Environmental Science at the University of Geneva. She received her PhD from the ETH Zurich in Switzerland and then worked as a postdoctoral research fellow at Princeton University. Zuzana feels privileged to have worked in the tropical forests of Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, Borneo and Gabon, and she takes every opportunity to share her love for rainforests and their soundscapes, such as through an illustrated soundscape e-book for children. Zuzana is the recipient of the 2023 University of Wisconsin-Madison [Bassam Z. Shakhashiri Public Science Engagement Award](#) and [Nature Journal's 2021 Nature Research Award for Driving Global Impact](#).


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