

Nomination form for BIG Biodiversity Champion 2023

Nominee Name	Niru Neil Dorrian
Award category	Established professional (more than 5 years working on biodiversity-related projects/effort)
How many years working on biodiversity-related projects/effort?	<p>2004-Present (19 years)</p> <p>Niru is an experienced Marine Mammal Biologist and environmental professional as a Fellow and Chartered Marine Scientist through the Institute of Marine Engineering Science and Technology (IMarEST), a Chartered Scientist through the British Science Council, and a certified Environmental Clerk of Works and he currently holds the role of Senior Offshore Ecology Coordinator with Electricity Supply Board (ESB) managing ecology related elements for offshore renewable developments. Niru has 19 years' experience over multiple international marine and terrestrial projects specialising in environmental mitigation and biodiversity monitoring, project management, advisory services, conservation, animal rescue, conservation medicine, stranding pathology, and media. He has undertaken extensive marine surveys and advisory roles on projects for the offshore oil and gas, coastal renewables and marine construction sectors, marine conservation and research projects with various organisations. He has demonstrated leadership expertise as a Co-Founding Director for the not-for-profit marine conservation and education organisation Whalefish and as Chair of the Marine Mammal Special Interest Group (SIG) in IMarEST 2020-Present, and previously as Chair of the Marine Mammal Observer Association (MMA) between 2015-2020 and lead management roles on multiple projects.</p>
Project(s) person is nominated for	<p>Extensive career contributions to marine mammal conservation, mentoring and ongoing dedication to science outreach through media publishing, raising professional standards for marine mammal mitigation specialists and increasing understandings of marine mammal rescue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Niru co-founded the not-for-profit marine organisation <u>Whalefish</u> in 2014, providing a platform for education and outreach on various marine environmental and conservation initiatives. Whalefish also includes career development skills through IMarEST accredited workshops and training courses for marine science students and professional science communication with a global network of marine professionals. Whalefish also supported bottlenose dolphin research in Argentina and has provided secondments to the Channel Island Marine and Wildlife Institute (CIMWI) in California, where Niru received funding to assist CIMWI

	<p>during an unusual mortality event of California sea lions between 2014-2016.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Additionally, through his work in Environmental and Ecological Management for multiple international companies he has designed operational guidelines for protected marine fauna and advised on improving environmental performance. Niru has led the ecological and monitoring management of the world's most extensive geophysical survey programme with over 130 marine fauna observers, field ecologists and environmental advisors reporting under him between 2018-2022 working within UNESCO biosphere reserves, and protected areas. On this project, Niru contributed substantially to improving monitoring standards and marine mammal rescue and ocean clean-up by retrieving ghost gear. He also led marine mammal field operations in 2018 as the Central Commander for the Western Gray Whale monitoring programme in Sakhalin in eastern Russia. During a highly sensitive industry project, he worked with the IUCN to develop and implement robust field research and monitoring and mitigation protocols. · In 2021 Niru led the development as primary author for the <u>Recommended best practice for geophysical survey crews to assist entangled wildlife</u> through IAGC which is now adopted across the offshore industry. · Niru regularly contributes to educational and science outreach via public presentations, school talks, interviews with press and magazine publications, documentary film work, leading professional conservation-orientated workshops, and guideline publications.
Nominee Organisation	
Nominator name (can be same as above), organisation & email for contact	<p>Ashleigh Kitchiner <i>RMarSci MIMarEST MCIEEM</i> Chair <u>Marine Mammal Observer Association</u> Senior Marine Mammal Consultant APEM Ash.kitchiner@gmail.com</p>
Describe how the nominee best meets the following criteria (no more than 50 words each):	
Engaging	<p>Niru is incredibly active in his field through his dedication to networking, providing career mentoring, and sharing opportunities. His compassion for others shines through, as he advocates for better professional standards, equality and empowers individuals to reach their full potential. He effortlessly fosters connections, amplifies voices, and inspires positive change.</p>
Inspiring	<p>Niru's dedication and passion for marine conservation, specifically marine mammal science, has inspired many in the industry. He is a source of advice and a catalyst for building professional networks</p>

	<p>across the world, given his work experience. His ideas, initiative, drive and determination have been the source for many of the successes of several organisations. I have seen first hand the light he ignites in others.</p>
Enthusiastic	<p>Niru demonstrates an evident enthusiasm for marine mammal science and a determination to continually develop his career skills through continuing profession development (CPD), and volunteering with various global initiatives in his spare time but he is a strong supporter of others in his field, giving advice and making connections where possible. Niru is a known professional in the world of global marine environmental consulting, best known for his leadership skills, willingness to support those new and experienced in the field and continuous advocacy for advancing industry standards in an ever-changing world. He is always on hand to share tips, advice and potential opportunities with others.</p>
Creative	<p>Niru has worked both top-down and bottom-up to advocate for better practices and standardisation for marine environmental consultants that specialise in marine mammals and megafauna. He advocates for marine science through his day-to-day work in marine mammal ecology, environmental management and his expansive educational outreach, mentoring, teaching, literature, digital media and publications.</p>
Knowledgeable	<p>Niru continues to provide an invaluable career resource for many marine science students worldwide. As Chair of the IMarEST Marine Mammal SIGhe was a key member in the drafting and release of a career matrix specifically for students or early career professionals seeking a career in marine mammal science. He continually reinforces his reputation as a respectable professional grounded on solid, impartial and non-extremist science, which informs and assists many in their conservation objectives, always providing a balanced approach.</p>
Outcomes driven	<p>Niru has demonstrated always to be an invaluable asset to any project requiring expert knowledge in monitoring and handling of marine mammals. He has been an incredibly strong supporter of marginalised groups in non-traditional industries, with a consistent positive attitude and the grit required to problem solve often under aggressive deadlines. Niru is never 'off-the-clock', he is always on hand and driven to improve industry standards.</p>

In 100 words provide a summary of how this nominee has gone the extra mile to enrich and enhance biodiversity on this project

Throughout his career, there are many evident and well-documented professional achievements he has contributed to. He has dedicated so much in terms of improving standards for marine megafauna monitoring, mitigation, and animal rescue. This has an ongoing contributing effect to improving biodiversity through protecting marine life during industry operations. Also, his efforts in animal rescue, working with whale disentanglement, along with developing the IAGC guidelines that are international. Anyone that knows Niru knows he always goes the extra mile and brings so much to the

projects he gets involved with. In his current role at ESB I know he is already making positive strides to enhance and protect biodiversity in renewable energy development.

Please attach a photo

