

Inaugural Jennifer Ward Oppenheimer Research Grant awardee announced

Dr Hayley Clements has been named the winner of the inaugural Jennifer Ward Oppenheimer (JWO) Research Grant for her research titled "Quantifying the biodiversity planetary boundary for Africa". Clements's research will develop a Biodiversity Intactness Index for Africa through a continent-wide collaboration of biodiversity professionals.



Dr Hayley Clements, winner of the inaugural Jennifer Ward Oppenheimer (JWO) Research Grant

The project will then explore where and how biodiversity loss impacts human wellbeing, promoting understanding of where investing in nature can deliver net benefits for society. Her proposal was selected from 164 other applicants across the continent.

"I am thrilled to receive this award that honours the legacy of Jennifer Ward Oppenheimer. I'm committed to harnessing this opportunity to undertake research that effects positive change towards sustainable development in Africa," she said upon receiving the award.

The official announcement of the grant was made earlier this year when researchers were invited to submit project proposals that would contribute to the advancement of environmental and allied sciences, and address African issues of current and future importance.

Dr Clements was awarded the honour at the 10th annual Oppenheimer Research Conference – a gathering of the region's top researchers, academics, influencers and sustainability advocates.

Finding real-world solutions

Dr Duncan MacFadyen, head of conservation research at Oppenheimer Generations, said: "The JWO Grant couldn't have asked for a more deserving inaugural winner. We look forward to the results of her research and will continue to support African research excellence that strives to find real-world solutions for African sustainability."

The JWO Grant was set up to honour the late Jennifer Ward Oppenheimer and to continue her legacy and contribution to conservation, the environment and cutting-edge science in Africa.

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