



PASSIONATE ABOUT EARTHWATCH

SPECIAL COMMENDATION AT THE BEMAS FOR PASSION FOR THE PLANET

Oxford: 29 November 2004. Earthwatch, the international environmental organisation, and Passion for the Planet radio station are celebrating this week after Passion received a Special Commendation at this year's British Environment and Media Awards for the series of interviews that made up *Earthwatch Month*.

Earthwatch Month was kindly supported by Amerada Hess and profiled winners of the Earthwatch Teacher Awards as they worked alongside leading scientists on Earthwatch field research projects around the country.

The aim was to highlight the important contribution made by UK teachers to conservation projects such as *Britain's Basking Sharks*, *Mammals of Wytham Woods* and *Eagles of Mull*, and to inspire other teachers and members of the public to become involved in Earthwatch projects.

Judges of the British Environment and Media Awards said that Passion for the Planet deserved special recognition for the way it was imaginatively covering environmental issues in the new media of digital radio and for its collaboration with Earthwatch to make this programme so topical.

Zoe Gamble, Press Officer at Earthwatch says, '*Earthwatch Month* was a great opportunity for our scientists and award winners to tell the listeners of Passion for the Planet about their experiences in the field. We are now welcoming applications for the 2005 Earthwatch Teacher Awards and we hope that Passion for the Planet will once again join our winners on new Earthwatch projects such as *Seals of Scilly* and *Dolphins and Whales of the Inner Hebrides*.'

Chantal Cooke, Managing Director of Passion for the Planet says, 'We are thrilled to receive this Special Commendation and are pleased that the judges have recognised that informative radio can be delivered in an exciting new format. Passion is dedicated to health and environment issues and we are always delighted to work alongside Earthwatch.'

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Editors Notes:

- For more information about Passion for the Planet Digital Radio Station contact Chantal Cooke on 020 8544 0091.
- **Passion** is wholly owned by Passion for the Planet Ltd. Passion is the UK's only health and environment focussed radio station, broadcasting on DAB Digital Radio across the south of England and worldwide on the Internet - www.passionfortheplanet.com
- **British Environment and Media Awards** - held evening of 23rd November in London. The BEMAs are presented by the WWF. Winners from television - news and documentaries, print - newspapers and magazines, radio, websites and campaigns are honoured for the vital role they play in communicating the importance of protecting the environment and alerting people to the dangers inherent in not doing so. The radio category acknowledges best coverage of environmental and sustainable issues or events by a radio programme. The judges look for high-quality reporting on environmental issues on a regional, national or international scale. www.bemas.org.uk
- To find out more about the Earthwatch Teacher Awards contact Julie Mackay, Programme Officer, Telephone: 01865 318826 or email: awards@earthwatch.org.uk
- Earthwatch Institute (Europe) engages people worldwide in scientific field research and education to promote the understanding and action necessary for a sustainable environment.
- Earthwatch Institute (Europe) is the European affiliate of Earthwatch Institute, which is based in the USA and was founded in Boston in 1971. Other affiliate offices in the Earthwatch Institute network are based in Australia and Japan.
- Earthwatch Institute (Europe) is the working name for Conservation Education & Research Trust (CERT), a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (number: 4373313) and a registered charity (number: 1094467). Registered office: 267 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7HT UK.
- Since 1971 the worldwide organisation has recruited over 75,000 volunteers in support of 2,800 field research projects in 118 countries. These volunteers have contributed over 10 million hours to essential field work.
- Earthwatch currently supports over 140 research projects in 50 countries by providing funds and paying volunteers. It offers members of the public opportunities to work as volunteers alongside leading field scientists and researchers. No special skills are required (except scuba certification for diving projects).
- Earthwatch volunteers pay to participate or receive grant-assisted places. Prices range from £120 to £2199 and project teams range from three to eighteen days. The price paid is a charitable donation, which funds the research work. Accommodation and food is included in most cases, but flights are extra.
- **Website:** <http://www.earthwatch.org/europe>