2019 Spring Prize shortlist announced

50 projects from around the world have been shortlisted for the £200,000 Lush Spring Prize for environmental and social regeneration.

The 2019 Lush Spring Prize received over 250 applications, which were shortlisted to a group of 50 in January this year\(^1\). Applications were received from across six continents and 68 different countries.

Although the shortlist is extremely diverse, interesting common themes can be identified.

Shortlisted projects were seen to be taking ownership of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, using regenerative practices as a means of achieving them in a way that remains relevant to the local context. Climate Change was the most common issue being addressed - not just in terms of preventing it but adapting to and mitigating the effects that are already being felt by projects and their stakeholders.

Projects were driven by a range of stakeholders, including grassroots campaigners, small scale agro-ecological producers, regenerative businesses, indigenous groups, academics, global solidarity networks and think tanks. Their work addresses multiple issues needed to support life, including ecosystem restoration, regenerative food production, building community, creating resilient housing and circular economies, whilst also supporting displaced people, protecting indigenous rights and access to land.

What is the LUSH Spring Prize?

The LUSH Spring Prize was set up to support ‘regenerative’ projects – those that go beyond sustainability by taking holistic approaches to restoring degraded land and communities. It seeks to support those who are actively involved in restoring all the systems they are part of. By supporting regenerative projects the Spring Prize hopes to raise the profile of the movement as a whole to inspire more individuals, groups and communities to start the regenerative process. The LUSH Spring Prize is a joint venture between LUSH Cosmetics and Ethical Consumer and is now in its third cycle, having started in 2017.

The 2019 Prizes

There are four different prize categories, each with a number of awards. These are:

- **Intentional Projects – 4 awards of £10,000**
  
  For great new ideas and projects up to 1 year old, to help them get a good start and solid foundation through knowledge sharing.

  For example:

  **Laboratorio Sicilia 2030** aims to actively support individuals and organizations in Sicily to regenerate and grow sustainably following the UN 2030 Agenda. In this crucial time of

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\(^1\) The 2019 shortlist can be viewed online at springprize.org
climate, environmental, social and economic crises, they see Sicily struggling to find an encompassing vision, to break free from widespread inertia and resignation, and align itself with its values. They are choosing to unite many often uncoordinated local initiatives in Sicily under the inclusive and organizing purpose of the Sustainable Development Goals.

• **Young Projects – 3 awards of £20,000**

For projects or organisations that are 1-5 years old, to help them to expand or develop their work in improving ecological and social systems.

For example:

**Alianza Ceibo (Ceibo Alliance)** is comprised of members from four indigenous nations in the western Amazon that are – together - building a holistic movement to prevent the destruction of their cultures and rainforest territories.

The Alliance was created in 2014 in response to oil fields polluting local water sources. In the process of building rainwater catchment systems (to increase access to clean water), they learned of common threats facing them all and decided to collaborate.

• **Established Projects – 2 awards of £25,000**

For projects or organisations that have worked successfully for more than 5 years, to help spread the word and inspire more people.

For example:

**INUA (Instituto Nova União da Arte)** is a grassroots project based in the East Zone Favela of Saú Paulo, Brazil. Their mission is to promote community development through art, culture, environmental education and generation of paid work.

INUA draws on the resources of the favela itself to fuel regeneration. This challenges the view that the favelas depend on outside help to develop. Instead, it demonstrates that they can act as a needed source of nutrients for regenerating what is unhealthy about the entire city.

• **Influence Award – 2 awards of £25,000**

To support organisations that are campaigning or lobbying to influence policy, regulation or public opinion in support of regeneration.

For example:

**Karambi Group of People with Disabilities** was founded in 1995 in Uganda by a group of people with disabilities (PWDs) in response to the discrimination, isolation, and exclusion faced by PWDs within society.

They have established a food forest, permaculture gardens and an irrigation system that is enabling them to produce organic foods in all seasons throughout the year. They also operate skill training and demonstration centres and have scaled down permaculture to
primary schools so that young people can learn how to work with nature while producing the needed nutritious foods.

Award Ceremony
A skill sharing event will be held at Emerson College in East Sussex from the 19-21 May and a press and awards event will be held in London on the 22nd May. 2019’s Spring Prize winners will be announced during this time, having been decided by a panel of 12 judges.

The Spring Prize judging panel is comprised of prominent people in the regenerative movement as well as one Lush staff judge and one Lush customer judge. You can read more about the judges here: Spring Prize Judging Panel.

Notes to the editors:

Who we are:
Lush Cosmetics
www.lush.com

The Prize is funded by Lush Cosmetics, a campaigning company with over 850 shops spanning 51 countries. Lush have provided funding for regenerative projects through the SLush (sustainable Lush) Fund since 2010.

Ethical Consumer
www.ethicalconsumer.org

The Prize is coordinated by Ethical Consumer, a non-profit multi-stakeholder co-operative in the UK. Ethical Consumer’s research and publishing supports consumer power to generate positive impacts for the environment, people, animals and society.

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From left to right: Medea Ferrigno, Alfio Furnari, Salvatore Timpanaro, Alice Franchina and Vincenzo Santiglia of Laboratorio Sicilia – shortlisted for a 2019 Lush Spring Prize.

INUA, shortlisted for a 2019 Established Lush Spring Prize, hosts a community meeting.

Masika Polina from Karambi Group of People with Disabilities: “Polina”. Karambi has been shortlisted for a 2019 Influence Spring Prize award.