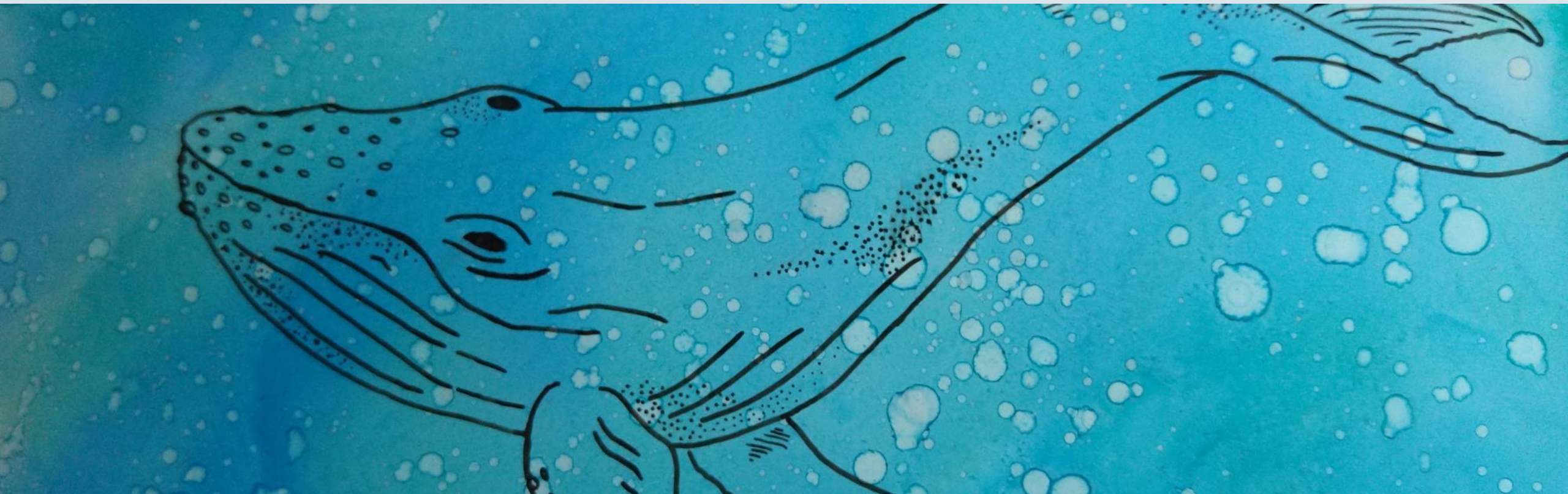


Tickets for the Ark

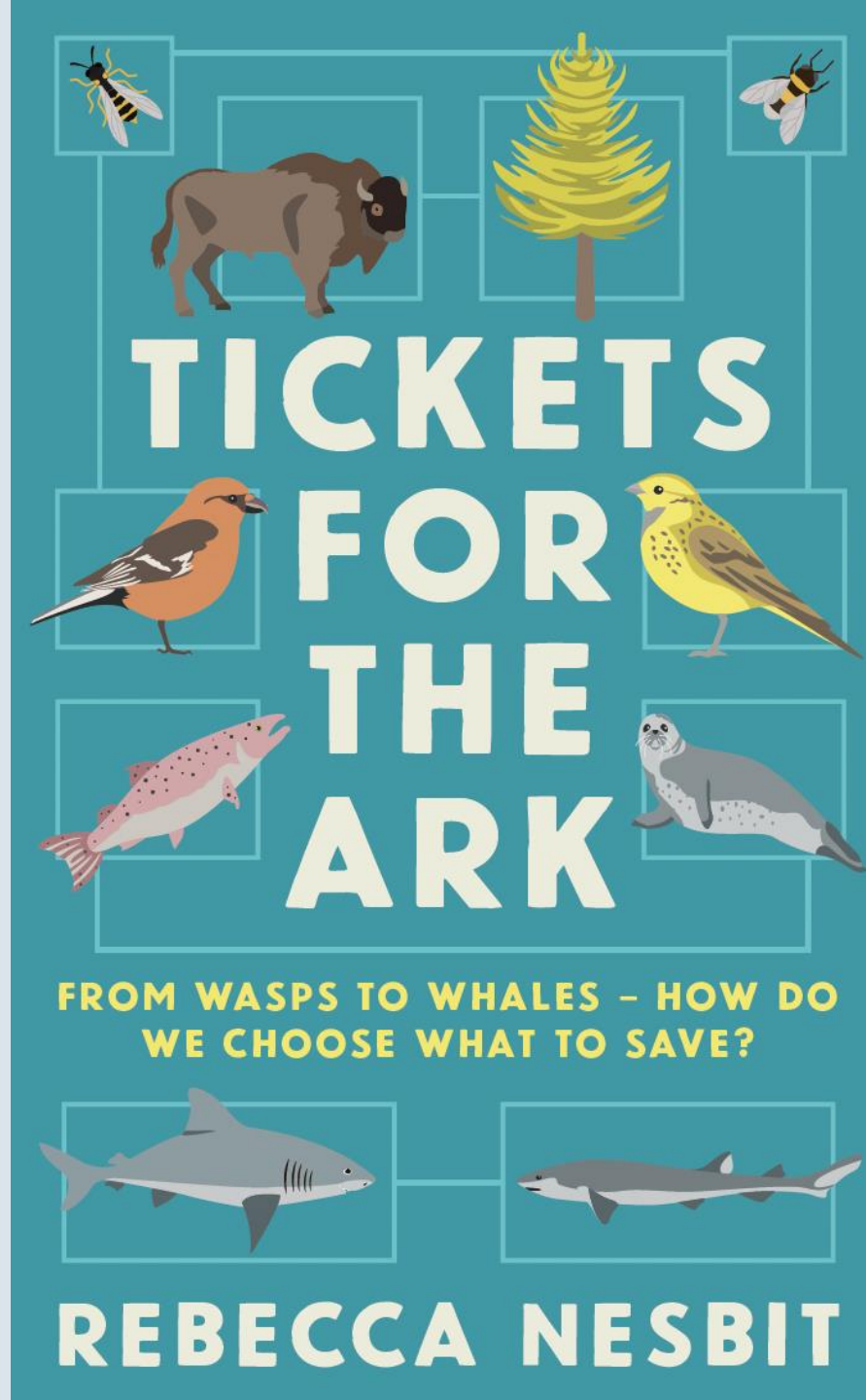
Conservation, ecological stewardship and environmental justice

Rebecca Nesbit



There are no
right answers

www.rebeccanesbit.com/schools

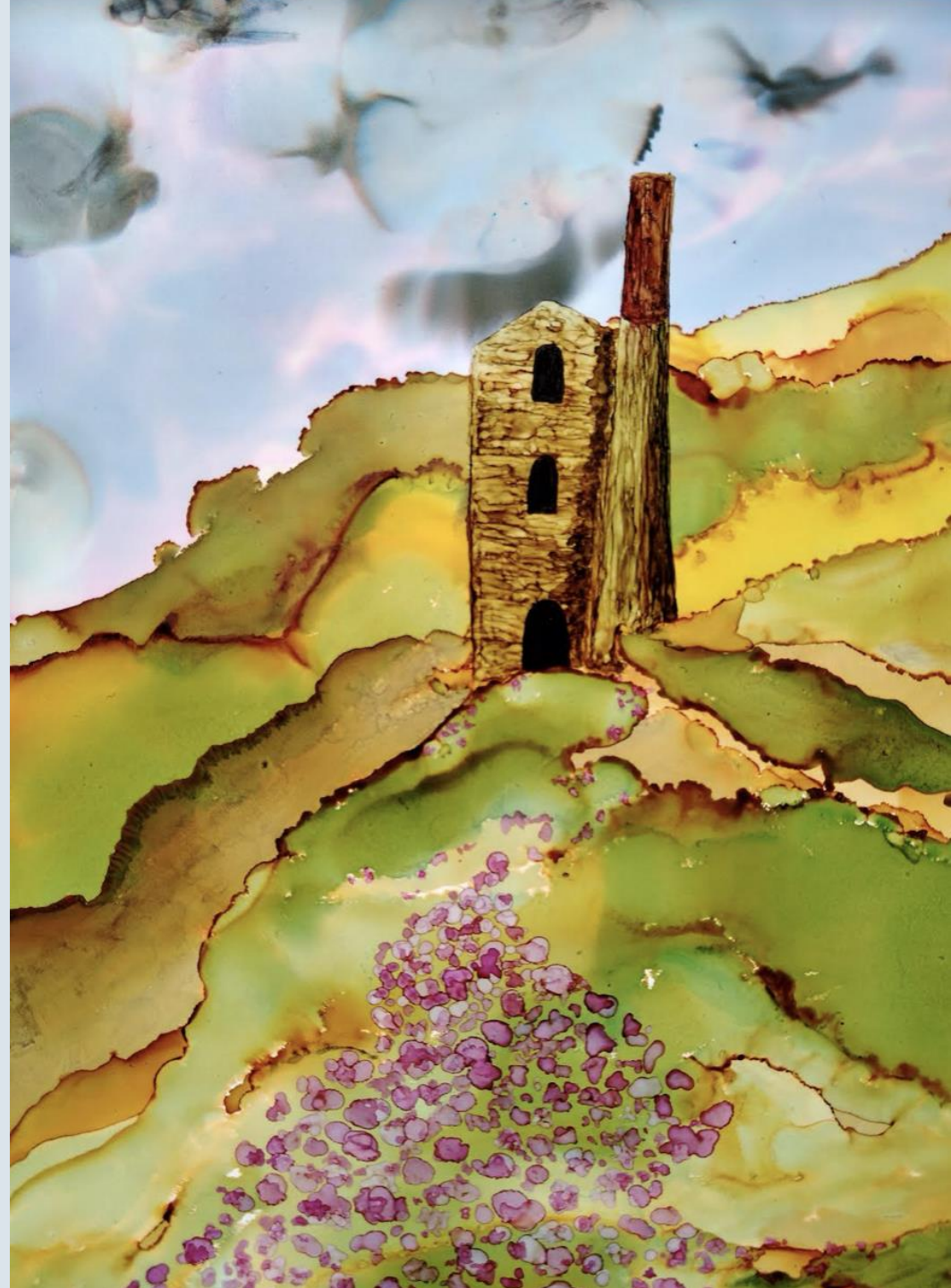


Picture some ecosystems
that should be protected

Picture some ecosystems in
Europe that should be
protected

Humans and nature

- Did your ecosystems have humans in?
- Had they been affected by humans?
- Humans are part of nature.



Pioneers of wilderness conservation

“When we became a nation in 1776, the buffaloes, the first animals to vanish when the wilderness is settled, roved to the crests of the mountains which mark the western boundaries of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the Carolinas.” Theodore Roosevelt, *Hunting the Grizzly and Other Sketches*



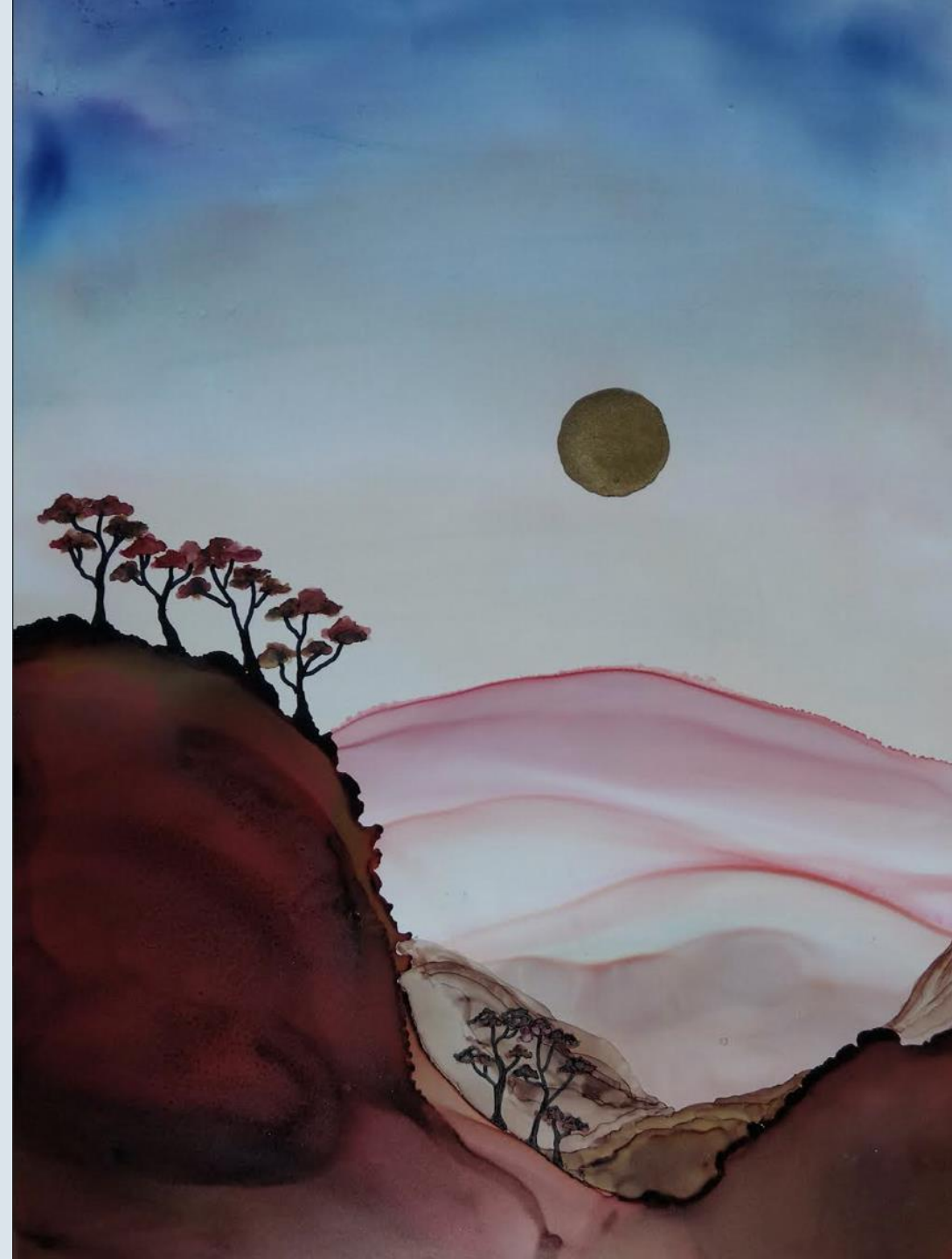
Pioneers of wilderness conservation

- “A strangely dirty and irregular life these dark-eyed, dark-haired, half-happy savages lead in this clean wilderness...” John Muir’s diary 1896
- “The worst thing about them is their uncleanliness. Nothing truly wild is unclean.”



American National Parks

- Native people were removed from their land, along with obvious signs of their occupation.
- This was reframed as virgin wilderness, and set aside for settler tourists.



Kruger National Park

- In 1898, Paul Kruger created a game reserve.
- Paul Kruger was a 19th-century President of the South African Republic and an important military figure.
- In 2001, KNP was joined with Limpopo National Park in Mozambique.



National park evictions

- In the Congo Basin, 26 out of 34 protected areas evicted local and indigenous communities without compensation.
- Armed park guards have made violent attempts to expel Indigenous Batwa people from eastern Democratic Republic of Congo's Kahuzi-Biega National Park.
- Evictions can lead to loss of lives, livelihoods and cultural identities.



Kaziranga National Park

- A World Heritage Site in Assam, north east India.
- A 2018 census recorded 2,431 greater one-horned rhinos, yet in 1905 there were fewer than 100.



WEL COME TO KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK



Rhino poaching

- “This [rhino problem] is because of conservation. They say that we need those things [rhinos]. They are nice. Some of the white people here treat them like their friends. They value the rhino more than black human beings. And now they see it as a business, if you have two rhinos you are rich.”
Mozambiquan horn smuggler, 2013



Indigenous societies in Suriname

- Indigenous people have sustainably managed forest for millennia.
- Land 'ownership' is temporary.



Indigenous societies in Suriname

- Indigenous people have sustainably managed forest for millennia.
- Land 'ownership' is temporary.
- Semi-nomadic lifestyles were disrupted by Christian missionaries.
- Now meat and forest products are sold to Paramaribo, Suriname's capital.



Indigenous land rights

- Granting Indigenous land rights can protect the forest.
- This has been effective against deforestation in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia and Peru.
- In Africa, Indigenous lands experience less deforestation than protected areas.



Indigenous knowledge

- Indigenous peoples often develop and share knowledge in a very different way to western science.
- International conservation bodies are starting to incorporate indigenous knowledge systems.
- Knowledge needs to be shared for mutual benefit, not just extracted.



Who benefits?

- Humans
- Animals
- Species or ecosystems



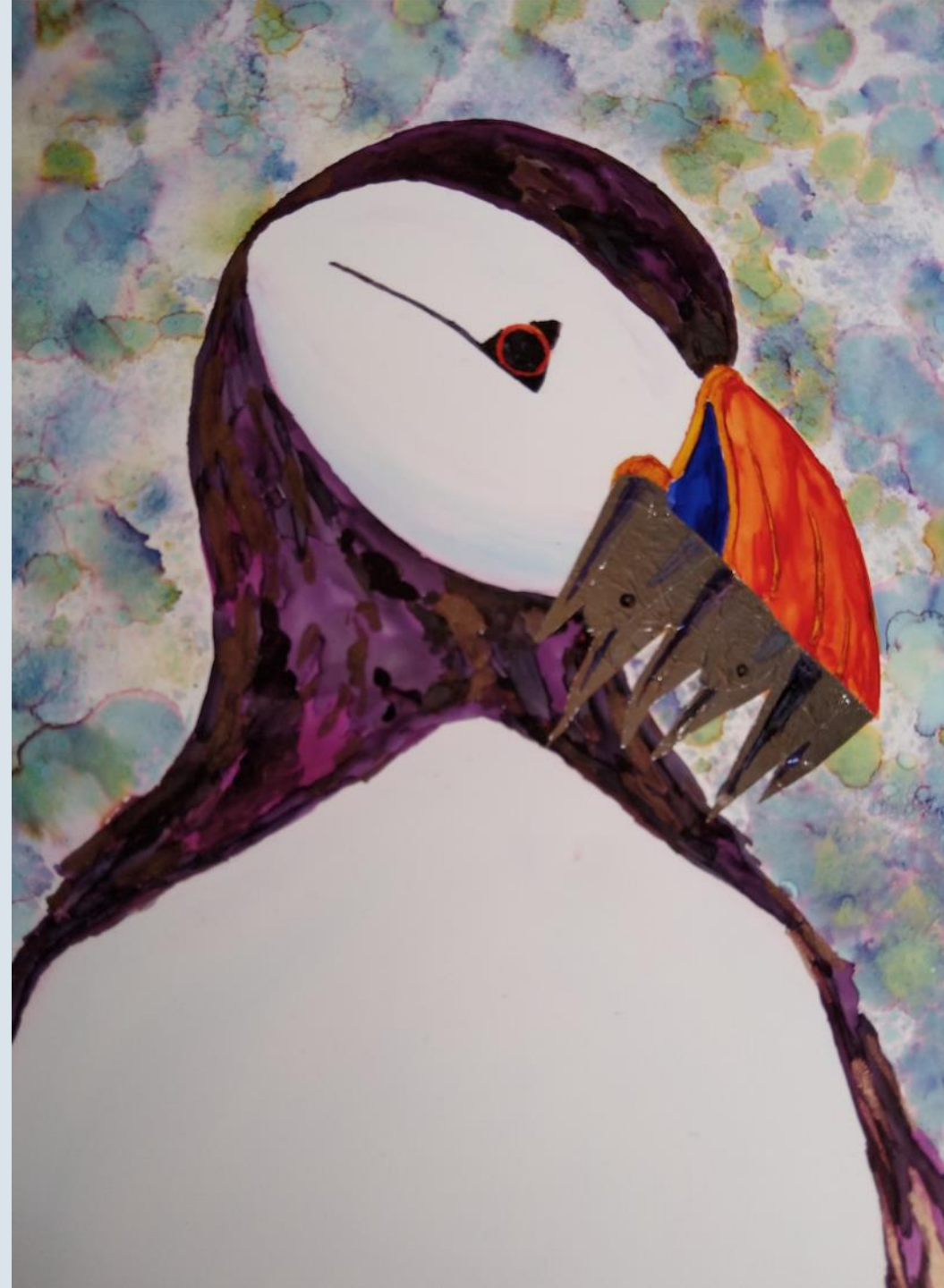
What can be changed?

- Reconsider both the methods and goals of conservation.
- Enter into true partnerships with Indigenous peoples and local communities.
- Increase human diversity in science and conservation.



Diversity in the UK

- The environmental sector is one of the least diverse – less than 1% of employees identify as non-white.
- The need for unpaid work experience makes conservation a hard field to enter.
- We need more voices in debates – not just the professionals.

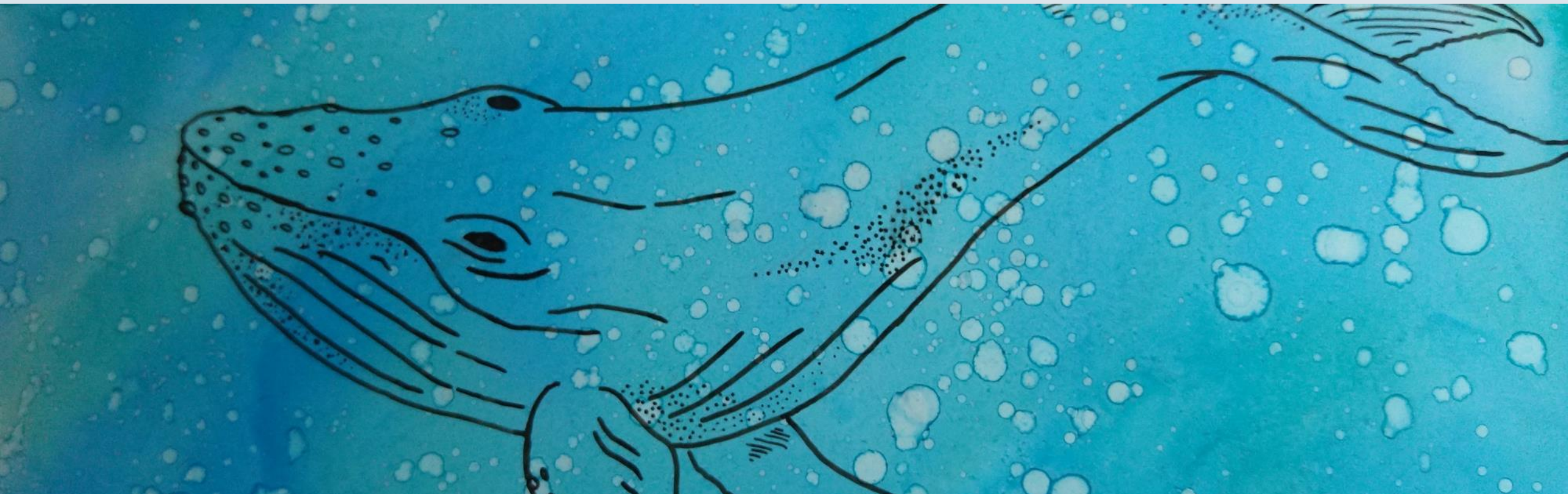


Discover more

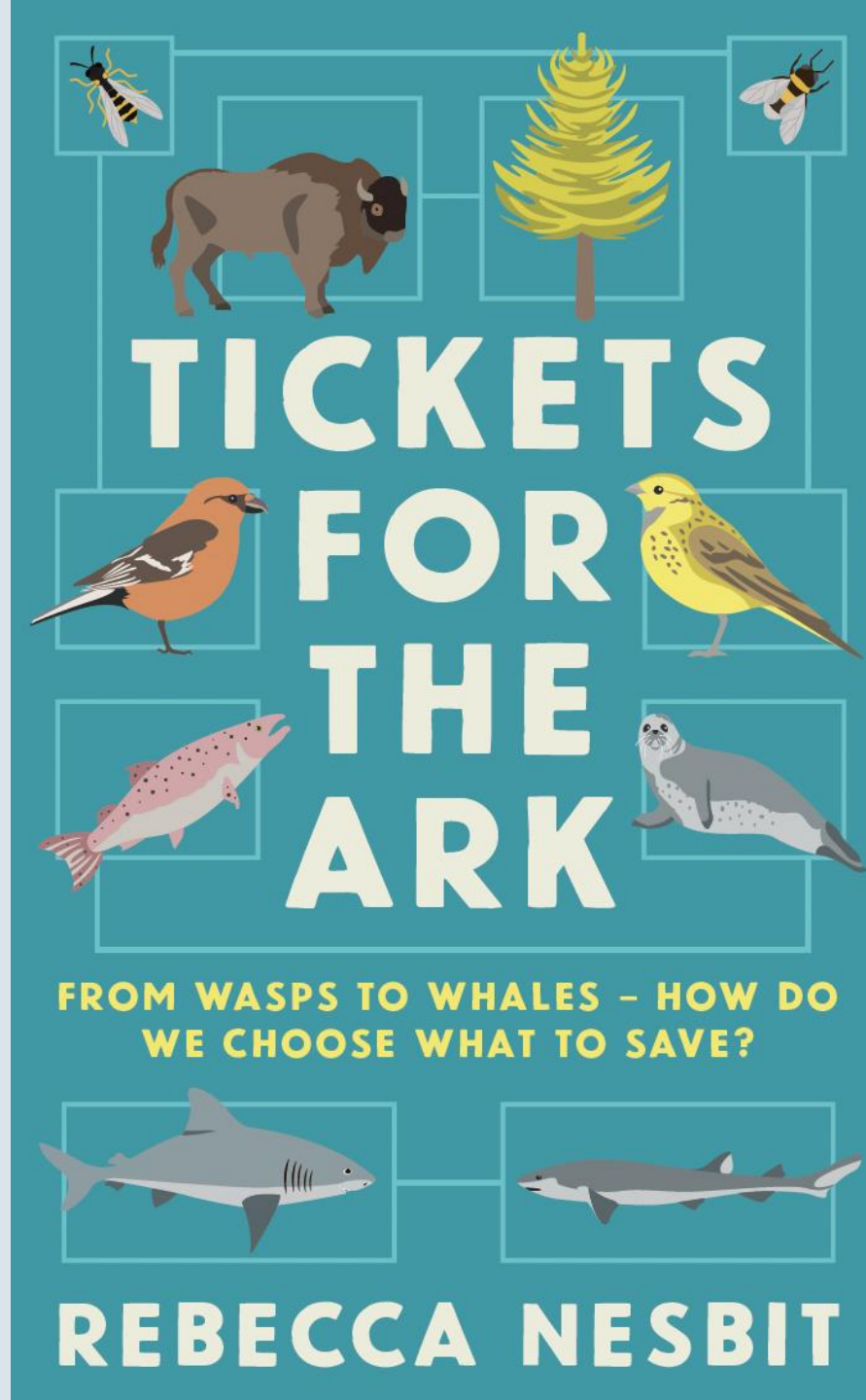
- My website www.rebeccanesbit.com/schools has information, including videos and podcasts.
- The May edition of the journal Oryx focusses on human rights and conservation. www.oryxthejournal.org
- News outlets such as Mongabay will help students find case studies.



Thank you for listening



There are no
right answers



When would Earth Overshoot Day land if the world's population lived like...

