

# Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme

For Future Leaders in Nature  
Conservation from Countries of  
Central and Eastern Europe, the  
Caucasus and Central Asia



## Programme goals

The Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme aims at enabling early-career professionals to effectively address conservation needs in their home countries, and to be actively involved in international conservation processes and networks.

The fellowship takes an integrated approach to the development of the personal capacity, by combining technical learning on international best conservation practice and policy with management and leadership training. After graduation, fellows become part of a growing network of leaders in the field of nature conservation.

## Information and application

A course website with further information on eligibility criteria for participation and application documents is online at the programme website [www.bfn.de/en/klaus-toepfer-fellowship](http://www.bfn.de/en/klaus-toepfer-fellowship)

Information is also available through contacting [ktf@bfn.de](mailto:ktf@bfn.de)

Application for the 2023–2025 cycle of the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme will be possible until 26 March, 2023.

## Klaus Toepfer Fellows

The Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme targets early-career conservation professionals from Government, NGOs, Academia or other relevant sectors, who have at least three years of professional experience and preferably are not older than 35 years. The programme aims at emerging conservation leaders with high potential and outstanding abilities and motivation, who have the support of their home organizations to attend the course, and a clear commitment to a career in their country of origin.

## Patron

Klaus Toepfer is a renowned environmental politician in Germany and a versatile environmental expert worldwide. As Environment Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, he was one of the founding fathers of the Rio Summit of 1992, and started intensive bilateral cooperation between Germany and the newly emerging countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Following his political career in Germany, Dr. Toepfer was appointed Executive Director of the Environmental Programme of the United Nations (UNEP) for the time of 1998 to 2006. As patron of the programme, he is a motivating example of persistent environmental commitment and passionate dedication to address both national and global nature conservation challenges for the future nature conservation leaders.

## Programme structure

The 18-month course consists of four 10 – day training modules in English language. Two of them take place online, and two at the International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm in Germany.

The **Module “Informing Conservation”** introduces concepts of assessing and monitoring biodiversity, information management and strategic planning methodology for conservation.

The **Module “Conservation Economics and Financing”** deals with conservation economics, sustainable financing of conservation measures, fundraising, proposal writing and technical writing.

The **Module “Conservation Management in a Spatial Context”** has a thematic focus on protected areas, national systems of protected areas, ecological networks and integrated land use planning, leadership skills, stakeholder involvement and negotiation.

## Trainers and Excursions

The trainers of the programme are renowned professionals of leading nature conservation organisations. They apply technical input, case studies and interactive training techniques for the delivery of the course modules. Through site visits to key nature conservation institutions, fellows receive hands-on information on conservation practice in Germany.

## Funding and Partners of the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme

The programme is financed by the German Federal Environment Ministry with means of the Advisory Assistance Programme for Environmental Protection in the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The Federal Agency for Nature Conservation implements the programme. Cooperation partners are the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

### Contact

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The **Module “Conservation Governance and Policy”** covers decision making processes and structures relevant to conservation at the local, national and international level.

Participants develop a transfer project which addresses a technical or management challenge their home institution is facing and suggest innovative ways to overcome this. While project funding is not available, mentors and the KTF team provide guidance.



## Costs

Participation in the programme is free of charge. For the modules held in Germany, the participants receive free accommodation, and a contribution towards their travel expenses and board.

On behalf of:



Federal Ministry  
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,  
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

of the Federal Republic of Germany

## Cooperation partners



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



WCMC



