



# APPLY TO THE 2024 COHORT

**CHARLES R. WALL YOUNG AFRICAN  
POLICY FELLOWS**

Training program for young professionals on  
“International Biodiversity Governance”



## ***Become a Chuck Wall Fellow!***

*Are you a young graduate or young professional from Africa who is enthusiastic about the sustainability of Africa's biodiversity? Apply for the 2024 cohort of the Charles R. Wall Young African Policy Fellows program and work at the forefront of Africa's action agenda to protect and sustainably use its unique biological resources.*



### **JOIN A COMMUNITY OF YOUNG PROFESSIONALS**

**The Charles R. Wall Young African Policy Fellows Program aims to train young professionals who have a keen interest in policymaking, with a focus on biodiversity governance in Africa. The nine-month program is offered by the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The program is premised on the need to better organise and articulate the African voice in continental and international forums in pursuit of African Union Agenda 2063 “The Africa We Want,” whose aspirations emphasise the role of nature and biodiversity in transforming the continent’s sustainable development.**

Agenda 2063 recognises that Africa has extraordinarily rich biodiversity and ecosystems as well as a wealth of indigenous and local knowledge that should be harnessed for the well-being of its people. Africa has opportunities to fully realise the benefits of having such rich biodiversity and to explore ways of using it sustainably to contribute to its economic and social development.

Unfortunately, Africa's biodiversity is threatened by several factors including climate change, invasive alien species, and the illegal trade in wildlife. African countries have committed to protect biodiversity, sustainably use biological resources, and to share the benefits from genetic resources in a fair and equitable manner as agreed to under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Under the policy direction of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, Africa has organised itself in the African Group of Negotiators on Biodiversity (AGN) to better speak with a unified African voice. The African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) thus seek to train a pool of African young professional experts who will understand the international environmental governance processes and contribute to developing a unified African voice for the various Multilateral Environmental Agreements.



## THE LEARNING JOURNEY

The overall objective of the Charles R. Wall Young African Policy Fellows Program is to establish a pool of young professionals with sufficient knowledge and negotiation skills on international environmental governance capable of contributing to policy formulation, negotiation, and review processes at country, regional, and international levels.

### WHAT IS IN STORE FOR THE NINE MONTHS:

APRIL



#### *The why, what, and how of conservation*

This is the foundational component of the program that will trigger your thinking around the state of conservation in Africa and the world and contemporary issues affecting conservation.

MAY



#### *Workshop 1*

Introduction to International Environmental Governance

JUNE



#### *Workshop 2*

Introduction to Intergovernmental Negotiation Processes with a particular focus on the Convention on Biological Diversity.

JULY



#### *Workshop 3*

Two-week in-person workshop in Nairobi to meet other fellows, practice negotiating skills through a simulation on a current policy issue, and kick off training on strategic communications.

AUG-OCT



#### *Policy Brief Boot Camp*

A hands-on training and support to develop an effective policy brief with one-one-one coaching support.

#### *Participation at policymaking conferences*

Each fellow will participate in an international conference, such as the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the 11th Plenary Session of the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, or any other related meeting.

The nine-month highly experiential and blended learning experience consists of modules that are delivered through diverse formats, including:

- Knowledge development workshops,
- Intentional networking activities, and
- Learning-by-doing activities that include a simulation and attending international policymaking processes

Sessions will take place once a month with leadership dialogue sessions in between and will be led by a faculty of experts and practitioners.

### THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAM

#### *Building a critical mass together*

You will become part of a growing community of skilled African leaders who are dedicated to impact in conservation and sustainable development. You will be connected to the larger Charles R. Wall Community of Fellows consisting of peers from the policy program and the leadership and management program. Such a powerful network will position you to not only extend your learning but also build your own connections, which will help you accelerate transformation in the area you work in and are passionate about.

#### *Leadership Dialogues*

During the program, you will learn from and exchange insights with experts, leading practitioners, and decision-makers from the environmental, private, and government sectors.





## ARE YOU THE LEADER/PROFESSIONAL WE ARE LOOKING FOR?

The Charles R. Wall Young African Policy Fellows seeks applicants with the following profiles:

- **Interest:** Applicants must demonstrate a clear interest in biodiversity and related matters.
- **Nationality:** Nationals of any of the African countries living and working in Africa.
- **Age:** 20-35 years.
- **Academic:** At least 1st university degree in environmental sciences, social sciences, agricultural sciences, indigenous knowledge systems, resource mobilization, international relations, gender studies, bio-technology, or any other sector that is relevant in international environmental governance. In lieu of a degree, experience may suffice.
- **Experience:** Two years experience in conservation and/or management of biodiversity through practice by way of employment, activism, and volunteering.
- **Commitment:** Applicants MUST commit themselves to a) Attend the full course, b) Be available for travel to policy conferences, and c) Provide support to negotiators where relevant.
- **Language:** The training is open to candidates from francophone countries in the continent but should have basic English writing and speaking skills. Some training materials and sessions may be translated to French

**Only 15 fellows will be selected!**

**This program is NOT for you if you are:**

Looking to learn how to write government policy documents from scratch. The program focuses on knowledge and skills development on **policy negotiations** for Multilateral Environmental Agreements and how to advocate for policy issues through written and spoken communication.

Not willing to commit the time and energy needed to engage with the content, assignments, and deliverables. The world of policy negotiations is an intense one that requires a lot of reading, analysis, writing, and engaging stakeholders. The program is intense by design to introduce fellows to this world.



## THIS IS A FULLY FUNDED FELLOWSHIP THAT CATERES FOR THE FOLLOWING:



Air travel to and from home country and ground transport for the in-person workshop in Nairobi and for one policy making conference you are selected to attend.



Accommodation during in-person workshops and attending international policy-making processes.



Stipend to cover data bundles for the virtual sessions.



Personalised coaching support during the program to deliver the policy brief.

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications are open until 17:00 pm East Africa Time, 3rd February 2023. Ensure to submit all supporting documents required in the application. These are a Curriculum Vitae and a letter of recommendation from the university/ employer/senior person you have worked with.

The application includes essays that are mandatory. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Priority will be given to individuals who work in an institution like the government, NGOs, CSOs, corporations, or enterprises. While priority will be given to institutional youth, any other outstanding and promising applicants who are not linked to any institutions will however not be disqualified.

Applications will only be accepted online at [awf.org/fellows-application](http://awf.org/fellows-application). For questions, please send an email to [charleswallfellows@gmail.com](mailto:charleswallfellows@gmail.com) with the subject line, "Charles R. Wall Young African Policy Fellows."

## APPLICATION TIMELINE

The process of selecting a Chuck Wall Fellow takes a minimum of three months from the application deadline to when applicants are shortlisted for the Fellowship. Here is an overview of the application and selection process.

- **3rd January, 8am EAT**  
*Applications open*
- **3rd February, 5pm EAT**  
*Applications closed*
- **5th February to Mid-February**  
*Applications sifted against eligibility criteria*
- **Mid-February to March**  
*The selection committee reviews all eligible applications*
- **Mid-March**  
*Applicants shortlisted and contacted for interviews. In the interim, a due diligence process will be conducted to verify details. Should you not be contacted by end of March, please consider your application unsuccessful*
- **Mid-March - End of March**  
*Interviews for shortlisted candidates + contacting finalist candidates*
- **April 8**  
*Onboarding of the 15 selected fellows*