

# AWF Youth Program

## Investing in Current and Future Conservation Leaders



**Young people under 35 years comprise 70% of Africa's population. The median age across the continent is 19. As the majority, they need the capacity and opportunities to take up conservation leadership, especially as African countries grow economically and work toward sustainable development goals.**

For more than sixty years, AWF has worked to foster the best and brightest minds to lead conservation in Africa. We collaborate with a variety of partners to train future conservationists and change agents, engage youth in conservation learning and advocacy, and mobilize youth to demand meaningful conservation action. All these efforts contribute to building African voices that are using innovative solutions to protect Africa's wildlife and essential ecosystems.

AWF works with partner organizations to nurture youth leadership across different sectors through meaningful partnerships with individuals, private sector, and non-governmental institutions, and governments who share our common vision.



**SCAN QR CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AWF'S YOUTH PROGRAM**



## AWF-Wall Youth Leadership Fellowships

---

AWF offers two annual 9-month fellowships designed for young professionals: the AWF-Wall Leadership & Management Fellowship and the AWF-Wall Policy Fellowship. Both are supported by the Wall Family Foundation. Each fellowship cohort comprises 15 individuals from across the continent. Participants receive bespoke leadership training, intense mentorship, and coaching support as they develop problem-solving skills through hands-on experiential learning. Policy fellows engage in national, regional, and international policymaking meetings and conventions such as the Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). The policy fellowship is in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Leadership and Management fellows receive training on personal leadership, leading purpose-driven teams, and organizational leadership, culminating in applied projects.



## Young Conservation Heroes

---

AWF has long worked to support conservation, helping to establish the very first wildlife clubs in Africa and investing in schools in Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Zambia, and Ethiopia. In 2024, supported by Bob and Emmy King we launched Young Conservation Heroes, a partnership with the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya to engage school children to better understand and embrace conservation as an important value. Learning materials are designed to national standards to complement classroom curricula and paired with contests, scholarships, and other strategies to activate young learners. Currently, the partnership is being piloted in 137 schools in southern Kenya, with plans to expand to other countries.



## Youth Networks

---

AWF helps amplify the voices of young Africans by supporting the work of networks seeking to influence and drive local, national, and global conservation decision-making. A partnership with the Africa chapter of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) is building the African youth momentum by co-convening meetings such as the biennial African Youth Summit on Biodiversity that bring youth across the continent together to share lessons, amplify youth-led initiatives and advocate for shared priorities and influence global policies.



### HEADQUARTERS

AWF Conservation Centre, Ngong Road, Karen  
P.O. Box 310, 00502, Nairobi, Kenya

[f awf.org/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/awf.org)

[@ awf.org/instagram](https://www.instagram.com/awf.org/)

[in awf.org/linkedin](https://www.linkedin.com/company/awf.org/)

[www.awf.org](http://www.awf.org)