

People: Education & Training



The African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) was founded on the idea that Africa's wildlife legacy is best protected by its people. AWF therefore provides conservation and wildlife management opportunities, education and training to Africans at all levels. More than 80 percent of our own staff is African, and for more than 50 years, AWF has developed leaders in the field of African conservation throughout the continent.

Primary Education

AWF recently launched the AWF Conservation Schools program to build a network of primary schools in priority landscapes to increase conservation and enhance education.

- All schools will be built in collaboration with professional architects and will include conservation curricula based on local wildlife and habitat themes.
- This program leverages AWF's past success in constructing Tanzania's Manyara Ranch Primary School and Zambia's Lupani Primary School.

Secondary & Tertiary Education

Through the Easements for Education program, AWF provides scholarships for academically promising students in target conservation areas to attend secondary schools.

- The educational incentive is provided in exchange for community members setting aside and protecting land for conservation.
- The community establishes a process to select the students.
- Parents or guardians of beneficiaries sign an agreement to support conservation.

Meanwhile, AWF helped establish the Mweka College of African Wildlife Management in Moshi, Tanzania, in 1963 to help train leaders in wildlife conservation management and tourism.

- Mweka College has trained more than 5,000 wildlife managers from 28 African countries.
- Mweka graduates work in upper-level wildlife management positions in more than 14 countries across the continent.

Post-Graduate Education

AWF's Charlotte Conservation Fellowship Program provides financial assistance to Africans pursuing graduate studies in conservation-related fields, with the aim of developing conservation leaders in Africa.

- Past Charlotte Fellows have gone on to launch their own conservation NGOs, providing conservation leadership in their home countries and more.





I Professional Training

Through our Conservation Management Training Program (CMTP), AWF provides opportunities for professional development in conservation.

- CMTP is a competitive 24-month training and mentorship program that develops tomorrow's leaders in African conservation.
- Trainees who successfully complete the program are given priority consideration for positions at AWF.

I Community Capacity Building

AWF conducts tailored workshops and training opportunities for community members living in AWF's conservation landscapes. Not only does this community-level capacity building provide skills that allow people to move away from activities that threaten conservation, but it also helps to develop the sustainability of AWF-supported programs.

- Training and ranger-based monitoring programs give local people employment as community scouts who use GPS units, collect field data and monitor wildlife.
- AWF designs and implements community workshops to train people in skills such as resource management, product development, marketing, bookkeeping and sustainable ventures.

I Government Support

AWF works closely with governments across Africa to provide guidance on conservation policy and strengthen laws that help protect wildlife.

- AWF has placed a special AWF technical advisor with the Government of South Sudan to provide expertise in natural resource management, protected area management and conservation practices, thus helping to ensure the country's new development agenda supports conservation.
- AWF provides support to, and works closely with, national wildlife authorities in many countries to help those countries achieve their conservation goals.

I Empowering Africans

Through these and other capacity-building programs, AWF ensures that Africans are empowered to protect wildlife and conserve wild lands across the continent.



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