



AWF YOUTH PROGRAM

Engaging Current and Future Conservation Leaders

Over 60 years of operation, 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 the youth population in conservation learning and advocacy, and mobilize youth to demand meaningful conservation action. All these efforts help create new generations of young people using their talent and creativity to protect Africa's wildlife and essential ecosystems.

This emphasis on supporting youth leadership has never been more important—the average age across the African continent is 19, with more than three-quarters of the African population under the age of 35. This majority cohort needs the capacity and opportunities to take up conservation leadership positions, especially as African countries grow economically and work toward sustainable development goals.

AWF works with partner organizations to nurture capable youth leaders across different sectors who champion conservation and sustainable development in Africa.

CHARLES R. WALL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

This AWF program offers two capacity-building tracks: international environmental governance and conservation management. Participants receive bespoke leadership training and intense mentorship and coaching support as they develop problem-solving skills through hands-on experiential learning. Governance trainees engage in national, regional, and international policymaking meetings and conventions such as the Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna. Management trainees work in the field, with a placement in another organization and gain valuable experience in conservation methodologies and solutions.

TOP 100 YOUNG AFRICAN CONSERVATION LEADERS AWARD

In collaboration with the Africa Alliance of YMCAs, the World Organization of the Scout Movement, and the World Wide Fund for Nature, AWF in 2021 brought together young leaders from different sectors to support their conservation agendas. It was the first-ever such list, an effort to empower young, talented Africans and inspire other young people to lead the way in conservation.



INTERNSHIPS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Our youth engagement strategy addresses gaps in conservation education, providing practical experiences designed to trigger active participation and deep reflection. One leading example: We partner with the African Leadership University to provide internships for undergraduates and capstone research opportunities for MBA students at the university's School of Wildlife Conservation.

AMPLIFYING 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. Examples include:

- A partnership with the Global Biodiversity Youth Network to conduct a three-day African Youth Summit on Biodiversity for over 400 young people (April 2022), in anticipation of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- A partnership with Friends of Nature, China's oldest environmental NGO focusing on environmental awareness, to create a space for youth to exchange knowledge and best practices. Through virtual dialogues and workshops, young people from across Africa and China discuss endangered species, unsustainable use of natural resources, and the role of Indigenous people and local communities in conservation.



*Building a Future for Africa Where
People and Wildlife Thrive*

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