The Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme targets early-career conservation professionals (Government, NGOs, Academia or similar), from Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, 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 proven 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.

PARTICIPANTS’ EXPERIENCE

"13 months KTF gave me more than 2 universities in 7 years."

"KTF was a great experience: 40 days full of new ideas, inspirations and friends from different countries."

"Now I can stand up for nature – the KTF helped me build my skills."

TRAINERS AND EXCURSIONS

The trainers of the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme are renowned professionals from leading nature conservation organisations in Europe and beyond. According to the thematic focus of the training modules, they provide technical input and train the fellows in specific management competencies. The application of case studies from nature conservation practice as well as the use of participatory and interactive training techniques, are crucial elements for the delivery of the course modules. Through excursions and site visits to key nature conservation institutions and sites in Germany, the fellows receive hands-on information on conservation practice in Germany and get the opportunity to discuss potential ways of cooperation and build networks.

TRANSFER PROJECTS AND MENTORS

As part of the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme, participants develop a transfer project with relevance to the work of their home institution. Throughout the programme, fellows continuously work on their transfer projects, applying the training received during the training modules. The transfer project, once implemented, is expected to improve the effectiveness of their organisation or a specific project. It should address a technical or management challenge that the home institution is facing and suggest solutions or innovative ways how to overcome this. Participants receive assistance and technical input by trainers, mentors and the KTF team throughout the entire elaboration process. Highly experienced conservation professionals from the programme region and beyond provide guidance and subject-specific advice as mentors for the transfer project development.

TRAINING VENUE

Trainings are conducted at the International Academy for Nature Conservation on the Isle of Vilm being part of a branch office of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BNH). Located in the Southeast Rügen Biosphere Reserve, the 94 ha island is not only of exceptional natural beauty, but also an ideal venue for concentrated work. Since its inauguration in 1990, the International Academy for Nature Conservation has provided a forum for the discussion of national and international nature conservation issues. Equipped with modern workshop and accommodation facilities, the academy has been a centre for dialogue between representatives of many different fields, including science and public administration, politicians and the private sector, NGOs and foundations.

COISTS AND CERTIFICATES

Participation in the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme is free of charge. The twenty participants per course receive free accommodation at the training venue during course work. Since its inauguration in 1990, the International Academy for Nature Conservation has provided a forum for the discussion of national and international nature conservation issues. Equipped with modern workshop and accommodation facilities, the academy has been a centre for dialogue between representatives of many different fields, including science and public administration, politicians and the private sector, NGOs and foundations.

INFORMATION & APPLICATION

A course website with further information on eligibility criteria for participation is online at www.bfn.de/klaus-toepfer-fellowship.html. The announcement for the next round of the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship will be published on this website.

CONTACT

Please contact ktf@vilm.de for additional information.
The Klaus Töpfer Fellowship Programme is an extra-occupational training module at the International Academy for Nature Conservation on the Isle of Vilm, Germany, for young professionals showing outstanding leadership potential in the field of nature conservation. It aims to enable emerging nature conservation leaders from Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to become part of a growing network of leaders in their home institutions. After graduation, fellows are expected to play an active role in their home countries, and to be actively involved in international conservation processes and networks.

The programme takes an integrated approach to the development of the personal capacity of early-career conservation professionals by combining technical learning on international best conservation practice and policy with management and leadership training as well as with network development support. It focuses on individuals with outstanding leadership potential while promoting the participants’ commitment to contribute to their home institutions. After graduation, fellows become part of a growing network of leaders in the field of nature conservation.

The Klaus Töpfer Fellowship Programme is financed by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety 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.

As Environment Minister, Dr. Töpfer played an important part in establishing the International Academy for Nature Conservation on the Isle of Vilm where the Klaus Töpfer Fellowship Programme is being implemented. As patron of the programme, he is a motivating force and a mentor for the participants. Prof. Klaus Töpfer, the former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), is the patron for the fellowship.

The thematic focus is on protected areas, national systems of protected areas, ecological networks and integrated land use planning. Trainings in facilitation, leadership skills and stakeholder involvement complement the course.

Module 1: Informating Conservation

The first training module introduces types and distribution of biodiversity, trends, causes and root causes of biodiversity loss and conservation challenges. It introduces the concepts of biodiversity and ecosystem services and explores their link to human well-being.

Module 2: Conservation Economics and Financing

The module deals with conservation economics, TEEB, resource mobilization and sustainable financing of conservation measures. In addition, fundraising, proposal writing and technical writing are taught.

Module 3: Conservation Governance and Policy

Decision-making processes and structures relevant to conservation at the local, national and international level including negotiation theory and practice as well as the role of civil society in decision-making form the key topics of module 4.

Module 4: Conservation Governance and Policy

The thematic focus is on protected areas, national systems of protected areas, ecological networks and integrated land use planning. Trainings in facilitation, leadership skills and stakeholder involvement complement the course.

Module 5: Conservation Governance and Policy

Decision-making processes and structures relevant to conservation at the local, national and international level including negotiation theory and practice as well as the role of civil society in decision-making form the key topics of module 4.

Module 6: Conservation Governance and Policy

Decision-making processes and structures relevant to conservation at the local, national and international level including negotiation theory and practice as well as the role of civil society in decision-making form the key topics of module 4.

Module 7: Conservation Governance and Policy

Decision-making processes and structures relevant to conservation at the local, national and international level including negotiation theory and practice as well as the role of civil society in decision-making form the key topics of module 4.

Module 8: Conservation Governance and Policy

Decision-making processes and structures relevant to conservation at the local, national and international level including negotiation theory and practice as well as the role of civil society in decision-making form the key topics of module 4.

Module 9: Conservation Governance and Policy

Decision-making processes and structures relevant to conservation at the local, national and international level including negotiation theory and practice as well as the role of civil society in decision-making form the key topics of module 4.

Module 10: Conservation Governance and Policy

Decision-making processes and structures relevant to conservation at the local, national and international level including negotiation theory and practice as well as the role of civil society in decision-making form the key topics of module 4.

Module 11: Conservation Governance and Policy

Decision-making processes and structures relevant to conservation at the local, national and international level including negotiation theory and practice as well as the role of civil society in decision-making form the key topics of module 4.

Module 12: Conservation Governance and Policy

Decision-making processes and structures relevant to conservation at the local, national and international level including negotiation theory and practice as well as the role of civil society in decision-making form the key topics of module 4.

Module 13: Conservation Governance and Policy

Decision-making processes and structures relevant to conservation at the local, national and international level including negotiation theory and practice as well as the role of civil society in decision-making form the key topics of module 4.

Module 14: Conservation Governance and Policy

Decision-making processes and structures relevant to conservation at the local, national and international level including negotiation theory and practice as well as the role of civil society in decision-making form the key topics of module 4.

Module 15: Conservation Governance and Policy

Decision-making processes and structures relevant to conservation at the local, national and international level including negotiation theory and practice as well as the role of civil society in decision-making form the key topics of module 4.

Module 16: Conservation Governance and Policy

Decision-making processes and structures relevant to conservation at the local, national and international level including negotiation theory and practice as well as the role of civil society in decision-making form the key topics of module 4.

Module 17: Conservation Governance and Policy

Decision-making processes and structures relevant to conservation at the local, national and international level including negotiation theory and practice as well as the role of civil society in decision-making form the key topics of module 4.

Module 18: Conservation Governance and Policy

Decision-making processes and structures relevant to conservation at the local, national and international level including negotiation theory and practice as well as the role of civil society in decision-making form the key topics of module 4.

Module 19: Conservation Governance and Policy

Decision-making processes and structures relevant to conservation at the local, national and international level including negotiation theory and practice as well as the role of civil society in decision-making form the key topics of module 4.

Module 20: Conservation Governance and Policy

Decision-making processes and structures relevant to conservation at the local, national and international level including negotiation theory and practice as well as the role of civil society in decision-making form the key topics of module 4.