



Federal Ministry  
for the Environment, Nature Conservation  
and Nuclear Safety



# KLAUS TOEPFER FELLOWSHIP

FOR FUTURE LEADERS IN NATURE CONSERVATION  
FROM THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN  
EUROPE, THE CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA

## FELLOWS 2020 – 2022



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## KLAUS TOEPFER FELLOWSHIP

The Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme is an extra-occupational training programme for emerging nature conservation leaders from Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. It is funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and implemented by its Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, in collaboration with IUCN, the CBD Secretariat, the Secretariat of the CMS, UNEP - WCMC and additional international partners.

The programme takes an integrated approach to the development of the personal capacity of early-career conservation professionals, by combining technical learning, management training and network development support. It focuses on individuals with outstanding leadership potential while promoting the participants' commitment and contribution to their home institutions.

The programme aims at enabling its fellows to work effectively in leading positions in the biodiversity conservation sector of their home countries, and to be actively involved in international conservation processes and networks. After graduation, fellows become part of a growing network of leaders in the field of nature conservation.

## TARGET GROUP

The programme aims at emerging conservation leaders that have the support of their home organizations to attend the course, and a clear commitment to a career in their country of origin:

- Early-career conservation professionals (Government, NGOs or Academia), from Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia<sup>1</sup>, who have at least three years of professional experience and are preferably not older than 35 years.

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<sup>1</sup> Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Northern Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

## PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The 18-month course consists of four ten-day training modules at the Federal Agency's International Academy for Nature Conservation, Isle of Vilm (including excursions to leading nature conservation institutions in Germany) or online, a transfer project with relevance to the work of the participants at their home institution, as well as tests, e-learning and additional assignments between the modules. Training language is English.

The modules combine joint learning on key conservation topics with management and leadership training:

Module 1, Informing Conservation, introduces types and distribution of biodiversity, trends, causes and root causes of biodiversity loss and conservation rationales. It furthermore discusses concepts of evaluating and monitoring biodiversity; information management and communication for biodiversity conservation. It also introduces strategic and project planning methodologies through the CMP Open Standards and MIRADI.

Module 2, Conservation Economics and Financing, deals with conservation economics, TEEB, resource mobilization and sustainable financing of conservation measures; fundraising, proposal writing and technical writing.

Module 3, Conservation Management in a Spatial Context, focuses on protected areas, national systems of protected areas, ecological networks and integrated land use planning. Trainings in engaging stakeholders and building collaborative partnerships and on facilitation as well as leadership complement the course.

Module 4, Conservation Governance and Policy, discusses decision making processes and structures relevant to conservation at the local, national and international level, as well as user-based approaches to resource conservation. In addition, negotiation and lobbying & advocacy skills for nature conservation are trained.

## 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.

## TRAINERS AND EXCURSIONS

The trainers of the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme are renowned professionals from leading nature conservation institutions 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.

## PATRON



*"I hope that what we see in the little island of Vilm is a kind of symbol, a signal of change; that we remain aware of the great diversity of creation and the great possibilities of nature both for their own sake and for the wellbeing of nine billion people"*

Dr. Klaus Toepfer, the Former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme UNEP, has agreed to serve as patron for the Fellowship.

Dr. Toepfer is considered a renowned environmental politician in Germany and a versatile environmental expert worldwide. After holding several political offices, from 1987 to 1994 he served as Environment Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany. In this position, he was one of the founding fathers of the Rio Summit of 1992, and started intensive bilateral cooperation between Germany and the newly emerging countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Following his political career in Germany, Dr. Toepfer was appointed Executive Director of the Environmental Programme of the United Nations (UNEP) for the time of 1998 to 2006.

As Environment Minister, Dr. Toepfer played an important part in establishing and opening the International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm where the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme is being implemented. As patron of the programme, he is a motivating example of persistent environmental commitment and passionate dedication to address both national and global nature conservation challenges for the future nature conservation leaders.



## FUNDING AND PARTNERS

The Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme is financed by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and 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 Advisory Assistance Programme was launched in 2000 as an instrument for knowledge transfer to support the countries in the target region to introduce ambitious environmental standards.

For the fellows, participation in the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme is free of charge. The twenty participants per course receive free accommodation and full board at the training venue and during excursions, as well as a contribution towards their travel expenses.

As cooperation partners of the fellowship programme, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) support the conceptual design of the training modules, e.g., by providing technical input on current conservation topics and latest training methodologies, or by granting access to their extensive network of stakeholders in the nature conservation field.



## TRAINING VENUE

Trainings are conducted at the International Academy for Nature Conservation on the Isle of Vilm of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), Germany. 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 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, associations and foundations.



# FARIZA ADILBEKOVA

## **AGE & COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**

born in 1993 in Kazakhstan

## **UNIVERSITY DEGREE**

Master of Science in Ecology and  
Environmental Management

## **FIELD**

Nature conservation, Sustainable use of  
natural resources

## **CURRENT POSITION**

Association for the Conservation of  
Biodiversity of Kazakhstan,  
Project Manager

Fariza Adilbekova is a Project Manager for the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan, a national nature conservation NGO. Within the framework of the Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative, a partnership that aims to conserve and restore important steppe and desert ecosystems in Kazakhstan, her main duties include supporting the fight against illegal wildlife trade, especially of saiga horn. By cooperating with different law enforcement agencies and international experts, her work is making an important contribution to the conservation of the critically endangered saiga antelope.

Through the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme she expects to deepen her proficiency in project planning and management. In addition, she hopes to gain useful insights of the international nature conservation scene, which will be beneficial for her future work.

Nadezhda Alekseeva currently works as main specialist at the State Institution "Directorate of Protected Areas of Saint Petersburg" responsible for management and development of regional protected areas in the city, including 6 components of the World Heritage site "Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments". Her main duties include ensuring maintaining conservation values of existing 15 urban protected areas, establishing new ones, and managing data for regional Red Data Book.

Nadezhda Alekseeva has been active in nature conservation in North-Western Russia since 1999 and takes part in international cooperation in this field. She would like to use the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme to raise her capacities for biodiversity conservation and protected areas management and governance.

# NADEZHDA ALEKSEEVA

## **AGE & COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**

born 1979 in Russia

## **UNIVERSITY DEGREE**

Master of Science in Biology

## **FIELD**

Biodiversity conservation,  
Management of protected areas

## **CURRENT POSITION**

State Institution "Directorate of  
Protected Areas of Saint  
Petersburg", Chief Specialist



Maya Ashirova is currently working as Country Coordinator in Turkmenistan for the GIZ Regional Programme “Sustainable and Climate Sensitive Land Use for Economic Development in Central Asia”. Maya coordinates the programme activities on the national level and is in charge of political and diplomatic communication with national and development partners in Turkmenistan. Maya works towards increasing the awareness and commitment of key stakeholders on sustainable land management, economics of land degradation, climate change and cooperation on eco-system restoration.

She sees the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme as an opportunity to improve her technical and management capacities in nature conservation, in sustainable use of natural resources, and to apply innovative approaches to the management of protected areas to deploy their full potential in meeting Turkmenistan’s adaptation targets outlined in the country’s Nationally Determined Contributions.



## MAYA ASHIROVA

### AGE & COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

born 1981 in Turkmenistan

### UNIVERSITY DEGREE

Master of Arts in International Relations

### FIELD

Natural resources management,  
Climate change adaptation

### CURRENT POSITION

GIZ Turkmenistan, Country Coordinator

## BORIS BOŽIĆ

### AGE & COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

born 1988 in Croatia

### UNIVERSITY DEGREE

Master of Science in Ecology and  
Nature Conservation

### FIELD

Environmental Management,  
Environmental Impact Assessment

### CURRENT POSITION

Milvus – Environmental Consultancy,  
CEO and Environmental Consultant



Boris Božić is CEO and Environmental Consultant at Milvus – Environmental Consultancy, a small company with a great sense of responsibility for nature. He has been working on Environmental and Strategic Impact Assessment (EIA & SEA) since 2013. Most of the time on national level projects with a few projects of multinational concern.

His experience made him realize positive and negative aspects of the EIA processes and environmental management in general. He saw that challenges in protecting nature primarily originate from poor strategic planning and by improving it, he believes, we can add the demands of nature at the highest level of decision-making.

For Boris Božić, the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme is a perfect programme for learning essential skills with which he can advocate better ways to include nature in human development, but also to learn as much as possible about resource mobilization and sustainable financing of conservation measures and to improve his negotiation, lobbying and advocacy skills.





# NONA BUDOYAN

## AGE & COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

born 1981 in Armenia

## UNIVERSITY DEGREE

Master of Chemistry and Nature  
Conservation

## FIELD

Biodiversity and Biosafety Policy

## CURRENT POSITION

Ministry of Environment of the Republic of  
Armenia, Department of Biodiversity and  
Forest policy, Chief Specialist

Nona Budoyan is presently working at the Ministry of Environment. Her main duties include drafting of state biodiversity and biosafety policies, activities directed to the implementation of the obligations of Armenia under the international environmental conventions and EU Directives, the development of strategic plans and policies on current requirements.

Being a policy-maker in the sphere of biodiversity, Nona Budoyan strives to keep up with international developments, and she is constantly looking for new policy tools and opportunities. Nona is convinced that the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme is an excellent source for these, as well as an opportunity to develop her personal capacities. As a result of this complex training, she hopes to develop a project on "The Code on Biodiversity for Armenia", which will be a major contribution to the state environmental policy, thus promoting the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems in her country. Nona has been awarded a UNEP/UNESCO/BMU fellowship for a short course on "Ecosystem Management - Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Services", Germany.

Maya Eralieva is currently working as a project advisor in a GIZ – led programme on "Ecosystem based adaptation to climate change in mountainous regions of Central Asia". Her main duties are to support national partners in piloting and mainstreaming the EbA (Ecosystem-based Adaptation) approach, and the inclusion climate risks and climate services in national policies. As part of climate mainstreaming, she is closely engaged in matching local needs with national policy processes on development, climate and biodiversity, governance, and sustainable financing.

Her participation in the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme is an important step for her professional development and trans-regional networking. She would like to better bridge the institutional gaps between nature protection, economic development and climate policy "silos". One of her core interests is mainstreaming sustainable financing approaches in the country, to increase resilience to climate change and enhance ecosystem and biodiversity preservation. Maya Eralieva is an alumni of the Open Society scholarship, with solid working experience in civil society across Asia and Pacific.

# MAYA ERALIEVA

## AGE & COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

born 1979 in Kyrgyzstan

## UNIVERSITY DEGREE

Master of Science in Sustainable Development,  
International Relations

## FIELD

Sustainable development

## CURRENT POSITION

GIZ, Project Advisor



Taida Garibovic has been working on the management of protected areas and Natura 2000 sites as Advisor for Project and Program Implementation in Zadar County, Croatia, since May 2018. Her main duties include development and management of projects that focus on nature conservation and sustainable development for 13 protected areas and 86 Natura 2000 sites in Zadar County, which the Public Institution is responsible for.

She would like to use the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme to improve her understanding of governance structures and processes at the local, national and global level and to acquire knowledge in implementation of practical conservation measures, as well as to learn how to integrate conservation and sustainable regional development.

Taida Garibovic has been volunteering in various NGOs in Croatia where she has developed and coordinated several projects in the environmental and civil society sector.

## TAIDA GARIBOVIC

**AGE & COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**  
born 1984 in Croatia

**UNIVERSITY DEGREE**  
Master of Science in Landscape Ecology  
and Nature Conservation

**FIELD**  
Management of protected areas and  
Natura 2000 sites

**CURRENT POSITION**  
NATURA-JADERA Public Institution for  
Management of Protected Areas in the  
County of Zadar, Adviser for Project and  
Program Implementation



## ASLI GEMCI

**AGE & COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**  
born 1982 in Turkey

**UNIVERSITY DEGREE**  
Master of Arts in International Relations

**FIELD**  
Climate Change Policy

**CURRENT POSITION**  
European Climate Foundation, Senior  
Strategic Communications Associate for  
Turkey



Aslı Gemci works at the European Climate Foundation as a Senior Associate, responsible for climate and energy policy. She aims to influence policy makers to speed up the low carbon transition of Turkey and to avoid the worst impacts of global climate change to nature. She is also a volunteer to WWF-Turkey, supporting communication activities about energy related pollution of natural ecosystems.

In this context, the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme might contribute to improving her technical capacity on protected areas, ecosystems and land use and to building a stronger biodiversity conservation layer to her policy and advocacy experience.

As a professional fellow of the US Department of State, Aslı Gemci worked with the US Oregon Senator on environmental policies and legislation, besides her policy and programme management responsibilities within UN and UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



# SIAVASH GHODDOUSI

## AGE & COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

born 1987 in Iran

## UNIVERSITY DEGREE

Master of Science in Tourism Economics  
and Regional Development

## FIELD

Tourism in Protected Areas and  
Sustainable Livelihood

## CURRENT POSITION

Institute of Biodiversity Conservation and  
Sustainability, Project Manager

Siavash Ghoddousi is passionate about sustainability and conservation sciences, and has experience in a diverse range of applied projects in Iran and southwest Asia. He is currently working as the CEO of the Institute of Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainability (IBCAS), a non-governmental organization focused on the Hyrcanian Forest UNESCO World Heritage Site and more specifically, Golestan National Park, Iran. He is mainly involved in managing and coordinating activities related to building communication networks between different stakeholders (i.e., local NGOs, local people and governmental organizations) as well as developing sustainable alternative livelihood solutions for the local communities.

In this context, Siavash Ghoddousi would like to benefit from the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme in learning more about conservation governance, protected area management and policymaking to boost his leadership skills.

Neža Hervatič is currently working as Nature Conservation Supervisor at Debeli Rtič Landscape Park, a newly established marine protected area under management of the Municipality of Ankaran. Her main duties include supervision in the field, informing visitors, working with stakeholders, biodiversity monitoring, project development and the development of educational and informative content. In the future, big efforts will be directed towards preparation of a management plan for the Landscape Park.

Within the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme, Neža Hervatič is seeking the opportunity to improve her technical and management capacities which she needs for the establishment of supervising processes and for management planning processes in order to successfully achieve conservation goals of the protected area.

# NEŽA HERVATIČ

## AGE & COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

born 1991 in Slovenia

## UNIVERSITY DEGREE

Master of Science in Ecology and  
Biodiversity

## FIELD

Management of Protected Areas

## CURRENT POSITION

Municipality of Ankaran,  
Debeli Rtič Landscape Park,  
Nature Conservation Supervisor





Lia Kalmakhelidze is currently working as a consultant expert at the Georgian Ecotourism Association. She is responsible for the sustainable tourism development in and outside of protected areas. She contributes to the development of environmental strategies, policy documents and programmes focused on sustainable development. She works with local communities and participates in community based conservation programmes.

Lia Kalmakhelidze expects that the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme will help her to improve her technical and management capacities, to gain knowledge and to develop her expertise in nature conservation. She hopes that participation in this programme will be helpful for sharing international experience and for building partnerships with colleagues from different countries.

## LIA KALMAKHELIDZE



### **AGE & COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**

born 1988 in Georgia

### **UNIVERSITY DEGREE**

Master of Business Administration in  
Tourism

### **FIELD**

Sustainable Tourism Development  
and Community Based Conservation

### **CURRENT POSITION**

Georgian Ecotourism Association,  
Expert

## ZERRIN KARAARSLAN

### **AGE & COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**

born 1984 in Turkey

### **UNIVERSITY DEGREE**

Master of Science in Landscape  
Architecture

### **FIELD**

Ecological Restoration, Protected Area  
Management

### **CURRENT POSITION**

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of  
Turkey, General Directorate of Nature  
Conservation and National Parks,  
Landscape Architect



Zerrin Karaarslan is a Landscape Architect working at the General Directorate of Nature Protection and Natural Parks, which is the main competent governmental institution in the nature conservation sector in Turkey. The General Directorate is in charge of the management of national parks, natural parks, natural monuments and natural reserves as well as of the preservation and regeneration of plant and animal species in the country. Zerrin Karaarslan is also Ph.D. Candidate at Ankara University Graduate School of Natural and Applied Sciences. Currently, she writes her doctoral dissertation on landscape level integrity indicators and their usage for protected area management, specifically in restoration projects. In this context, she would like to use the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme to improve her technical and management skills for planning landscape level conservation strategies in Turkey. Zerrin Karaarslan has been awarded with the Alfred Toepfer Natural Heritage Scholarships by EUROPARC Federation in 2017.





# LUNA MILATOVIĆ

## **AGE & COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**

born 1992 in Serbia

## **UNIVERSITY DEGREE**

Master of Science in Environmental  
Sciences and Policy

## **FIELD**

Wildlife Conservation

## **CURRENT POSITION**

International Council for Game and  
Wildlife Conservation (CIC),  
Conservation Officer

Luna Milatović is currently working as a Conservation Officer at the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC). Her main duties include coordination and development of the Trophy Evaluation System Programme, a tool that aims to incentivise sustainable hunting practices by setting criteria for what is considered a hunting trophy of high value. This involves the establishment and maintenance of partnerships with government agencies and civil society organisations; preparation of capacity development and communication materials; organisation of capacity building events and database management.

She thinks that the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme is a great opportunity for her to strengthen her project management, negotiation and leadership skills, and to gain knowledge of resource mobilization and sustainable conservation financing.

Rustam Murzakhanov works at the Michael Succow Foundation, a German charitable conservation foundation active on the national and international level.

He coordinates the nature conservation activities of the foundation in Central Asia, with a focus on protected areas. He contributes to getting from concepts to practical decision-making processes in national and international organizations and institutions. The Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme can provide him with up-to-date information on international nature conservation policy, science and management, presented by leading experts, and can help strengthen networks with potential young leaders from the region.

Rustam Murzakhanov graduated from the International Master's program "Landscape Ecology and Nature Conservation" at the University of Greifswald, Germany. Before that, he has been working in an Uzbek NGO for nine years and has been actively involved in the Central Asian Youth Environmental Network. Rustam Murzakhanov is co-founder and editor of the website birds.uz and Wildlife of Uzbekistan (social media).

# RUSTAM MURZAKHANOV

## **AGE & COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**

born 1981 in Kazakhstan

## **UNIVERSITY DEGREE**

Master of Science in Landscape Ecology and  
Nature Conservation

## **FIELD**

Nature Conservation in Central Asia

## **CURRENT POSITION**

Michael Succow Foundation,  
Central Asia Coordinator



Aibat Muzbay is currently Head of the Biodiversity Conservation Department of the NGO Karaganda Regional Ecological Museum. His main duties include the development of wildlife conservation initiatives in Kazakhstan. He also manages a pilote project on community-based wildlife management for the conservation of saiga antelope.

With this background, he would like to use the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme to improve his professional and management capacities for contributing to the development of community-based approaches in sustainable use of natural resources, a new thematic field of activities of the NGO.

Aibat Muzbay has received the Young Conservation Leaders award of the Saiga Conservation Alliance in 2019. In addition, he is an active member of the IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist group (SULi) in Central Asia.



## AIBAT MUZBAY

**AGE & COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**  
born 1996 in Kazakhstan

**UNIVERSITY DEGREE**  
Diploma in Biology

**FIELD**  
Wildlife Conservation

**CURRENT POSITION**  
Karaganda Regional Ecological Museum, Head of the Biodiversity Conservation Department.

## IVANA ŠARIĆ KAPELJ

**AGE & COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**  
born 1989 in Croatia

**UNIVERSITY DEGREE**  
Master of Experimental Biology

**FIELD**  
Nature Conservation

**CURRENT POSITION**  
Association Biom,  
Associate for Nature Conservation



Ivana Šarić Kapelj is currently working as an Associate for Nature Conservation at Association Biom (BirdLife Croatia). Her main duties include managing the “Wildlife Crime Unit”, a team of several staff working on tackling illegal killing of birds. She also works on strategic planning and facilitation of stakeholder workshops.

Ivana Šarić Kapelj sees the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme as an invaluable opportunity to enhance her management capacities in order to achieve greater conservation impact of her home institution. She also aims to broaden her knowledge on current conservation topics and is looking forward to network with other fellows and alumni.

During her studies Ivana has received the Dean’s Award for Excellence. In cooperation with government institutions she has initiated successful anti-poaching actions and is the author of several publications concerning illegal killing of birds in Croatia.

Gulshad Shagiakhmetova is currently Head of the Department for the Coordination of Science, Ecological education and Recreational activities in Protected Areas. Her responsibilities include the coordination of scientific research, ecological education and ecotourism activities in protected areas and the provision of methodological and practical assistance.

Therefore, she is interested in participating in the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship in view of obtaining international experience on the management of protected areas and biodiversity conservation for integration at the national institutional level.

Furthermore, Gulshad Shagiakhmetova is also the person in charge of implementing the UNESCO "Man and Biosphere" program and the UNESCO World Heritage Convention within the competence of the Committee.

## GULSHAD SHAGIAKHMETOVA



### AGE & COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

born 1982 in Uzbekistan

### UNIVERSITY DEGREE

Master of Biology

### FIELD

Management of Protected Areas

### CURRENT POSITION

State Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Main Department for Biodiversity and Protected Areas, Head of Department for Coordination of Science, Ecological education and Recreational activities in Protected Areas.

## BOGDAN VYKHOR

### AGE & COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

born 1986 in Ukraine

### UNIVERSITY DEGREE

Master of Science in Biology,  
PhD in Ecology

### FIELD

Wildlife Conservation

### CURRENT POSITION

WWF Ukraine, Wildlife Manager



Bogdan Vykhov is currently working as wildlife manager at WWF Ukraine and coordinates programs related to rare species conservation. He also deals with law enforcement and cooperates with NGOs, scientists and national authorities to improve management and protection of rare species.

In this context, he would like to use the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Program to see conservation more globally and to learn from international experience on transboundary cooperation, fundraising and legislation.

Bogdan has been awarded DAAD scholarships for his PhD research in Germany at Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research and scholarships from the University of Montana and the USFS for Protected areas management program. At the beginning of his career in WWF Ukraine, he led volunteer activities in the Carpathian region.





# ALISHER YUNUSOV

## AGE & COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

born 1985 in Uzbekistan

## UNIVERSITY DEGREE

Master of Science in  
Vegetable and Melonbreeding

## FIELD

Conservation and Sustainable Use of  
Biodiversity

## CURRENT POSITION

State Committee on Ecology and  
Environmental Protection of the  
Republic of Uzbekistan,  
Head of Division

Alisher Yunusov is currently working as Head of the Division on Protection and Use of the Animal World of the State Committee on Ecology and Environment Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan. His main duties include developing national legislative acts, norms, national plans and strategies, quota for rational use of Wild Animals, but also the issuance of export, import, hunting permits, registering nurseries and breeding sites for wild animals, monitoring, analyzing and developing plans for sustainable use of wild animals. He is also involved in the implementation of international conventions such as CITES, CMS and the Ramsar Convention.

In this context, he would like to use the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme to improve his technical and management capacities for implementation of environmental conventions, for engaging stakeholders in restoration of biodiversity, assessment of biodiversity loss, as well as to improve his communication and leadership skills.

Mergen Yusupov is currently working as Deputy Head of the Department on Coordination of International Environmental Cooperation and Projects of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment al Protection of Turkmenistan. His main duties include international relations in the field of environmental protection, and the coordination of international projects in this field.

In this context, he would like to use the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme to improve his technical and management skills for designing, implementing and coordinating projects in the field of environmental protection.

# MERGEN YUSUPOV

## AGE & COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Born 1990 in Turkmenistan

## UNIVERSITY DEGREE

Master of Science in International  
Economic Relations / Economic Theory

## FIELD

International relations, Policy

## CURRENT POSITION

Ministry of Agriculture and Environment  
Protection of Turkmenistan, Department  
on Coordination of International  
Environmental Cooperation and Projects







Federal Agency for Nature Conservation  
International Academy for Nature Conservation  
Website: [www.bfn.de/klaus-toepfer-fellowship.html](http://www.bfn.de/klaus-toepfer-fellowship.html)  
Contact: [ktf@bfn.de](mailto:ktf@bfn.de)

