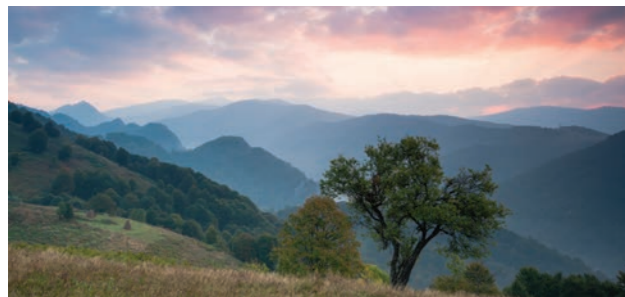


BACKGROUND AND GOALS

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 the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity (SCBD), UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Center (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 on international best conservation practice and policy, management and leadership training as well as 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.



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 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. As cooperation partners of the fellowship programme, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) 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.

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

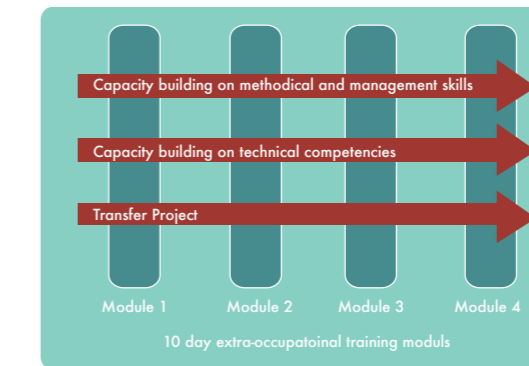
Convention on Biological Diversity

IUCN

UNEP WCMC

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The 16 months course consists of four ten-day extra-occupational training modules at the International Academy for Nature Conservation on the Isle of Vilm, Germany. Each module includes eight days of on-site training and a two-day excursion to leading nature conservation institutions and sites in Germany. The modules combine joint learning on key conservation topics with management and leadership training. The modules are complemented by assignments in the interim periods and the completion of a transfer project throughout the entire course duration. Training language is English.



Module 1 Informing Conservation

The first training module 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 Management in a Spatial Context

The thematic focus is on protected areas, national systems of protected areas, ecological networks and integrated land use planning. Training in technical writing and participatory planning will complement the course.

Module 3 Conservation Governance and Policy

Module 3 deals with ecological economics, TEEB, resource mobilization and sustainable financing of conservation measures. In addition, financial planning and management for nature conservation are taught.

Module 4 Conservation Economics and Financing

Decision making processes and structures relevant to conservation at the local, national and international level as well as user-based approaches to resource conservation; negotiation, coordination and facilitation of multi stakeholder dialogues for biodiversity conservation and leadership skills form the key topics of module 4.





KLAUS TOEPFER FELLOWS

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 preferably 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 so I can help the environment.”



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.



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 (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.

COSTS AND CERTIFICATES

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, and a contribution towards their travel expenses. The participants will receive a certificate upon successful participation in the programme.



APPLICATION

The announcement for the next round of the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship (2013 – 2015) will be published on the programme website.

FURTHER INFORMATION

A course website with further information is online at www.bfn.de/klaus-toepfer-fellowship.html

CONTACT

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KLAUS TOEPFER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

for future leaders in Nature Conservation from the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

