

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

## WWF-Amano Fellowship 2026

Empowering young Vietnamese conservation leaders to implement GBF/NBSAP and shape a Nature-Positive future

### Introduction of the opportunity

WWF-Viet Nam invites applications from **outstanding Vietnamese youth** with a strong encouragement for women and young leaders from local communities to be nominated for the **WWF-Amano Fellowship**, a nine-month global digital mentorship and leadership journey (February - October 2026) designed for emerging young leaders in conservation and allied fields including policy, communications, education, community organizing, sustainability entrepreneurship or fundraising.

The Fellowship aims to empower impactful action, foster transformative leadership growth, and strengthen collaboration across regions and sectors. Through mentorship, global networking, and hands-on learning, fellows are equipped to become conservation champions who can amplify community voices, inspire change, and shape a nature-positive future.

The 2025 pilot cohort achieved remarkable outcomes: 100% of fellows expressed satisfaction with the programme's mentorship and content, highlighting strong growth in leadership skills and personal guidance from the Amano team. Building on these results, the Fellowship is expanding in 2026 and, for **the first time, Vietnamese youth** are invited to apply for WWF-Viet Nam's nomination (six nominees) to be considered by Amano through interviews for final selection into this global second cohort.

### About WWF, inclusive conservation and the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) is one of the largest conservation organizations in the world, working in over 100 countries with the mission to build a future where humans live in harmony with nature. WWF-Viet Nam has been active for more than 30 years, working with the Government, local communities, and partners on initiatives to conserve biodiversity, restore ecosystems, address climate change, and support sustainable livelihoods.

WWF promotes an inclusive conservation approach - putting people at the centre, uplifting diverse voices, and promoting human-rights-based and whole-of-society approach for nature and people. It ensures that no one is left behind in conservation efforts, particularly marginalized groups including youth, women, and local communities, whose roles and rights are recognised, protected, and strengthened. These groups are not only encouraged to achieve full, meaningful, and effective participation and but also to become active leaders, pioneers, and decision-makers shaping nature-positive conservation outcomes.

In line with this inclusive conservation approach, the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) adopted in 2022 sets an ambitious 2030 agenda grounded in a whole-of-society and human-rights-based approach to nature. To *“halt and reverse biodiversity loss and put nature on a path to recovery”*, the GBF explicitly calls for the full, meaningful and effective participation and leadership of **all actors of society** especially local communities, women and girls, and youth in biodiversity governance, notably through Target 22 and Target 23.

In Viet Nam, WWF-Viet Nam is advancing this agenda via activities such as:

- Promote participation and leadership of communities, women, youth and ethnic minorities across forest, wetland and marine conservation activities.
- Support the development and implementation of **the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)** aligned with the GBF, ensuring the voices, rights and benefits of all stakeholders particularly women, youth and local communities are recognised and integrated.
- Build **“Community Champions”** and **“Youth Champions”** who can engage in policy dialogue from the village and provincial levels to national and international fora.

This Fellowship translates that vision into practice by equipping young Vietnamese, with a strong encouragement to women and those from local communities, with the mentorship, networks and skills to contribute to GBF and NBSAP implementation in Viet Nam and to advance nature-positive outcomes across generations.

### About the WWF-Amano Fellowship

Delivered 100% online and in English, the programme is built around small, curated “Huts” - groups of 8–10 fellows - guided by experienced mentors and engage in monthly online sessions, workshops, and exclusive global networking events. Through a unique model that combines group mentorship, peer learning, and hands-on skill-building, fellows gain not only leadership capabilities but also a lifelong community of conservation allies.

### Structured leadership development

The Fellowship is designed to foster growth, innovation, and connection at every step. Over nine transformative months, fellows experience activities, experiences, and support which will amplify their leadership in conservation and allied fields.

#### Small, Curated “Huts”

- Fellows join intimate groups of 8–10 peers, called Huts, carefully matched to encourage mutual learning and support between emerging professional and industry experts.
- Each Hut is facilitated by an experienced mentor with deep expertise in conservation and leadership development.
- Huts ensure every voice is heard, and all perspectives are valued.
- Dedicated time for facilitated discussions, problem-solving, and sharing progress.

#### Monthly Expert Speaker Series

- Industry experts from business to conservation deliver tailored sessions in a live engaging digital space
- Sessions tackle current challenges, leadership dilemmas, and sector innovations.
- Participants co-create solutions to sector problems.
- Celebrate successes and navigate setbacks—all with the backing of a global community.
- Sessions designed to facilitate meaningful relationships, spark collaborations, and open doors to new opportunities.

#### Skill-Building Workshops

- Practical sessions led by expert speakers and trainers.
- Topics include transformational leadership, strategic communications, decision-making, project scaling, policy engagement, and personal well-being among others.
- A supportive, active digital platform for fellows to connect outside of sessions, ask questions, and share resources.

## Nomination Process

WWF will identify and nominate outstanding candidates who have demonstrated leadership and measurable impact in conservation or related fields such as communications, sustainability entrepreneurship, fundraising, or policy.

Phase description timeline:

Phase	Description	Timeline
WWF-Viet Nam's identification and nomination	WWF-Viet Nam launches a call for applications, screens, interviews and nominates 06 eligible candidates with proven potential and commitment	November – 12 December 2025
Amano So interviews	Shortlisted candidates are interviewed by Amano So for mentors to explore backgrounds, impact, and fit for the program	December 2025 – January 2026
Final selection and onboarding	Selected fellows confirm participation, complete onboarding, and are matched to their "Hut" for the 2026 Fellowship	February 2026 – October 2026

## Opportunity for Vietnamese Candidates

WWF-Viet Nam is proud to nominate at least 06 Vietnamese candidates for consideration by Amano for the 2026 global cohort.

If selected into the Fellowship, this is a unique opportunity for young conservation leaders from Viet Nam to:

- Join a global mentorship community of emerging conservationists.
- Gain exclusive training in transformational leadership, strategic communications, and sustainability innovation.
- Build international connections with conservation practitioners, donors, and thought leaders.
- Represent Viet Nam youth's voice in WWF's global network, bringing home new skills and perspectives to strengthen community-led conservation.
- Join WWF-Viet Nam's "Youth Champion" network, with the opportunity to support communications, awareness-raising, and community engagement activities in the implementation of the GBF and NBSAP, as well as knowledge-sharing with local CSOs, youth groups, and community networks.

- Have opportunity to be engaged and contribute to biodiversity-related events and various GBF/NBSAP activities/events organized by WWF-Viet Nam including local (Hue, Quang Tri, Da Nang), national, regional, and international events, where relevant.
- Have opportunities for WWF-Viet Nam's support in implementing feasible community-return initiatives after completing the Fellowship, such as experience-sharing, mentoring other youth, or organizing small discussion and inspiration sessions, thereby extending and amplifying conservation efforts, particularly in advancing GBF and NBSAP implementation.

## Eligibility

Eligible candidates include:

- Vietnamese citizen, residing in Viet Nam (willing to provide proof upon request).
- In compliance with Vietnamese law (no criminal record).
- Commit to follow WWF guidance and adhere to Amano So's Code of Conduct, emphasizing respect, openness, and inclusivity.
- Emerging leaders aged 21–30 in conservation or allied fields (*communications, education, policy, community organizing, or sustainability*).
- Demonstrated measurable impact by leading projects, raising awareness, mobilizing communities, or facilitating knowledge exchange, etc. (*description plus 1–2 proofs (links, outputs, media, training, etc.); referee contact highly recommended.*)
- Strong commitment to learning, inclusivity, and peer collaboration.
- Good English proficiency including good speaking & listening skills, as the program is conducted in English and 100% virtual. Proven evidence/certificates is preferred.
- Reliable internet connectivity and time availability to participate in the nine-month programme (5–8 hours/month); Commit to full attendance at all programme components.
- Priority will be given to local community members, women, ethnic minorities, and youth.
- Candidates with prior experience engaging and working with conservation organisations are also prioritised.

## How to Apply

Interested candidates are invited to:

1. Complete the WWF-Amano Fellowship 2026 application form (below).
2. Send the completed form to email: [communications@wwf.org.vn](mailto:communications@wwf.org.vn)
3. Deadline for submission: 23:59, 30 November 2025.

*All costs related to participation are covered by WWF International.*

## Application Form

WWF-Amano Fellowship 2026  
Empowering Emerging Conservation Leaders

### 1. Personal Information

- Full name:
- Date of birth:
- Gender:
- Ethnicity:
- Email / Phone contact:
- Permanent address:
- Current residence:
- Organisation:
- Position:

### 2. Experience and Leadership

Describe your work in conservation, community engagement, or related fields and community impact. Highlight specific projects or initiatives you have led or contributed to (max 150 words).

### 3. Skills and Motivation

- List your key skills (e.g., leadership, communication, project management).
- What motivates you to apply for the WWF-Amano Fellowship? (max 150 words)
- How do you intend to apply what you learn to amplify the conservation impact and benefit your community in Viet Nam? (max 150 words)
- Local communities are at the heart of nature conservation. They hold traditional knowledge, values, and practices that have protected forests, rivers, and species for generations. Under Target 22 of the Global Biodiversity Framework, it is vital that these communities — including women, youth, and people with disabilities — have a real voice in decisions that affect their lands and resources. Meaningful participation ensures not only fairness but also stronger, more lasting conservation outcomes. For young people, especially, being part of these efforts can inspire innovation, leadership, and long-term commitment to protecting nature.

How do you plan to enhance engagement of local community, particularly local youth, in conservation? (max 150 words)

### 4. Commitment

I commit to actively participate in all sessions and uphold the values of inclusivity, collaboration, and respect throughout the Fellowship.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_