
Program Summary

The Rising Wildlife Leaders - Amazonia Program is a joint initiative of the Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN), Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and the Global Environment Facility's Fonseca Leadership Program. The Amazon basin is a key conservation landscape critical to the overall health of the planet. WCN firmly believes wildlife conservation is most likely to succeed in the long run when it is led and upheld by locally based conservationists committed to community engagement and empowerment. The Amazonia Program aims to build leadership capacity and a collaborative conservation ethos in the Amazon Basin by providing emerging leaders working in Amazonia the skills, network, and confidence needed for effective long-term conservation leadership careers.

To support conservationists' growth journey, WCN will provide program participants with a 2-year training program tailored to their individual needs. The program includes the following areas of support:

1. **Three In-person Workshops**: Workshops will gather participants, mentors, and content specialists, providing participants training in core leadership competencies and diverse skills needed for long-term success in the environmental and conservation sectors (e.g. fundraising, project management, public speaking). Workshops also offer a facilitated space for peer-professional networking and relationship building among professionals working in the Amazon.
2. **Individualized Capacity Building**: Each participant will develop a "Personal Development Plan" to guide their personal and professional growth over the two-year program, they will receive up to \$5,000 towards courses or convenings tailored to their development plan (support is not available towards academic degrees). After the program completion, participants will be provided with applied learning opportunities to reinforce skills development with up to \$1,000 towards start-up project mini-grants, cross-program exchanges, and fellowships/internships.
3. **Professional Mentorship**: Each participant is paired with a senior professional to serve as their mentor for the duration of the program. Mentors have demonstrated success in the field, particularly in the participant's region and/or areas of interest. Mentors and participants work together in pursuit of the participant's Personal Development Plan, with WCN's support, and meet at least quarterly.
4. **Peer Learning**: WCN provides participants with facilitated networking and learning opportunities with their peers in the program, as well as a broader network of national and international conservation professionals. These opportunities may be provided virtually and/or in-person to develop peer and professional networks that support and promote successful long-term collaborative conservation careers.

Participants attend the program at no cost to themselves to ensure the most suitable applicants are selected regardless of financial status. To reduce financial stress, WCN will provide each participant with up to \$1,000 of financial support to cover expenses that might be incurred from participating in the program (e.g. internet data, childcare).

Qualifying Criteria

Applicants should meet the following criteria:

- Conservationists or environmentalists with 5-10 years of professional experience;
- Citizen of Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname, or Venezuela;
- Actively supporting in-situ conservation or environmental solutions in the Amazon basin;
- Currently employed or actively supporting conservation or environmental work, either as a staff member, affiliate, or director of an NGO, local or national government, Indigenous community, or the private sector;
- Nominated by an established conservationist or environmentalist with experience in Amazonia;
- Enthusiastic, collaborative, self-motivated, with a desire and willingness to learn and grow professionally;
- Professional proficiency in Spanish, Portuguese, or English.

Participant Requirements

- Participants are expected to actively utilize all key program offerings - training workshops, capacity building, mentoring, and peer learning.
- Selected participants must be available for a week-long training each year of the program, with a final shorter training to conclude the program.
- Participants are expected to devote time throughout the two-year program towards the pursuit of their Personal Development Plan, including participation in additional capacity-building opportunities.
 - Those program participants who are predominantly field-based in their work and have little connectivity will be required to develop a plan on how they will engage in this component of the program.
- Participants are expected to actively engage with their mentors throughout the program and meet with their mentor and WCN program manager at least quarterly, to share updates, discuss progress toward their goals, and address career guidance needs.
- Participants should plan to join virtual calls with their program peers for skills training, leadership development, and networking discussions. They should aim to share their gained knowledge and experience with other aspiring and early-career conservationists.

Application Requirements

Online applications and nominations are open every two years and will NOT be listed publicly. If you are an interested candidate who meets all the above eligibility criteria, please email amazoniaprogram@wildnet.org for more information on how to apply. Note that you must be nominated by an eligible nominator to qualify. Nominators should be able to speak to a participant's experience and potential in the field of wildlife or environmental conservation. Examples of eligible nominators include an academic advisor, supervisor, or an established leader in conservation who knows the applicant well. We will accept only two nominations per nominator and per organization.



If you have any questions about the Rising Wildlife Leaders - Amazonia Program, please email amazoniaprogram@wildnet.org.