



 **2023**
EXCELERATOR
INFORMATION
PACK

COALITION WILD 

What is the **EXCELerator** program?



The EXCELerator program is a rigorous **6-month** capacity building and leadership development training **for young people who have an idea of an environmental project** tackling an issue facing an ecosystem, wildlife, community, culture, or their livelihood. Project ideas can be just that, ideas that they would like to elaborate further in order to start implementing, but they can also be projects in the early stages of their implementation, or projects that are being implemented in the longer run and that have the potential to scale up. Accepted project ideas can be implemented in **any country of the world**, and they can verse about any environmentally-related challenge. In previous editions of the program, we have had very diverse projects and ideas, from developing solutions to elephant-human conflicts in Kenya to educating children at schools about the importance of recycling in Ecuador, engaging in the restoration of mangrove forests in the Philippines or reintroducing manatees in Guadeloupe. During the program participants are invited to spend time working on their project idea until it can be turned into a practicable and impactful project.

Throughout the program, **participants are equipped with the technical knowledge and skills needed to develop, implement and communicate their project ideas**. Furthermore, they are offered the opportunity to connect with other participants of the cohort who may be developing their projects in a very different reality from theirs and with a very different focus. The program has a great focus on **peer learning and peer support** since we believe youth have very relevant knowledge, experiences and ideas to bring to the table, and being in a safe space where their contributions are valued empowers them to become active leaders in providing solutions and inspiring others to do so too.



What do alumni say about the program?



“The EXL program has **improved my leadership, citizen participation, project management, interpersonal and communication skills.** My project started as a simple idea in 2020. It has been part of different sessions with the mentorship program. Without the program my project would be at the beginning stages.”

Moustapha Arémou Kolawole, 2021 EXCEerator participant



“It’s incredible to know young people in conservation in general. **To know that you’re not alone and other people are suffering like you,** but they are fighting and they’re so brave. A lot of them are doing it with less economic resources, or with conflict and they kept going. I always felt encouraged every time I was in a meeting with them.”

Zara Guifarro, 2021 EXCEerator participant



“As a young environmental leader that I am, it’s always necessary to go for knowledge. Knowledge is the key and knowledge is the key to open many doors. I lack some skills and some competence to see certain things and **I saw the accelerator program as a great catalyst to help me with some of the things** I am still lacking as a young leader, and entrepreneur.”

Achare Elvis Ayamba, 2021 EXCEerator participant



“I can recommend this program to all people who like to see impact in the environment and make projects in conservation. **This program improved our skills and knowledge on strategy and impact on our community like the strategy to preserve environment** and make the advocacy with the authority, to communicate correctly on our project, I can say is important for all who like to improve the conditions in our community.”

Ange-Marie Nicodème Esse, 2022 EXCEerator participant

The 2023 edition of the EXCELerator program

The seventh edition of the EXCELerator program will run for six months between **November 2023 to April 2024**. Participation in the program is 100% virtual and free, and participants can choose between two different ways of completing the program depending on their own needs, expectations and availability: the **EXCELerator LIVE** program or the **EXCELerator FLEX** program.

What can be expected from the program?

- **Program will be facilitated through a learning platform** (Thinkific), which will remain open and available to all participants for the duration of the program (from November 2023 to April 2024).
- **Access to 14 recorded sessions led by expert speakers** delving into project development and management, fundraising and grant writing, effective communication, and much more! These sessions will have a duration of between 30 to 60 minutes, presentation slides will be available for download and each session will also include follow-up resources for program participants to further their learnings. You can find out more about the content of these sessions in the XXX section of this Information Pack.
- **Discussion forums to interact with other program participants** by sharing the key concepts learned in each recorded session, asking questions about the sessions, but also to share the work they are doing in their own countries, with their own projects.
- **Downloadable toolkits and resources.** During their time in the EXCELerator, participants will have access to a continually updated and curated list of resources for them to download and utilize for the benefit of them and their project.
- **Opportunity to receive an official Certificate of Completion** from the program to showcase what they have achieved throughout the six months.
- **Access to global opportunities for funding, networking** and having their project and work spotlighted in CoalitionWILD social media and WILD Voices blog.



EXCEerator **LIVE**

This version of the program is for those participants interested in boosting their project or project idea within the six months of the program. Participants undertaking this learning path will need to be available to join the live sessions that will be happening on Thursdays from 12.30 to 14.00 UTC. To find the provisional dates of these live sessions you can go to the XXX section of this Information Pack. Please, bear in mind that this version of the program is very intense and demanding, and will require participants to work on their project idea for around 3 hours weekly. In exchange, we promise participants they will finalize the training with a detailed plan of the next steps needed to implement their project idea.

Participants undertaking the EXCEerator LIVE program will:

- **Have access to 15 live sessions, facilitated by the CoalitionWILD team**, where they will have the opportunity to apply the key concepts learnt during the recorded sessions to their own projects through the study in groups of case studies. During these sessions, participants will also have the space to share their progress about their projects, and thoughts about the recorded sessions, but also to engage in exercises that will bring them one step closer to the implementation of their initiative. Live sessions are designed to be interactive, therefore we will encourage participants to participate, ask questions, and bring their perspectives to the sessions.
- **Develop several tasks to translate learnings into action.** Some recorded sessions will have a follow-up task associated with them. These are to help participants to implement and integrate the tips, practices, and information learned from the sessions into their projects and everyday life.
- **Have access to a peer-learning scheme**, where 2-4 EXCEerator participants will be grouped taking into account their regional and thematic focus, in order to be able to work together with their group and support each other throughout their journey.

EXCEerator **FLEX**

This version of the program is for those participants interested in developing their project idea and/or acquiring the knowledge, skills and spirit to do so, but with limited time availability, or a preference for learning and completing the course at their own pace (within the program's six months schedule).

Participants undertaking this journey will not need to attend the live sessions and will not be obliged to hand in any tasks. However, they will have the opportunity to interact with other program participants inside the program's learning platform, by using the discussion forums and other communications channels. Participants under this path will have the opportunity to have their acquired knowledge and skills tested through small and simple quizzes at the end of each program phase, as well as provide feedback throughout the training in order to improve program materials.

What is in the curriculum?

This year's EXCEerator journey will be divided into five phases, each of them with a number of relevant recorded and live sessions*, related to the main topic of the phase. These phases have been designed to cover the main knowledge areas that we think are vital to developing a project within the environmental field effectively.

Following, the learning journey participants will be going through the six months of the program can be found, including the content of the phases and recorded sessions.

EXCELerator **FLEX**

PHASE 1

Preparing and Planning your Project for Success

- Assessing the Situation: Defining Your Problem.
- Developing a Theory Of Change.
- Developing SMART Goals and Project Indicators.

PHASE 2

Achieving Financial Sustainability and Using Resources Efficiently

- Planning and Budgeting for Maximum Impact.
- Fundraising Basics and Going Beyond Financial Needs.
- Grant Writing and Strategy (Apply for Grants, How to).
- Project Sustainability.

PHASE 3

Building Strong Partnerships and Genuine Community Engagement

- Stakeholder Engagement.

PHASE 4

Effective communications and storytelling

- Social Media and Outreach.
- How To Develop a Communications Plan for Your Project?
- Brand Strategy.
- Public Speaking, Developing your Pitch and Communicating your Message.

PHASE 5

Becoming a Leader

- Global Impact Navigator: Unlocking the Power of International Policy Frameworks.
- Effective Leadership: Team and Volunteer Management.

PHASES

EXCEerator **LIVE**

Complementing these recorded sessions, those participants taking the EXCEerator LIVE program, will also have access to several live sessions throughout the program. Following, the provisional dates of these live sessions can be found.

Provisional* dates for the live sessions	
Sessions will be happening on Thursdays between 12.30 and 14.00 UTC.	
2023	2024
November Thursday, November 2, 2023 Thursday, November 9, 2023 Thursday, November 16, 2023 Thursday, November 30, 2023	January Thursday, January 11, 2024 Thursday, January 25, 2024
	February Thursday, February 8, 2024 Thursday, February 15, 2024 Thursday, February 22, 2024
December Thursday, December 14, 2023	March Thursday, March 7, 2024 Thursday, March 14, 2024 Thursday, March 28, 2024
	April Thursday, April 11, 2024 Thursday, April 25, 2024

Please, bear in mind that, between this provisional schedule and the definitive one there might be slight variations, due to the need of accommodating to the availability of live sessions' leads and/or expert speakers.



Who can apply to the program?



We are looking forward to reading from you if you are interested in being part of this journey with us. In order to be eligible for the program, you need to:

- Be **35 years of age or younger** at the start of the program (November 2, 2023).
- Have a project idea, a project on its early implementation or a project with the potential to scale up within the environmental field.
- Have the **energy to dedicate to the development of their project idea**, thus having the availability of completing the training in any of its modalities.
- Have a **computer and reliable internet connection** to access the program's learning platform and be able to watch the recorded sessions (as well as the live sessions, if you are applying for the EXCEerator LIVE program).
- For the EXCEerator LIVE program: **Availability to participate in the live sessions** throughout the six months of the program, happening on Thursdays between 12.30 to 14.00 UTC.

What is the application timeline?

The call for participants in the program will open on **September 4, 2023 and close on October 8, 2023.**



The application form is available here.

In the application form, you will be able to choose the version of the EXCEerator you would like to be part of. Please, when making your decision, make a thorough reflection of your time availability, as it has been stated previously, this is a very time-intensive program.

The application timeline will be as follows:

- **Application period:** Applications will remain open from September 4 to October 8, 2023. At the end of the application period, we will send an email to all interested participants to confirm the reception of their applications.
- **Review period:** Applications will be carefully reviewed by CoalitionWILD's team from October 9 to October 22, 2023.
- **Selection period:** Selected and non-selected participants will be reached out about the results of the selection process via email on the week of October 23, 2023.
- **Start of the program:** The program will officially start in November 2023. Participants undertaking the EXCEerator LIVE program will be invited to participate in the live kick-off session scheduled on Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 12.30 UTC.



COALITION WILD

Do you have any questions about the program?

If you have any questions about the application process, the structure of the program, or any other doubts you come up with while reading through the materials, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at exclerator@coalitionwild.org. We will be more than happy to answer all your queries!