

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Eligibility & Applicant Profile

Q. Who is eligible to apply for the Samvardhan Fellowship?

The Fellowship is open to (individuals under 35) early- and mid-career conservation practitioners, grassroots activists, researchers, community leaders, and others working on biodiversity conservation, ecological resilience, and community-led environmental action in India.

Please note: Applicants pursuing or holding a PhD are not eligible to apply.

Q. Do I need a formal degree in conservation or environmental studies to apply?

No. We welcome applicants from diverse educational and professional backgrounds. What matters most is your commitment to conservation and your interest in learning and growing through the Fellowship.

Q. I am already working or studying. Can I still apply?

Yes. The Fellowship is designed to complement your existing work, studies, or community responsibilities. Fellows are not expected to participate full-time.

Q. Do I need to have a fully developed project idea before applying?

No. We are looking for individuals who are curious and motivated to explore a question, challenge, or opportunity within their context. You do not need to have a fully formed project proposal.

Q. Can organizations or groups apply together?

No. The Fellowship is designed for individuals. However, multiple individuals from the same organization, community, or network are welcome to submit separate applications.

Fellowship Experience & Time Commitment

Q. What is the expected time commitment for Fellows?

The Fellowship is designed to be flexible. Fellows should expect to dedicate approximately 8–12 hours per month to Fellowship activities, including mentorship conversations, workshops, peer learning sessions, and exploration of their chosen area of interest.

Q. Will I need to leave my current job or relocate?

No. Fellows can continue their existing work, studies, or community engagements while participating in the Fellowship. Selected Fellows will be invited for a one-time in-person orientation and meeting their assigned Mentor at the beginning of Fellowship period.

Q. What kinds of activities will Fellows participate in?

Fellows will engage in mentorship conversations, workshops, peer learning opportunities, reflection exercises, and exploration of a conservation question, challenge, or practice relevant to their context.

Mentorship & Financial Support

Q. What support does the Fellowship provide?

The Fellowship provides:

- A flexible seed grant of ₹3 lakh
- Dedicated mentorship from an experienced practitioner
- Access to a peer cohort and broader conservation networks
- Learning opportunities through workshops and shared experiences

Q. Can the Fellowship grant be used flexibly?

Yes. The Fellowship is intended to support learning, exploration, and growth. Detailed guidance on eligible uses of the grant will be shared with selected Fellows.

Application & Selection Process

Q. What are the key dates for the Fellowship?

- Information Webinar: 11 June 2026
- Application Deadline: 12 July 2026

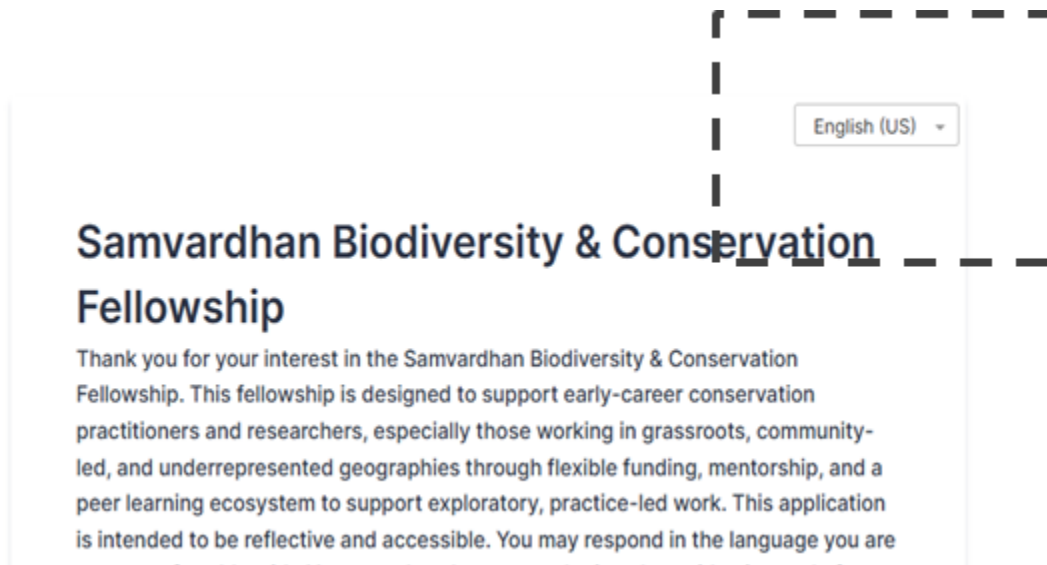
Q. Is the application form available in languages other than English?

Yes. To make the Fellowship accessible to grassroots conservation practitioners, the application form is available in multiple languages.

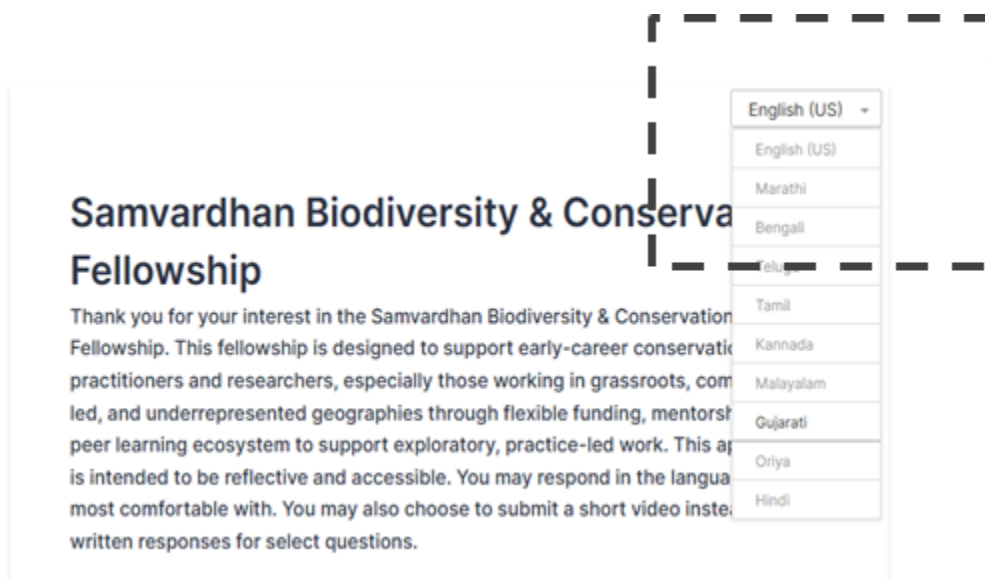
Step-1- Visit our website. select “Apply Now”



Step-2- Click on the drop down button on top right corner of the form



Step-3- select your preferred language from the drop-down list



Step-4- fill application form in your preferred language

Gujarati

સમવર્ધન જૈવ વૈવિધ્ય અને સંરક્ષણ ફેલોશિપમાં આપના રસ બદલ આભાર.

સમવર્ધન જૈવ વૈવિધ્ય અને સંરક્ષણ ફેલોશિપમાં આપના રસ બદલ આભાર. આ ફેલોશિપ પ્રારંભિક તબક્કાના સંરક્ષણ કાર્યકરો અને સંશોધકોને સહાય આપવા માટે રચાયેલ છે, ખાસ કરીને તેઓ માટે જે ગ્રામ્ય, સમુદાય આધારિત અને ઓછી પ્રતિનિધિત્વ ધરાવતા વિસ્તારોમાં કાર્યરત છે. આ ફેલોશિપ લવચીક આર્થિક સહાય, મેન્ટરશિપ અને સહઅભ્યાસના માધ્યમથી પ્રયોગાત્મક અને કાર્યઆધારિત કાર્યને સમર્થન આપશે. આ અરજીપત્રક સરળ, વિચારશીલ અને સૌ માટે સુલભ રહે તે રીતે તૈયાર કરવામાં આવ્યું છે. તમે તમને સૌથી અનુકૂળ ભાષામાં જવાબ આપી શકો છો. કેટલાક પ્રશ્નો માટે તમે લેખિત જવાબના બદલે ટૂંકો વિડિયો પણ મોકલી શકો છો.

Q. Can I submit my responses in my preferred language?

Yes. Applicants are encouraged to submit responses in the language they are most comfortable using. Video responses, where applicable, may also be submitted in your preferred language.

Q. Is support available in Hindi or other Indian languages?

Yes. The Samvardhan Fellowship team is available to provide support in Hindi or other preferred Indian languages. If you need assistance understanding the guidelines, website, application process, or deadlines, please reach out to us and we will be happy to help.

Q. Can I submit my application through email?

No. Applications submitted via email, WhatsApp, or direct messages will not be considered. All applications must be submitted through the official online application form.

Q. I made a mistake in my application. Can I edit my response?

If you discover an error after submitting your application, simply submit the form again with the corrected information. The selection committee will consider your most recent submission.

Q. How will Fellows be selected?

Applications will be reviewed based on alignment with the Fellowship's purpose, commitment to conservation, learning potential, and the applicant's interest in exploring a conservation question or challenge within their context.

Q. I am facing technical issues while accessing the website or submitting the application. What should I do?

Please try refreshing the page, clearing your browser cache, switching browsers, or checking your internet connection. If the issue persists, take a screenshot of the error and contact the Fellowship team for support.

Partner & Institutional Questions

Q. Can organizations nominate individuals for the Fellowship?

Yes. Organizations, community groups, and partner institutions are encouraged to identify and recommend individuals who may be a good fit. However, all applicants must complete and submit their own application.

Q. What kind of applicants is the Fellowship particularly looking to reach?

The Fellowship is especially interested in supporting practitioners working closely with communities and nature, individuals from underrepresented regions and ecosystems, and those who may have had limited access to mentorship, funding, professional networks, or formal opportunities.