

# GESA 2024

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTS SUMMER ACADEMY  
8TH EDITION

The Global Environments Summer Academy is a three-month immersive fellowship for changemakers from around the world who are working to find durable solutions to complex planetary challenges.



Global Diversity Foundation





“My most cherished takeaway from GESA 2018 has been enduring networks of richly inspiring people and soul-fulling friendships that have continued to encourage and positively expand the quality and integrity of my work in ways that earning my degrees never could.”

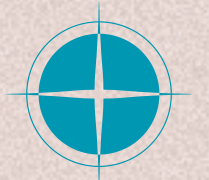
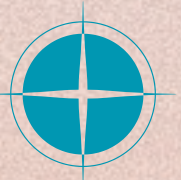
**Maria Mejia, GESA 2018**



# WHAT IS GESA?

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTS SUMMER ACADEMY

The Global Environments Summer Academy (GESA) is a three-month immersive fellowship for changemakers who are working to find durable solutions to social and ecological injustice and complex ecological challenges. Globally, we are witnessing a rise in the destruction of ecosystems, catastrophic climate change, ruptures in socio-cultural fabrics, and the violent dispossession of living beings, amongst many other issues. GESA brings together participants from across the world - including researchers, practitioners, activists, academics, ecologists and artists - who are actively finding solutions to some of the most pressing matters facing humanity today. The Academy provides them with mentoring, support, guidance, tools and expertise.



In a time of increasing polarisation and an era of 'taking sides,' we believe it is more important than ever to create an environment for learning and growing together with curiosity, whilst challenging the status quo and seeking alternatives together. GESA offers a facilitated space for learning how to rewrite our story together, across differences and divides.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 25 JANUARY 2024



# WHAT IS GEN?

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTS NETWORK



Global Diversity Foundation works with changemakers to help communities and environments flourish. The Global Environments Network is our community that connects more than 650 people from over 80 countries of these change-makers who are operating on the frontlines for systemic change. We provide them with personalised, hands-on support and the network they need to create flourishing communities and environments around the world. For twenty years, we have been implementing long-term programmes that empower communities and regenerate biocultural diversity.

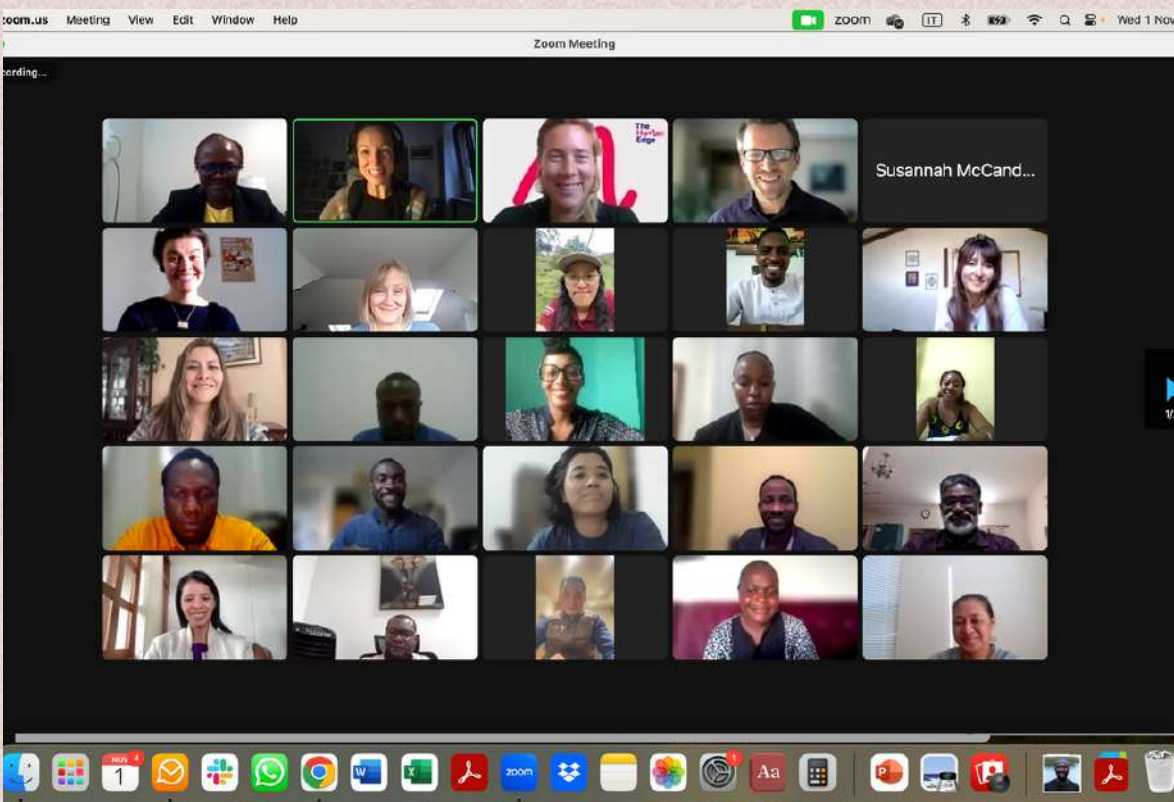




# ON-LINE PROG- RAMME

This year, at GESA 2024, our guiding themes will be renewal, resilience and hope.

The Fellowship will consist of 7 weekly online sessions (2hrs/week) starting on 17 June and ending on 29 July. The online sessions will include conversations (informal discussions), skills-based workshops, peer mentoring sessions, global journeys exploring participants' contexts and work and much more!



## 12-23 August

In August, we will meet in person for a 5-day opening retreat at [the Quadrangle](#) in Kent, followed by a field trip to [Knepp](#) and a 5-day academy hosted by the [Environmental Change Institute](#) at the University of Oxford.

Arrival: 12 August, departure: 23 August.

The programme will include field trips, ethnobotany breaks, embodiment sessions, seminars, skills sharing and practical workshops.

# 12 DAYS IN-PERSON ACADEMY





# INTERLINKED THEMES

## PEACE BUILDING



- Intangible cultural heritage and peace building
- Post capitalism philanthropy
- Decolonising conservation
- Rewilding
- Political Ecology
- Anti-racist work
- Art and activism
- Ethical journalism & effective campaigning
- Degrowth Theory
- Conflict resolution
- Creating communities of care

## PERSONAL RESILIENCE



- Role of imagination
- Spiritual activism
- Spiritual ecology/ Deep Adaptation
- Tending to ecological grief courageous conversations
- Personal Resilience toolkit
- Meaningful storytelling
- Creating communities of care

## NATURE CONNECTION



- Field trips
- Video-making workshops
- Yoga
- Meditation
- Skills exchange





# INTERLINKED THEMES

## CONSERVATION



- Biodiversity
- Ethnobiology
- Climate resilience and ecosystem restoration
- Food sovereignty;
  - local food economies
  - local product commercialization
- Community centred health sovereignty
- Alternative economics

## ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

- Communities and conservation for grassroots organisations
- Transformational leadership in challenging times
- Mentoring
- Community organising and engagement
- Transition movement
- Effective proposal writing
- Fundraising









# FEEES & BUR- SARIES



The full fee to participate in GESA is £2500 per person. This is a subsidised fee and covers accommodation, food, field trips, and all sessions in the online and in-person academy. Please note that participants will need to cover their travel expenses to and from the UK.

We do not want fees to be a barrier, so please reach out to us if you need any support. We operate a sliding fee scale, which means that if you are financially able to contribute more than the amount of the fee, you will help others with fewer means to access the event. GEN also offers support and guidance to crowdfund and fundraise for fees and travel costs. Please contact us if you are interested in crowdfunding or fundraising for your fee. We also have a limited number of bursaries that will be offered through an application process. You can find out more about bursaries [here](#). Please either make a deposit of £250 or submit a bursary application by 31 January .

## WHAT TO EXPECT

The online programme aims to accommodate a diversity of locations, time zones, and experiences. 17 June to 29 July 2024, we will meet on zoom every Monday from 4 - 6 PM GMT. In each session, we will deep dive into the broad topics within our themes, with a seminar, workshop, peer-mentoring, and space to bring your own personal project or initiative. In case you miss one, all sessions will be recorded and available for fellows.

The sessions will be 2 hours, with breaks. A timetable will be shared with you in advance.

The in-person academy will be an immersive residential retreat where all fellows will stay together in a retreat centre. There will be seminars, workshops, field trips, ethnobotany breaks, yoga, and nature connection.



# WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU?

Fellows will come from diverse geographies, cultures, and backgrounds and will be actively engaged in social and environmental challenges.

We welcome people from all walks of life, of all genders and sexual orientations, and encourage historically marginalised people, including those from global South communities, the diaspora,, and Indigenous Peoples to apply. We aim to work with an understanding of the structural causes of inequality, structural racism, and other systemic oppressions and therefore welcome fellows' experience and knowledge on these matters.

Every fellow is encouraged to bring a practical challenge or project to work on through the duration of the fellowship and will be supported by the cohort, as well as the core GDF team. We encourage people who commit to being active members of our community, and can share the knowledge within their own respective communities.



Fellows must be able to commit to 14 hours for the month and a half online duration of the fellowship (17 June - 29 July) and have access to a reliable internet connection.

The final session will be collectively self-organised by the fellows.

For our Eighth GESA, we adjusted our application process. We received over 700 applications for GDF's Conservation and Communities Fellowship (which launched on 1 November 2023). Many of the applicants were ideal GESA candidates, so we reserved a number of places for them. The remaining places were offered via a nomination and selection process.



**CONTACT US**

[sana@global-diversity.org](mailto:sana@global-diversity.org)

[www.global-diversity.org](http://www.global-diversity.org)