



Job Description

This form summarises the purpose of the job and lists its key tasks. It is not a definitive list of all the tasks to be undertaken as those can be varied from time to time at the discretion of the School, in consultation with the postholder.

Job title: Research Officer (Sustainability Economics)

Department/Centre/Institute: Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment
Accountable to: Professor Declan Conway

Job Summary

The ForestLAB is a newly launched joint programme between the African Conservation Development Group (ACDG), the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment (GRI) at the London School of Economics (LSE) and the University of Stirling. The programme is focused on the Grande Mayumba area in southern Gabon and comprises four key research areas:

- Conservation finance for sustainable development through monetising ecosystem services, led by [Dr Luca Taschini](#);
- Managing Natural Capital through measurement and management to support the preservation of total economic (as opposed to financial) value, led by [Prof Giles Atkinson](#);
- Conservation and Development to assess natural resource management from the perspective of local communities, led by [Prof Declan Conway](#) and [Dr Kate Gannon](#);
- Behaviours and Attitudes to understand perspectives towards nature conservation of local people in Grande Mayumba and more widely in Gabon and internationally, led by [Dr Ganga Shreedhar](#).

The 'Natural Capital' research stream will study natural resource management from the perspective of sustainability economics and related empirical frameworks such as wealth accounting and natural capital accounting. We will seek to measure natural capital stocks and link this to the wider macro-development picture and on-the-ground outcomes for people and communities. In doing so, this will enable not only a picture of the value of natural capital to emerge, but also perspectives on how that value is distributed across space and time.

The research will utilise quantitative approaches to spatial data analysis of, for example, ecosystem services as well as connecting these data to natural capital accounting frameworks. As such there are connections to other research streams of the ForestLAB at LSE as well as broader relevance to wealth accounting and natural capital accounting initiatives internationally.

Grand Mayumba is a remote location of Gabon and the position could involve periods of time working in the field (and possibly Libreville). As such, French language skills and a willingness to travel within this setting are desirable.

The main counterpart for the ForestLAB at LSE is the GRI, drawing on expertise in the economics and social sciences of sustainable development from across LSE, particularly the Departments of Geography and the Environment, Psychological and Behavioural Sciences and Methodology.

The programme is creating a vibrant and diverse community of researchers who share a passion for the natural environment clustered around the following core areas: conservation finance, sustainability economics, conservation and development and behavioural economics.



The programme has a key focus on the Grande Mayumba area in southern Gabon, set within a broader context of national and international research and debates on the above four topics. The ForestLAB is funded for an initial three-year period, with the prospect of further extensions.

The position is based within the GRI, at the LSE. GRI's interdisciplinary research examines environment and climate change, and aims to inform policy and academic debate. GRI has around 45 members of staff working on research and policy, and the communications and running of the Institute. GRI also includes PhD students, visiting researchers and research associates.

The ForestLAB also includes a team based at the University of Stirling led by Prof Kate Abernethy.

LSE is a world-class centre of learning, recognised for its concentration of teaching and research across the full range of the social, political and economic sciences. From its foundation in 1895, LSE has been a place where ideas are developed, analysed, evaluated and disseminated around the globe. LSE is consistently ranked in the top five global institutions for the social sciences. The 2014 Research Excellence Framework confirmed the School's position as a world-leading research university, with LSE ranked as the top university in the UK based on its production of 'world leading' (4*) research.

Duties and Responsibilities

The successful applicant will join GRI's Sustainable Development team led by Professor Declan Conway.

Range of Research Activities and Responsibilities

Specific responsibilities under the project will include:

- Conducting research projects or programmes either independently or in a team.
- Demonstrating the ability to analyse and research complex ideas, concepts or theories and applying appropriate methodologies including some of the following: wealth accounting; natural capital accounting; economics of ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Selecting and developing an area of original research, reflecting existing research experience and interests within the wider ForestLAB research agenda.
- Leading on writing and publishing academic papers and contributing to other outputs, such as Policy Briefs and Working Papers.
- Empirical, computational/ quantitative and spatial data analyses, including creation, management and development of databases and use of advanced statistical software.
- Interpreting and analysing patterns or trends in data and linking these with stakeholder contexts and perspectives.
- Some travel for fieldwork in Gabon (data collection, collaboration) and possibly other shorter meetings overseas.
- Leading on organising relevant events, such as meetings and small workshops.
- Participating, as appropriate, in internal and external meetings, brainstorm sessions, technical/policy workshops, information sessions, and conferences.
- Initiating and sustaining links with external bodies to foster collaboration.
- Presenting research papers at conferences.
- Organising meetings, seminars and workshops.
- Contributing creative solutions to research challenges.

Activities relating to administration and management and/or School service may include:

- Playing a constructive role in the life of the Institute/Department.
- Managing the activities of research assistants on a day-to-day basis.

All of the above subject to the contractual obligations imposed by the external funding agency and with the agreement of the grant-holder, Principal Investigator and/or Head of Centre.

**Flexibility**

To deliver services effectively, a degree of flexibility may be required in the duties performed in order to meet the exigencies of service. Job roles may also naturally develop over time and ongoing substantial changes to a role will be discussed between line managers and their staff, with job descriptions updated as and when appropriate.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

LSE is committed to building a diverse, equitable and truly inclusive university. All posts (and post holders) will seek to ensure diversity and inclusion, while opposing all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation, or social and economic background.

Ethics Code

Posts (and post holders) are assumed to have a responsibility to act in accordance with the School's Ethics Code and to promote the principles and values that the Code enshrines. The Ethics Code clearly states that the whole LSE community, including all staff, students, and governors of LSE, are expected to act in accordance with the principles which are set out in the Code. As such you are required to read and familiarise yourself with it. The School's Effective Behaviours Framework is designed to support this Code. It sets out examples for the six behaviours that all staff are expected to demonstrate, these can be found on the following link: [click here](#)

Environmental Sustainability

The post holder is required to minimise environmental impact in the performance of the role, and actively contribute to the delivery of the LSE Environmental Policy.