



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 (Conservation and Behaviour)

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 partly 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 'Behaviours and Attitudes' research stream will study the interplay between behaviours and nature conservation amongst communities in Grande Mayumba and Gabon more broadly (for e.g. rural, urban and migrant communities), and potential visitors to Grande Mayumba, both from within Gabon and internationally. With the goal of enhancing current conservation practices, the project will explore current conservation behaviours and attitudes amongst a range of target groups including local, national and migratory populations. We will do this through mapping psycho-social and behavioural drivers, such as individuals' awareness, values, preferences and behaviours, existing community structures such as social norms and networks, governance regimes, and the incentives and evolution of conservation in the region.

The successful candidate will first collaborate with the Conservation and Development and Behaviours and Attitudes research teams to co-design and implement a baseline survey in Grande Mayumba. This survey will examine individual and community behaviours and attitudes, along with socio-economic outcomes and stakeholder perspectives. The candidate will then build on this scoping phase of research to design and lead a focused piece of fieldwork-based research to support the Behaviours and Attitudes research stream. This may involve baseline and follow-up surveys, quantitative data analysis and qualitative methods to investigate the status of, and changes in, community structures, attitudes toward conservation and development, eco-tourism and visitor preferences. The research is likely to involve extended periods of time spent working in the field both in the Grande Mayumba region, and Libreville. As such, French language skills and a willingness to travel within this setting will be essential.



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, and Methodology.

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

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 four research areas listed above. 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.

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

Range of Research Activities and Responsibilities

- Developing an area of original research, reflecting on existing research experience and expertise within the ForestLAB research agenda.
- Analysing and researching complex ideas, concepts or theories and applying appropriate methodologies.
- Designing and overseeing the implementation of surveys and experiments both in the field (via in-person surveys) and online
- Conducting multiple extended (2-3 months duration) overseas field-work in French and English in Gabon and possibly other travel for shorter durations.
- Undertaking quantitative data analyses, including econometric methods
- Working in parallel with the Behaviour and Attitudes, and Conservation and Development teams within the ForestLAB project.
- Writing up research for publication in a variety of modes including peer reviewed journals, as well as other outputs such as policy briefs and working papers.
- 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 ForestLAB/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](#)