

## International Institute for Environment and Development

### Job Description

<b>Job title:</b>	<b>Senior Researcher</b>
<b>Responsible to:</b>	<b>Team Leader, Forests</b>
<b>Main contacts:</b>	<b>Colleagues within IIED, multidisciplinary collaborative research teams in a range of countries, international organisations, and public and private actors working in the field of forestry and land use</b>
<b>Main purpose:</b>	<b>To develop a programme of research and partnership building on improving the sustainability of forestry and land use, with a particular focus on forests and climate change</b>
<b>Contract:</b>	<b>Full time, permanent</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>UK (Central London or Edinburgh)</b>
<b>Salary:</b>	<b>Grade 3, £36,573 - £45,676 per annum (depending on experience) plus benefits</b>

### Overview

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) is a policy research organisation that provides expertise and leadership in researching and achieving sustainable development at local, national, regional and global levels. In alliance with others, we are helping to tackle the biggest issues of our times - from climate change and cities to the pressures on natural resources and the forces shaping global markets.

Under the IIED strategy 2009-2014, the Forests Team works towards an objective of "Improved justice and sustainability of forest goods and services achieved by flourishing forest communities able to meet changing needs and shape key policies and institutions". The Team is part of IIED's Natural Resources Group focused on the local control and management of natural resources and other ecosystem services and on the necessary changes needed in national and international government to make this happen. Small-scale producers and local economies play crucial roles in this process and are central to our work. Methods for bringing about change include collaborative research, learning groups and events, direct policy inputs, support for advocacy coalitions, and development of information materials, tools and tactics.

The Natural Resources Group and Forests Team is made up of the following staff:

Natural Resources Group  
James Mayers, Group Head

**Forests Team**  
  
James Mayers, NR Group Head  
Duncan Macqueen, Sen Researcher  
Vacant Senior Researcher post  
Cath Long, Senior Researcher  
Elaine Morrison, Researcher  
Nicole Armitage, Group Coordinator  
Marie Jaacky, Editorial/Programme Administrator

IIED Senior Fellow  
Steve Bass

Agriculture Team

Biodiversity Team

Land rights Team

Water Team

Energy Team

More information can be found on the Natural Resources Group web pages on the IIED website: <http://www.iied.org/NR/forestry/index.html>.

**Background to the post**

In addition to its ongoing work on forest partnerships, governance and enterprise, the Forests Team has a large and expanding portfolio of work addressing the role of forests as global public goods and in particular in mitigating or adapting to climate change, including a focus on reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation, (REDD). These include active engagement in facilitating multi-stakeholder consultation processes for national REDD strategies in leading countries such as Guyana and Mozambique and research and analysis on land tenure and REDD.

In particular, IIED has just started a new NORAD funded project with the University of Life Sciences in Norway and five partners in Africa, Asia and South America. The project aims to increase the understanding of how different options for REDD architecture at international, national and sub/national level will affect achievement of greenhouse gas emission reduction and the co-benefits of sustainable development and poverty reduction. The post holder would be expected initially to lead this project and be involved in other similar initiatives as the major part of their work. Over time it is likely that the post-holder will take on other projects under the Forests Team’s programme of work, particularly contributing to forest based climate strategies that support pro-poor forest governance, local livelihoods and sustainability.

**Key responsibilities**

1. To help ensure the delivery of the Forests Team’s objectives under the IIED strategy by supporting development and implementation of forest-based climate strategies with partners in several countries - including Uganda, Ghana, Tanzania, Vietnam and Brazil - and to undertake broader international work on ensuring that local forest rights, and practical governance and capacity development approaches are installed in REDD preparations and other forest-based climate strategies linked to the post-2012 UNFCCC agreements.

Immediate priorities under this sub-objective will include:

- coordinating inputs from colleagues in IIED and from short-term consultants;
- developing and supporting in-country multidisciplinary teams;
- working with these teams to develop their research, capacity-building and policy influence work;
- providing technical and organisational support and peer review;
- ensuring quality work is delivered on schedule;
- developing positive relations with the donor and, securing funding for future years with Forests Team colleagues.

This responsibility is estimated to account for about 60% of the post holder's time.

2. Assist the Team Leader and Group Head in fundraising opportunities to support a further body of research, analysis and capacity-strengthening so as to deliver the sub-objective on forest-based climate strategies. Typically this will involve close liaison with partners to identify priorities across countries and regions.

This responsibility is estimated to account for about 20% of the post holder's time, with a further 20% spread across the responsibilities listed below.

3. Join project teams to contribute to other areas of IIED cross-sectoral work, including teams in the Natural Resources Group (on Land, Water, Agriculture and Biodiversity), and more broadly with IIED's other Groups (especially Climate Change).
4. Write, edit and contribute to the publication of relevant research findings and share information with key stakeholders – converting findings into appropriate messages, and influencing policy processes and practice.
5. Organise and participate in seminars and workshops on issues of policy and practice, project development, dissemination of research findings and capacity strengthening.
6. Liaise with government, private agencies and NGOs on forest and land use issues, and help the Forests Team to develop appropriate responses. This will include responding to enquiries from the media and general public.
7. Prepare and manage annual work plans and budgets and report to donors in connection with all of the above.

*The job description defines the level of responsibility and area(s) of involvement of the post; the details of the duties may change over time and do not form part of the contract between IIED and the post holder.*

## **Person specification**

### **(a) Essential requirements**

- ❑ Post-graduate degree in a relevant discipline – for example forestry, agriculture, natural resources, economics or a relevant social science discipline.  
Consideration will be given to a candidate without a post-graduate qualification who can demonstrate outstanding relevant work experience.
- ❑ Solid relevant work experience with business, NGO, government or research organisations or relevant PhD plus some post-doctoral work experience
- ❑ Research or project management experience, including the management of budgets and people
- ❑ Awareness of international policy frameworks and agreements affecting forestry and land use and climate change
- ❑ Fluency in English
- ❑ Working knowledge of French, Spanish, Portuguese and/or other widely spoken language (with a preference for those who are fully fluent in one of these languages)
- ❑ Experience in fundraising for significant projects and liaising with funding agencies
- ❑ Excellent written and verbal communication skills to be able to influence, negotiate, and achieve impact through their work
- ❑ Ability to write and edit technical reports, and to write for less technical audiences
- ❑ Excellent interpersonal skills for dealing with staff and collaborators from a wide range of backgrounds and cultures
- ❑ Ability to work independently (manage own workload, prioritise and deliver to tight deadlines) and as part of a team (working collaboratively, seeking involvement by others to deliver quality work and taking responsibility for team delivery where appropriate)
- ❑ Willingness to travel as appropriate to project commitments
- ❑ Good working knowledge of Windows-based computing, including word-processing (Word), spreadsheets (Excel), database (Access)

### **(b) Desirable attributes:**

- Natural resources-related project management experience in Africa, Asia or Latin America
- Demonstrated skills in donor/client relations and promotion of findings
- Experience of policy-oriented research in environment and development issues
- Knowledge of climate change adaptation or mitigation issues related to forests, at local and international levels