



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Ethnozooology in the Tama Community Conservation Area (Ethiopia), Faculty of Environment



**Salary: Grade 7 (£39,105 – £46,485 p.a. depending on experience)**

**Reporting to: Dr Jennifer Hodbod**

**Reference: ENVEE1786**

**Fixed term for 2 years (1 February 2025 to 31 January 2027) to complete specific time limited work**

**Location: University of Leeds (with scope for hybrid working)**

**We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements**

# Research Fellow in Ethnozooology in the Tama Community Conservation Area (Ethiopia), School of Earth and Environment, Faculty of Environment

## Overview of the Role

**Do your research interests concern the conservation of biodiversity and its role in promoting resilient livelihoods for agro-pastoralists communities? Are you skilled in large carnivore ecology, biodiversity monitoring, and understanding human-wildlife interaction? Do you also have social science expertise to gather community perspectives on biodiversity conservation and traditional ecological knowledge? Have you experience working in interdisciplinary teams? Have you got experience on conservation efforts in Ethiopia?**

We are seeking a Research Fellow to fulfil a key role in a new grant-funded project “Biodiversity potential for resilient livelihoods in the Lower Omo, Ethiopia”. BioRes is new project studying biodiversity’s role in climate resilience for communities living in the newly-formed Tama Community Conservation Area (CCA), South Omo zone of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region (SNNPR), Ethiopia. Over the next three years, BioRes will explore plant and mammal biodiversity, the values of this biodiversity for local communities, and its role in resilient livelihoods, under both current and future climate conditions, to inform the CCA’s regulations.

As such this is an interdisciplinary and engaged research programme, working with academic partners from the UK and Ethiopia (Arba Minch University) through the Omo-Turkana Research Network (OTuRN), local NGO Cool Ground, the CCA management, and communities from the Mursi, Bodi, Kwegu, and Aari politico-territorial groups.

You will lead data collection in the Tama CCA regarding mammal biodiversity, exploring the role of biodiversity and traditional ecological knowledge on food security and resilience. Data collection is mostly qualitative and mixed methods – we will be using camera trap survey and participatory methods such as resource mapping, interviews and focus groups, and supplementing with some survey work, which will be led by AMU colleagues but with your support in protocol development. You will also work closely with a second Research Fellow focused on ethnobotany.



## Main duties and responsibilities

- Data collection in Ethiopia for approximately 12 weeks in Y1 (two six-week trips) and 10 days in Y2, then analysis of data:
  - Biodiversity (large mammal and bird) monitoring via camera trap and audiomoth distribution and collection;
  - Qualitative data collection to gather community perspectives and values related to large mammal and bird diversity – transect walks, focus groups, and/or interviews;
- Capacity development with local partners, i.e. with CCA scouts, to support their engagement in biodiversity monitoring;
- Bringing expertise in appropriate theories and methods to study mammalian and bird diversity and traditional ecological knowledge;
- Leading dissemination of the biodiversity survey results to communities, CCA management, and wider stakeholders in Ethiopia;
- Writing reports for the funder;
- Generating and pursuing independent and original research ideas in the appropriate subject area;
- Developing research objectives and proposals and contributing to setting the direction of the research project and team including preparing proposals for funding in collaboration with colleagues;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and to relate such evaluations appropriately to your own work;
- Preparing papers for publication in leading international journals and disseminating research results through other recognised forms of output (i.e. open-access datasets, briefing notes);
- Working both independently and also as part of a larger team of researchers, engaging in knowledge-transfer activities where appropriate and feasible;
- Maintaining your own continuing professional development and acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues as appropriate;
- Contributing to the training of both undergraduate and postgraduate students, including assisting with the supervision of projects in areas relevant to the project.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.



## Qualifications and skills

### Essential

- A PhD or near completion - i.e. the initial thesis needs to have been handed in at the point of application - in zoology, ecology, biology, or a closely allied discipline;
- A strong background in interdisciplinary research that combines both the ecological and social sciences in the field of biodiversity conservation, i.e. some combination of zoology, biodiversity, wildlife ecology, ornithology, wildlife monitoring and inventory, traditional ecological knowledge, or ecotourism;
- Experience in large mammal and bird biodiversity monitoring research design, data collection, and analysis;
- Experience in social science research design and data collection;
- Management of large datasets;
- Well-developed analytical skills, with use of common statistical packages such as R studio;
- Experience in agro-pastoralist regions;
- Experience in Ethiopian lowlands;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines, manage competing demands and work effectively under pressure without close support;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

### Desirable

- Basic GIS and remote sensing skills;
- A proven track record of peer-reviewed publications in high impact factor journals;
- A proven track record of dissemination of research to relevant stakeholders and funders
- Experience of contributing to the writing of technical reports;
- Experience of pursuing external funding to support research;
- Experience in organizing workshops;
- Knowledge of Amharic.



## Additional information

Please note: If you are not a British or Irish citizen, from 1 January 2021 you will require permission to work in the UK. This will normally be in the form of a visa but, if you are an EEA/Swiss citizen and resident in the UK before 31 December 2020, this may be your passport or status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Please note that this post may be suitable for sponsorship under the Skilled Worker visa route but first-time applicants might need to qualify for salary concessions. For more information please visit: [www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa](http://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa)

For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. For more information please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/global-talent>

Find out more about the [School of Earth and Environment](#)

Find out more about the [Faculty of Environment](#)

Find out more about our [Research and associated facilities](#)

Find out more about [Equality in the Faculty](#)

### Our University

As an international research-intensive university, we welcome students and staff from all walks of life and from across the world. We foster an inclusive environment where all can flourish and prosper, and we are proud of our strong commitment to student education. Within the Faculty of Environment we are dedicated to diversifying our community and we welcome the unique contributions that individuals can bring, and particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian, people who belong to a minority ethnic community; people who identify as LGBT+; and disabled people. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability.

The Faculty of Environment has received a prestigious Athena SWAN silver award from [Advance HE](#), the national body that promotes equality in the higher education sector. This award represents the combined efforts of all schools in the Faculty and shows the positive actions we have taken to ensure that our policies, processes and ethos all promote an equal and inclusive environment for work and study.



## **Working at Leeds**

We are a campus-based community and regular interaction with campus is an expectation of all roles in line with academic and service needs and the requirements of the role. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements. To find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area visit our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

## **Candidates with disabilities**

Information for candidates with disabilities, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at [foehr@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:foehr@leeds.ac.uk).

## **Criminal record information**

A criminal record check is not required for this position. However, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

Any offer of appointment will be in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

