



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Global Conservation, Faculty of Environment



Salary: Grade 7 (£41,064 – £48,822 p.a. depending on experience)

Reporting to: David Williams

Reference: ENVEE1839

Fixed term for 25 months to complete specific time limited work (anticipated start date 1 January 2026)

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

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements

Research Fellow in Global Conservation, School of Earth and Environment, Faculty of Environment

Overview of the Role

Are you a conservation or sustainability scientist interested in understanding which environmental initiatives have the potential to make a difference in the real world? Would you like to work in a world-leading sustainability institute and be part of two international, interdisciplinary collaborations? Do you have excellent quantitative skills and an appetite for developing your own analyses?

We are seeking an experienced Research Fellow to assess the impact of European conservation and sustainability initiatives on global biodiversity, carbon stocks, and people. You will be part of the UKRI-funded [JUSTLANZ](#) and EU-funded [SafeNet](#) projects, led by RSPB (UK) and LUKE (Finland) respectively.

JUSTLANZ aims to support a just transition to Net Zero in the UK livestock sector; SafeNet aims to support the conservation of biodiversity and carbon-rich forest ecosystems across Europe.

You will develop new methods to integrate quantitative and qualitative visions of the future and explore their local impacts, before integrating cutting-edge land use, trade, and economic data and models to estimate how changes in UK and EU land use could affect overseas land-use change, biodiversity, carbon stocks and socio-economic factors.

You will join the Life and Land research cluster in the [Sustainability Research Institute](#) – part of the [School of Earth and Environment](#) – and have close links to the [Biosphere Atmosphere Group](#) in the [Institute for Climate and Atmospheric Science](#), the [Ecology and Evolution Group](#) (School of Biology), the [RSPB](#), and the wider project networks.

Main duties and responsibilities

- Developing innovative methods to harmonise quantitative, top-down land-use scenarios for the UK with qualitative participatory visions of future land use;



- Evaluating differences between these scenarios and estimating their impacts on Net Zero ambitions, biodiversity, food production, and a range of socio-economic indicators;
- Developing methods based on international trade data to estimate how changes in UK and EU production of food and timber will affect land use overseas;
- Working both independently and as part of larger teams of researchers across both projects, engaging in knowledge-transfer activities where appropriate and feasible;
- Generating and pursuing independent and original research ideas in the area of land use, biodiversity, and carbon stocks;
- 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;
- 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 a quantitative discipline such as:
 - o Land-use science;
 - o Biodiversity or conservation science;



- o Environmental science;
- o Data science;
- o Other closely allied disciplines;
- o Other quantitative disciplines may be suitable if combined with a demonstrated interest in, and enthusiasm for, environmental research and interdisciplinary collaboration;
- Strong quantitative data analysis/data science skills;
- Experience analysing large datasets, such as spatial data, trade data, carbon stock and flux data, or biodiversity data;
- An interest in interdisciplinary sustainability research;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines, manage competing demands and work effectively under pressure without close support;
- A developing track record of peer reviewed publications in international journals;
- 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

- Experience in quantitative land-use change modelling;
- Experience in using trade data or modelling international trade;
- Demonstrated interdisciplinary experience;
- Experience of pursuing external funding to support research.

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



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 [Faculty of Environment](#).

Find out more about our [School](#).

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 and ethnically diverse people; people who identify as LGBT+; and people with disabilities. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability.

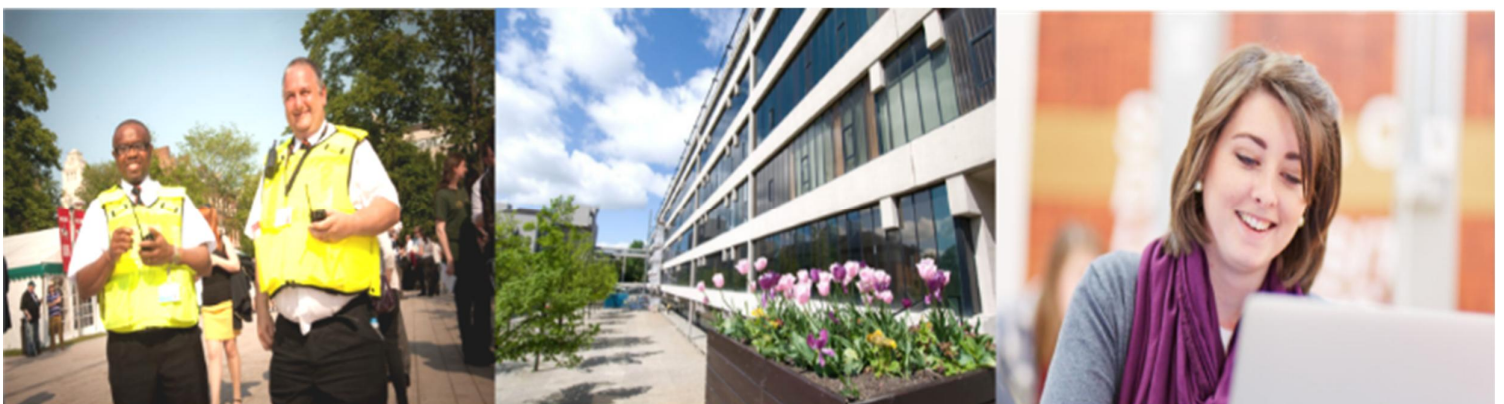
The Faculty of Environment has received a prestigious Athena SWAN silver award from [Advance HE](#), the national body that promotes equality in the higher education sector. This award represents the combined efforts of all schools in the Faculty and shows the positive actions we have taken to ensure 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.

Information for disabled candidates

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



Criminal record information

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

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.

