ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN EDINBURGH

Postdoctoral Researcher: Cultural Perspectives on Accelerated Adaptation and Ecological Restoration

Conservation Science

Job Description

Main Duties

- Lead and undertake research activities associated with the cultural perspectives of accelerated adaptation and ecological restoration, working collaboratively with scientists, communities, landowners, land managers, conservation organisations, public agencies and other stakeholders;
- Conduct reviews of landscape histories, cultural relationships with nature and future environmental scenarios relevant to selected species and landscapes;
- Contribute to stakeholder mapping and knowledge audits across selected species, systems and landscapes and maintain a stakeholder database to support inclusive and proportionate engagement activities;
- Co-design and implement inclusive, accessible and culturally sensitive qualitative and mixed-methods research to explore stakeholder values, perceptions and aspirations of restoration and accelerated adaptation, including interviews, focus groups, consultations and other participatory engagement activities;
- Analyse qualitative and mixed-methods datasets;
- Co-produce appropriate digital outputs such as landscape biographies and multi-layered representations of landscape change;
- Develop practical resources, guidance and consultation materials for ecosystem restoration practitioners and project partners;
- Contribute to the design, development and testing of an overall project online toolkit and associated resources;
- Contribute to papers and conference presentations, project reports, policy briefs and impact activities including wider knowledge exchange activities with technical partners;
- Support evaluation of toolkit resources and identify opportunities for wider adoption and impact beyond the lifetime of the project;
- Contribute positively to a collaborative and inclusive research culture, maintaining high standards of research integrity, ethics and data management.

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Person Specification

Essential skills, knowledge and qualifications

- Experience designing and delivering high-quality independent research
- Experience synthesising diverse forms of evidence
- Excellent written and verbal communication and ability to communicate complex ideas to diverse audiences
- Ability to work effectively both independently and within interdisciplinary teams
- Highly organised and able to manage multiple priorities
- Willingness to travel within the UK
- Knowledge of qualitative participatory or mixed-methods research and analysis
- Appreciation of ethical and inclusive approaches to stakeholder engagement
- Track record of publishing research outputs or evidence of publication potential
- PhD in human geography, environmental social science, environmental humanities, anthropology, sociology, environmental governance, sustainability studies, landscape studies or a related discipline

Desirable skills and knowledge

- Experience planning and facilitating workshops, interviews, focus groups and/or community engagement activities with diverse stakeholder groups
- Experience of participatory GIS, mapping methodologies or spatial approaches to social research
- Experience developing digital engagement or online visualisation tools
- Understanding of social, cultural and political dimensions of environmental decision-making