

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
PROGRAMME OFFICER, CLIMATE CHANGE, SPECIES PROGRAMME

Duty station: IUCN Species Programme, Cambridge, UK

Reporting to: Deputy Head, Species Programme

Expected start date: As soon as possible

Function group: P1

Work percentage: 100%

Duration: Initially 18 months

Background

There is growing evidence that climate change will become one of the major drivers of species extinction in the 21st Century. However, the nature of these impacts on wild species, their habitats and ultimately human livelihoods and wellbeing remain unclear. Species across the world will have differential vulnerability to the varied manifestations of climate change, and much will depend on their inherent biological and ecological characteristics.

IUCN's Species Survival Commission (SSC) has recently been awarded a grant to study the response of species to climate change building on the globally-recognized standards and analytical capacities of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. The goal of the project is to gather and analyze species data and guide the development of methods and tools for reducing the impacts of climate change on species. The outcome of the project should be significant publications contributing to scientific understanding, planning and policy responses.

Project objectives

The Programme Officer will be based within the IUCN Species Programme and will coordinate a team to achieve the following objectives of the project:

- Develop criteria for identifying species with traits that render them particularly vulnerable to climate change.
- Assess the probable impacts of climate change on selected groups of species.
- Map vulnerable species with predicted climate-change scenarios and compare to existing sets of priorities such as threatened species maps and other approaches.
- Work with team members to develop and validate simple modeling approaches to predict the impacts of climate change.
- Using this new information along with other relevant methods and products, develop science-based tools to guide conservation decision-makers, planners and practitioners in the identification of those species most vulnerable to the likely impacts of climate change and in the planning necessary for their conservation.
- In collaboration with the IUCN Species Information Service (SIS) Manager, enhance the capabilities of the SIS to record, monitor, analyze

and report on the effects of climate change.

- Produce a report featuring this analysis as part of the second Global Species Assessment (GSA2) to be released at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2008.
- Publish the results of this work in the scientific literature.

Specific duties

The Programme Officer will work primarily with IUCN Species Programme colleagues, Red List partner organizations and key SSC experts to ensure that the objectives of the project are achieved and the outputs delivered on time, within budget and to a high standard.

Project implementation

- Coordinate the process for selecting the species groups to be focused on.
- Working with experts and the team of collaborators, lead a process to develop criteria to identify and characterize, for selected taxonomic groups, traits that render them vulnerable to climate change.
- Organise a subsequent review process, including a scientific workshop during which these criteria will be peer-reviewed and tested on the selected taxonomic groups.
- Work with the SIS Manager to develop a module incorporating vulnerable trait variables to the existing database.
- Ensure that the team is equipped to gather the data on vulnerability traits for the selected taxonomic groups and, once collected, further ensure the consistency and quality of these data.
- Check that all the assessment information is of an appropriate standard for inclusion in the SIS.
- Coordinate the analysis of species that are most vulnerable, including the preparation of their distribution maps and overlays with climate change predictions.
- Develop these techniques into simple tools and models for future rapid assessments.
- Lead the preparation of a publication presenting the results of the study.

Project coordination

- Ensure timely and adequate reporting to donors.
- Ensure timely and adequate reporting to the project's Steering Committee.
- Organize technical and logistical preparations for workshops as required.
- Liaise closely with SSC Specialist Groups, climate change experts and partner organisations as required.
- Help respond to general queries concerning the focus of the project.
- Assist with other office administrative duties as and when required.

Requirements

- PhD or Master's degree and equivalent experience in a relevant field of environmental science.
- Professional experience related to climate change and its impact on

species and broader biodiversity concerns.

- Demonstrated record of project management.
- Initiative and an ability to work independently and as part of a team, including with volunteer experts and colleagues across the world.
- Proficiency with computer software applications, including word processing, Geographical Information System (GIS) analysis, databases, spreadsheets and the internet.
- Excellent written and spoken English. A good understanding of Spanish and/or French would be an advantage.
- A personal commitment to species conservation.

Applications

Applicants who meet the qualification requirements are requested to submit at the latest by 16 February 2007 their curriculum vitae and a supporting letter of motivation in English, and the names and contact details of three referees (including one recent employer) to:

Human Resources Officer

The World Conservation Union (IUCN), Rue Mauverney 28, 1196 Gland, Switzerland

Fax: +41 22 999 0339

E-mail: jobapplications@iucn.org

Applications by email are preferred. They should be sent only to jobapplications@iucn.org