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**Post Doctoral Research Assistant**

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| **Job grade** | **PDRA** | **Reports to** | **Professor** |
| **Directorate** | **Science** | **Function** | **Scientist** |
| **Contract** | **Fixed term contract** | **Location** | **Regent’s Park** |

**Responsibility for resources**

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| **Direct line reports** | **Staff** | **Responsibility for other resources** | **N/A** |
| **Financial resources** | **No budget responsibility** |

**Our vision and mission**

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is an international conservation charity, driven by science, working to restore wildlife in the UK and around the world. Our vision is a world where wildlife thrives and every role, every person in every corner of ZSL has one thing in common – we are all conservationists, and passionate about restoring wildlife.

**Purpose of the role**

The purpose of this role is to advance science and the conservation of ecosystems in the Western Congo Basin, while supporting the delivery of the ZSL-led Biodiversity Landscape Fund project funded by the UK Government. The holder of this role is expected to produce outcomes that will contribute to the research reputation of IOZ (Institute of Zoology) and that will support the definition and implementation of ZSL’s conservation strategies.

**Key responsibilities**

* To gather and analyse quantitative and qualitative data pertinent to climate change vulnerability; changes in ecosystem distribution, structure and composition; and changes in the distribution of threats to ecosystems. Duties to include: analysis and interpretation of research data; use of appropriate research techniques and methods.
* To regularly submit articles to high impact peer-reviewed scientific journals, and contribute to the preparation of research proposals and applications to external bodies.
* To maintain regular communication and engagement with partners on the Biodiversity Landscape Fund project.
* To develop and initiate collaborative working internally and externally, duties to include: the building of internal contacts and participation in internal networks; collaboration with colleagues on joint activities as required; participation in and identification of external networks in order to share information and identify potential opportunities for collaboration; attendance at and contribution to relevant meetings.
* To contribute to the wider dissemination of work as part of the impact agenda, such as writing online pieces, collaborating with the press office on the production of press releases and participating in internal and external science outreach activities

The duties and responsibilities described are not a comprehensive list and additional tasks may be assigned from time to time that are in line with the level of the role.

**Person Specification**

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| Experience |

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| Essential | * PhD in ecology/conservation/geography * Proven track record in publishing high quality, peer reviewed research in ecology/conservation science * Knowledge in conservation biology, satellite remote sensing, climate change ecology and science-to-policy translation * Experience with artificial intelligence, particularly machine learning and neural networks |
| Desirable | * Experience with vulnerability frameworks and risk assessments * An appreciation of the current challenges associated with the conservation of biodiversity in Western Congo Basin |

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| Knowledge and skills |

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| Essential | * Statistical modelling, programming and satellite remote sensing data analysis skills * Ability to manage competing priorities and adapt research protocols in the face of unexpected challenges |
| Desirable | * Ability to communicate confidently and clearly with a wide range of people, including; effective report writing, presentation, and training skills. |

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| Additional requirements |

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| Essential | * Strong commitment to creating a culture that lives ZSL values and commitment to safeguarding, equality and diversity (collaborative, inspiring, inclusive, innovative, impactful and ethical) * To comply with and promote Health and Safety policies and procedures |