

PhD placement/PIPS: Mapping and analysis of challenges and opportunities for climate / biodiversity / livelihoods nexus in Sub-Saharan Africa

Placement supervisor:

Dr Elizabeth Warham e.warham@kew.org

Placement team/department:

Global Centre on Biodiversity for Climate

Placement overview and objectives:

Working with our team on a PhD placement project would give you an insight into policy and evidence needs for biodiversity conservation in sub-Saharan Africa.

The research and analysis project will focus on the challenges, perspectives and opportunities for addressing the climate, biodiversity and livelihood nexus in sub-Saharan Africa. The role will provide the opportunity to collect ideas and access evidence through workshops convened with key policy, scientific and third sector organisations in the region and to work with Kew scientists.

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, is the Strategic Science Lead for the Global Centre on Biodiversity for Climate (GCBC) www.gcbc.org.uk, a Defra Overseas Development Assistance Grant Programme funded with International Climate Finance. The GCBC aims to support developing countries to shape decision-making and develop policies that better, value, protect, restore and sustainably manage biodiversity in ways that tackle climate change resilience and poverty alleviation. By working in partnership with scientists, academics, and research institutions in the Global South and North, the programme seeks to support delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Global Biodiversity Framework and Paris Agreement, to help countries achieve a nature-positive future.

Tasks to be undertaken/possible projects:

Research activities and analysis will include but are not restricted to:

- developing a database of individual ODA eligible country policies to identify similarities and dissimilarities in priorities;
- mapping areas of investment / funded research against policy priorities to identify gaps in evidence and funding; and
- delivery of a collaborative report synthesising the evidence collected.

Required skills and experience:

- An interest in biodiversity and plant conservation, and collection of evidence to inform policy
- IT skills, including databasing and statistical analysis
- Communication skills

Skills and areas of knowledge to be developed through the placement:

- Teamwork
- Project management
- Working with international partners

Location of work:

Kew, Richmond – Hybrid work is possible

Length of placement:

3 months

Provisional start date:

7 December 2024 – 1 January 2025

Deadline for applications:

21 November 2024