

A Rocha's African Forest Programme Coordinator

Job Description



Context

Tropical forests across Africa are under relentless pressure – a problem we witness all too frequently in our daily conservation work. Yet we know conservation is about hope: deforestation can be halted and aspirations for sustainable development can be attained. A Rocha Ghana, for example, is leading an impressive international campaign to save the Atewa forest, while A Rocha Kenya is working with communities to preserve the important coastal forests of Kenya.

To date, A Rocha's forest conservation projects have mainly been locally-focused, working with our partners to conserve a particular forest in a particular landscape. But while grounding ourselves in a landscape and doing locally-relevant conservation will always be core to how we work, we believe we can do more and add greater value if we bring our work, expertise and networks together. In response, we have developed a forest programme which combines the efforts of four projects with five A Rocha organizations to deliver the following framework.

It is to support this delivery that we are seeking a person with an active Christian faith and experience in forest conservation to join us as programme coordinator (PC).

Programme Objective			
<p>This programme builds on our commitment, experience, and achievements to date in each country and captures our ambitions for the next 4 years.</p> <p>Through locally-led and regionally connected environmental initiatives, five A Rocha organisations want to protect the nature-rich forests of Atewa in Ghana, Kwande in Nigeria, West Bugwe in Uganda and Dakatcha in Kenya.</p>			
Approach			
<p>Our Christian identity often differentiates us from many other conservation organizations. We believe that it is a completely normal part of the Christian life to care for the environment. In practice, this has allowed us to develop approaches, alongside conventional practices, to make advances where more secular organizations have not, working with churches and other faith groups to conserve the environment for example. Yet importantly, in all situations, across all our projects, we are respectful of others and their worldviews and work daily with people of all faiths and none.</p> <p>We are focused on the difference we want to see happen – healthy forests, happy people – which will only be achieved thanks to the establishment of long-term relationships with concerned constituents. Our daily conservation work draws on several core disciplines including ecology, forestry, agriculture, education, and sustainable economic development.</p>			
Core Interventions			
Constituency Building <p>Varied and targeted activities will continue to help build meaningful relationships around a vision for these forests.</p>	Practical forest & species conservation & research <p>Our interventions aim to directly improve the conservation status of the forest habitats and their wildlife through research, monitoring, habitat protection and restoration.</p>	Environmentally Sustainable Development and Education <p>We aim to find ways to preserve the four landscapes which also meet local aspirations for development and income generation.</p>	Regional cooperation <p>We want to work together and with partners to maximise our combined expertise for the benefit of these four forests, their inhabitants.</p>
Outcomes			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four landscapes across the African continent benefit from our collaborative approach with 50,000 ha of biodiversity-rich forest across Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, and Uganda better valued, understood, connected, and cared for. 3,500 local people supported in sustainable development initiatives. Our achievements on the ground link-up with the international movement for sustainability. 			

Each in-country project is led by the national member of the A Rocha network and supported by A Rocha International. Through this programme, we wish to continue our long-standing commitment to the people and nature of Atewa in Ghana and Dakatcha in Kenya while developing further the new initiatives started in the too often overlooked forests of Kwande-Obanliku in Nigeria and West Bugwe in Uganda.

Main responsibilities and duties

We are seeking an experienced individual in practical forest conservation and programme management to help us achieve our ambitions.

The post-holder will operate at a programme and project level with four broad responsibilities – Programme Management, Technical Support, Fundraising and Communication.

Programme Management

At programme level, the post holder will offer leadership and coordination to the programme. Together, the five A Rocha organisations want to learn, share and support each other. To help with this, the PC will facilitate our knowledge exchange and strengthen our knowledge management.

The programme objectives and achievements are overseen by a steering group which the programme coordinator will be part of and contribute to.

The post-holder will receive the full support of the five organisations committed to the programme's outcomes. She or he will work in an exciting, supportive, and caring environment.

Technical Support

Our programme seeks socially and ecologically positive outcomes and while the approaches in each landscape will differ according to local needs and situations, the coordinator will actively support new and established interventions under this programme drawing on their own professional expertise or of that of A Rocha's network and partners.

She or he will support the production of high-quality technical reports.

At this stage, we envisage that greater support will be directed towards further establishing our newer projects in Uganda and Nigeria.

Other responsibilities

In partnership, the PC will actively seek and support fundraising initiatives for our conservation work. She or he will act as a focal point for our regional forest conservation fundraising efforts.

In collaboration with the network partners, the PC will represent the network and the programme externally. She or he will prepare and deliver presentations on A Rocha's forest conservation work at key forums.

Any other duties in-line with the role as delegated by the Steering community and line manager.

Personal specification

Motivation

- A follower of Jesus who can think and act non-denominationally and is passionate about caring for God's creation and able to subscribe to A Rocha's Basis of Faith.

Qualifications & Experience

- Proven track record of delivering forest conservation projects in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- An MSc or PhD in a relevant subject to this programme or equivalent (e.g. ecology, forestry, sustainable development; livelihoods).
- Experience in project design, monitoring, evaluation, and project management.

Knowledge

- A good and grounded understanding of development and biodiversity conservation issues across Africa with a particular expertise in an economic, social or environmental science.

Skills & Abilities

- Excellent oral and written communication.
- Project management and leadership.
- Proven capacity of building skills within teams.
- Proven ability to work effectively under their own initiative and as part of a team.
- Ability to work in support of A Rocha's 5 Core Commitments.

Other requirements

- Able to travel frequently across the region and internationally.
- Legally able to reside and work in either Kenya/Uganda/ Nigeria or Ghana.

Length of contract and salary

This is a 3-year position with a competitive national salary.

Deadline for applying

Please send your CV alongside a cover letter explaining your motivations and capacity to do this job to Judith Ochieng - judith.ochieng@arocha.org – 31st December 2021.

We look forward to hearing from you.