

Creating a better future in a just and sustainable world – together!

The **Wyss Academy for Nature** at the University of Bern brings together scientists, business leaders, policymakers, and communities to co-design innovative solutions to pressing problems such as climate change, biodiversity loss, land use change, and rising inequality. Our vision is to achieve a just and sustainable world in which nature conservation and human wellbeing reinforce each other. To this end, our evolving institution – comprising four Regional Stewardship Hubs, in Europe, South America, East Africa and Southeast Asia – connects innovative and creative minds to research, develop, implement, and empower technical, social, economic, institutional, and policy innovations at the interface of nature and people.

The Transformational Research Team within the Wyss Academy for Nature is inviting your application for a:

Postdoctoral Position “Transdisciplinary processes for equitable biodiversity governance”

Start date: At earliest convenience

Contract: 3 years (1.4.23-31.3.2026)

Location: Kochergasse 4, Bern, Switzerland and partially abroad

Apply by: 24 March 2023

Interviews: First interviews are planned for 11 and 14 April 2023

Your mission

The successful applicant contributes to the third-party funded (EU Biodiversa+ vis SNSF) “Just Conservation: Bridging values for equitable biodiversity governance (BridgingVALUES)” with their work. The project focuses on the key EU-level stakeholders’ interests, and power relations, that shape conservation discourses, and how distal policy flows are locally manifested given contextual factors in EU and Global South priority landscapes. It investigates on-the-ground impacts of distal conservation flows in terms of people’s well-being, biodiversity, and ecosystem service (BES) values, and equity across different social groups. And lastly, it inquires what alternative desirable futures for stakeholders are and how these are mediated by the diversity of BES values, social equity, and distal flows.

They will be in charge of 1) implementing Work Package 1 of the international consortium under the lead of the WA, on co-designing and facilitating the transdisciplinary approach for the overall project and 2) conduct accompanying research on building coalitions for change and applying the wayfinder approach different landscapes. The geographical focus is global, with case studies in Laos, Brazil, South Africa, Sweden, Germany, and Spain.

Concrete tasks:

- Co-design and plan the transdisciplinary approach to be applied in the project overall
- Provide guidance to country teams in Brazil, South Africa, Germany, Sweden, Spain, and Laos in implementing the approach, including co-facilitating workshops
- Develop and conduct independent research on various aspects of transdisciplinarity in the project and synthesis of work package and case study research results, in collaboration with Co-PIs and team members
- Co-supervising a PhD student who will conduct research on the Laos case study
- Supporting the Work Package 1 leader (Prof. Julie Zähringer) with project coordination and management tasks

Your profile

We are seeking a creative and communicative team player working in transdisciplinary research processes. You have experience in stakeholder engagement and participatory social science, as well as facilitation methods – and you are driven to explore and develop new ways of transforming knowledge into action that benefits both people and nature and supports systems transformation. You are experienced with the topics of evaluating protected area impacts with regards to telecoupling, ecosystem services, biodiversity and ecosystem values, and wellbeing and think outside the box to generate, source, support and promote innovative ideas, which nature conservation and human well-being are mutually benefitting from. Not only are you a culturally sensitive personality and used to work and deliver under tight deadlines but also well structured and still able to adapt to a dynamic and changing environment.

Concrete qualifications:

- PhD relevant to the relationship between nature and people (e.g. Geography, Sustainable Development, Environmental Science, Conservation Science);
- Excellent communication skills and fluency in English both written and oral, knowledge of German and Spanish are an asset.

We offer

- The chance to be part of an agile organization that develops, tests, and scales up innovative solutions to the most urgent problems of our times, exploring new modes of collaboration
- A stimulating intercultural, international, multidisciplinary working environment with a modern culture of collaboration across four world regions
- Employment conditions and remuneration in accordance with the standards of the University of Bern, Switzerland
- Flexible working hours and space for innovative approaches and creative thinking

For more information about this position, please write to Prof. Julie Zähringer at hr@wyssacademy.org.

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to receiving your application (motivation letter, CV, employment and education references) via the [online portal](#).

The Wyss Academy for Nature values diversity and equal opportunity. We welcome all applications from qualified individuals who meet the required criteria. Dossiers submitted through employment agencies will not be considered.