

The Wyss Academy for Nature, a Swiss foundation, co-designs and evaluates innovative development pathways and conservation approaches. Our initiatives, rooted in scientific knowledge, stakeholder engagement, and the implementation of creative solutions, unfold within four regional stewardship hubs. These hubs are strategically positioned in East Africa (Kenya), South America (Peru), Southeast Asia (Laos), and Europe (Switzerland). Our vision is to achieve a just and sustainable world in which nature conservation and human wellbeing reinforce each other. We are a place of innovation, where research, business, policymakers, and communities come together to co-design innovative solutions to pressing, interconnected problems such as climate change, biodiversity loss, land use change, and rising inequality.

To advance the transformative research and innovation work of the Regional Stewardship Hub East Africa, we are seeking to hire a **Research Coordinator (100%)** based in the Wyss Academy for Nature office in Nanyuki, Kenya.

Start date: at earliest convenience

Location: Wyss Academy for Nature Office in Nanyuki, Kenya

Apply by: 28 June 2024

Contract terms: 100%

About the role

The selected candidate will coordinate and support transformative research activities within Hub East Africa, contribute to different interdisciplinary (ID) research projects implemented by the Wyss Academy for Nature staff and partners, and establish collaborative links with other research institutions both locally and internationally.

Our ideal candidate is a great team player with a strong desire to contribute to improving the relationship between nature and people. You are an authentic, passionate and dynamic personality driven to support the East Africa Hub of the Wyss Academy for Nature. You have excellent communication skills, are comfortable working independently in a dynamic environment, and have an open, creative, curious, and culturally sensitive personality.

Responsibilities

Regional Research Coordination

- Coordinate transformative research activities of the different projects within the East Africa Hub, ensuring alignment with the Hub's incubator development, systemic approach and overall organizational goals and objectives through co-design processes.
- Facilitate collaboration and knowledge-sharing among research teams within the Hub, between the Hub and other Wyss Academy research teams, and with external partners.
- Monitor project timelines, milestones, and deliverables to ensure timely completion of research activities.

Supervision

- Support the Wyss Academy's Research Teams with the supervision, guidance and mentoring of Post-doctoral researchers, PhD and MSc students, as well as other researchers based in and outside the Hub who contribute to its work.
- Ensure quality control and adherence to research protocols and ethical standards within all research undertaken at, and for, the Hub.
- Encourage and promote the development of a collaborative and productive working environment within the research team.

Networking and Collaboration

- Establish and maintain strong links with other research institutions, universities, and organizations in Kenya and internationally.
- Identify opportunities for collaboration, joint transformative research projects, and knowledge exchange initiatives with partners and third parties.
- Upon request, represent the Wyss Academy East Africa Hub at conferences, workshops, and other relevant events to promote research collaboration and networking.
- Identify emerging issues and trends in environmental conservation and sustainable development, and develop transformative research strategies to address them.

Qualifications

- A PhD degree with at least 5 years' work experience in at least one of the following areas; biodiversity conservation, climate change, environmental governance, applied political economy, land systems.
- Experience working in inter- and transdisciplinary research projects.
- Proven competencies in coordinating inter- and transdisciplinary research projects.
- Strong leadership and supervision skills, with experience in mentoring and managing disciplinary and culturally diverse research teams.
- Experience in applied research for development/conservation with a strong background in both quantitative and qualitative research methods related to relevant fields such as ecology, and social-economic and human wellbeing.
- Excellent networking and communication skills, with proven ability to build and maintain relationships with diverse stakeholders.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, and willing to work with, and learn from, people of diverse backgrounds and cultures across all levels of hierarchy.
- Willingness to learn and unlearn.
- Proven proactive problem-solving skills.
- Demonstrated competencies to work both independently and collaboratively in a diverse team environment across disciplines.
- Experience working in Kenya.
- Fluent in Kiswahili and English, both written and oral.

Desired skills and qualities

- Experience working in northern Kenya (highly desired).
- Experience with field-based methods in biodiversity conservation, climate change, environmental governance, applied political economy or land systems.
- Specific methodological skills (e.g. R/Python/Stata, GIS, machine learning) are an asset.
- Experience in Monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) more generally is an asset.
- Experience working with (social) enterprises and/ or large policy interventions.

We offer

- The chance to be part of an organization that develops, tests, and scales up innovative solutions to the most urgent problems of our times
- An intercultural, multidisciplinary, and dynamic working environment
- Open-ended local employment by a Swiss Foundation
- Flexible working hours

For more information about this position, please write to 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.