

# Job Opening

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.

At each Regional Stewardship Hub, we work to develop several “solutionscapes” – landscapes where researchers and other knowledge holders engage with multiple stakeholders to co-design innovative pilots. The pilots serve to test solutions capable of enabling systemic change, individually and especially through their interplay. By combining knowledge, engagement, and testing of innovative ideas in the field, we aim to develop new ways and mechanisms to address the “wicked” sustainability problems we face today.

The Southeast Asia Regional Stewardship Hub is in an early stage of development and is currently hosted by the Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC), at RECOFTC’s main office at Kasetsart University in Bangkok, Thailand. An initial set of activities has been launched in Laos, in partnership with the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) of the University of Bern, as well as in Thailand, together with RECOFTC.

To support the further development of the Southeast Asia Regional Stewardship Hub, we are seeking to fill the following position:

## **Regional Senior Advisor – Southeast Asia Regional Stewardship Hub (100%)**

**Starting:** 1 May 2023, or as per agreement

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand, with frequent regional and some intercontinental travels

**Employer:** Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern, Switzerland; Hub hosted by the Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC), Bangkok, Thailand

**Apply by:** 31 March 2023

**We are seeking** a dynamic and innovative personality working at the interface of science and development. You love to explore and develop new ways of transforming knowledge into action that benefits both people and nature and supports systemic transformation. Your ability to think outside the box and to generate, source, support, and promote innovative ideas for making nature conservation and human wellbeing mutually beneficial enables you to facilitate the establishment and development of a vibrant Southeast Asia Regional Stewardship Hub and its integration into the Wyss Academy. You are not only an exceptional project developer and facilitator but also enjoy working and delivering under tight deadlines and adapting to a dynamic and changing environment.

### **Your tasks:**

- Develop, manage, and monitor an innovative portfolio of pilot projects in Southeast Asia, in which the interplay among the different pilot activities contributes to systemic change in current and future Wyss Academy solutionscapes, beyond the specific anticipated impact of each individual pilot
- Establish and manage broad engagement with diverse actors within the solutionscape and beyond, to create a coalition of change and facilitate scaling of successful pilots
- Build and manage a small team at the Southeast Asia Hub and collaborate closely with existing key partners such as the CDE office in Vientiane, Laos, and RECOFTC as the regional host organization in Thailand
- Develop new partnerships with leading R4D organizations and think tanks in Southeast Asia and facilitate South–South and South–North dialogue

- Develop and implement adaptive management and M&E structures
- Build close relationships with the Wyss Academy's Research and Innovation Teams to inspire and contribute to the Wyss Academy's research agenda and ensure the relevance of knowledge production for the work in the Hub on all levels from field pilots to landscape level as well as policy and development debates
- Liaise proactively with the Wyss Academy leadership team and its functional units in Bern to ensure alignment between field-level operations and the overall strategic framework, on the one hand, and ground-truthing of implementation strategies, procedures, and prioritization on the other
- Help to define the strategic orientation of the Wyss Academy as a member of its Strategy Management Committee, where you will act as a representative of the Southeast Asia Hub
- Liaise with the three other Regional Stewardship Hubs to facilitate cross-regional exchange and learning
- Participate, as needed, in RECOFTC institutional learning events, and coordinate learnings between the Wyss Academy Southeast Asia Hub and the RECOFTC regional program.

### **Your qualifications:**

- University degree (Master's or PhD) or equivalent qualification relevant to the relationship between nature and people (e.g. Geography, Sustainability Science, Social Entrepreneurship)
- Proven experience in applying trans- and interdisciplinary approaches to tackle complex problems related to sustainable development, nature conservation, or natural resource management from a systemic perspective
- A track record of at least 7 years on designing and managing innovative knowledge-driven project activities piloting field-level interventions to achieve concrete impacts on nature and people
- Long-term field and management experience (7 years or more) in research and/or development or in the private sector in mainland Southeast Asia (specifically, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Myanmar)
- Experience in leading and managing collaborative initiatives involving actors from different sectors (academic, public, private), with different cultural backgrounds, and speaking different languages
- Experience working on similar schemes of innovative knowledge co-production; real-world labs are an advantage
- An entrepreneurial mindset and experience in management and communication of innovation and knowledge are a strong advantage
- Excellent communication skills and fluency in English (oral and written), knowledge of a language of the Mekong Region (e.g. Thai, Lao) an advantage

### **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 between science, policy, and practice
- A stimulating intercultural, international, multidisciplinary environment with a modern culture of collaboration across four world regions
- The opportunity to co-shape the future of the Wyss Academy by supporting establishment of a vibrant Southeast Asia Hub and creating added value across four continents in collaboration with the other Regional Hubs
- Lean reporting structures; accountability to Heads of Wyss Academy Regional Stewardship Hubs in Switzerland
- Attractive employment conditions and benefit package

We look forward to receiving your application via our [online portal](#), no later than 31 March 2023. For additional information, please contact [hr@wyssacademy.org](mailto:hr@wyssacademy.org).

Applications must be written in English and include your CV, contact details of two professional references, and a cover letter explaining your personal vision on the subject matter and indicating your relevant competences.

*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.*