



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, interconnected 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 constantly evolving institution – comprising four regional 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. With the aim to understand the interconnection between water, climate, land use change, socio-economic parameters, and ecosystem services of the Ewaso Ng'iro River North Basin, the Research and Innovation Team *Integrative Biodiversity Conservation Science* of the Wyss Academy for Nature (WA) in collaboration with the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI), University of Nairobi, is recruiting a

Research Scientist in Biodiversity Ecosystem Modelling in Land and Water Resources

Start Date: 1 December 2024 or by agreement

Contract: open-ended contract at the Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern

Location: Wyss Academy for Nature office in Nanyuki, Kenya

Apply by: Tuesday, 17 September 2024

Your Mission

The successful candidate will apply their spatial analysis experience, remote sensing techniques, citizen science and data analysis skills to model biodiversity and ecosystem responses to climate change and other human-induced stressors in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems within an interdisciplinary project in climate and biodiversity aiming at addressing water scarcity and biodiversity threats in the Ewaso Ng'iro North basin in Kenya. The scientist will adopt and apply transformative and transdisciplinary research approaches giving special attention to selected IUCN Red List species, including endemic and threatened species, flagship species, and umbrella species.

This is an exciting opportunity that bridges the gap between theory and practice, ultimately making meaningful contributions to the field.

Main Tasks

- Assess the state of biodiversity in the Ewaso Ng'iro River North Basin through literature review and data collection.
- Develop scenarios for biodiversity responses to climate change and other stressors, collaborating with the Climate Scenarios Research Scientist.
- Strengthen long-term biodiversity monitoring and reporting through robust data collection methods.
- Organize and deliver seminars at the Wangari Maathai Institute (WMI), University of Nairobi.
- Supervise PhD, MSc, or intern students as needed.
- Support scientific collaborations with local partners (UoN, National Museums of Kenya, Community Conservation groups, SEKU, CETRAD).

Your Profile

The candidate we are looking for is creative, an excellent team player with a strong interest in conducting interdisciplinary and applied research that benefits both people and nature and supports systems transformation. You have an in-depth understanding of the interconnection of biodiversity across different ecosystems (terrestrial and aquatic) and of the relations between climate change and ecological processes and spatial analysis (land use and land cover changes), water availability and quality (hydrological processes and parameters), and socio-economic dynamics. You feel comfortable working independently in a dynamic, flexible and nimble working environment, and have an open, creative, curious and culturally sensitive personality. Finally, you feel aligned with the organization values and are highly motivated to contribute to the Wyss Academy for Nature's mission.

Qualifications

- Doctorate in Natural Resource Management, Conservation, Environmental Science, Geography, Biology, Conservation Biology, and/or related fields
- Excellent understanding of biodiversity models especially species distribution models and habitat prioritization
- Experience in spatial analysis and remote sensing techniques
- Good knowledge of data analysis using statistical software (knowledge in R is preferred) and programming using Python is a plus.
- Experience in field and landscape level biodiversity monitoring approaches and methods, including citizen science
- Ability to work with the local community and a good understanding and willingness to learn of local cultural practice.
- Ability to disseminate research findings by presenting results at conferences, participating in workshops
- Working experience in South-North research partnerships.
- Excellent communication skills and fluency in English oral and written; communication skills in Kiswahili is a plus.

We Offer

- A position based in Nanyuki, Kenya, employed by the local branch office
- 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.
- Flexible working hours and space for innovative approaches and creative thinking.
- Different regions of intervention/action: To this end, our evolving institution – comprising four Regional Stewardship Hubs, in Europe, South America, East Africa and Southeast Asia – connects creative minds to jointly research, develop, implement, and empower technical, social, economic, institutional, and policy innovations at the interface of nature and people.

Applications

Applications must be written in English and include the following elements:

- A cover letter of no more than two pages that clearly describes your interest in the research area, the position, and your motivation to work with the research teams at the Wyss Academy for Nature and Wangari Maathai Institute
- A current curriculum vitae, including all relevant experience for this position and your publication record
- Contact details of two professional referees

We are looking forward to receiving your application via our online portal linked on our [career webpage](#) until **17 September 2024**.

For more information about this vacancy, please write to our selection team at hr@wyssacademy.org.

The Wyss Academy for Nature and Wangari Maathai Institute values diversity and equal opportunity. We welcome all applications from qualified individuals who meet the required criteria. Women are strongly encouraged to apply. Dossiers submitted through employment agencies will not be considered.