



Researcher, Forest and Farm Finance

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| Function | Nature and People |
| Reports to | Team Leader, COR Task Team |
| Responsible for | Researchers up to 2 |
| Key contacts and relationships | Internal: Researchers and other team colleagues, Communications Group, Strategy and Learning Group, Finance Group, Business Development colleagues and other Professional services. External: Consultants, partners, donors, members of the public |
| Contract type | Fixed Term – 12 months |
| DBS Check required | Yes - Basic |
| Hours per week required | Full time – 35 hours per week |
| Location | UK - Hybrid with access to London or Edinburgh offices |
| Grade and salary | Grade 4 - £44,892 -£55,773 per annum + benefits |

About us

IIED is an international policy and research organisation working to build a fairer, more sustainable world, in partnership with others across the globe. **We stand up:** challenging the systems and structures that perpetuate economic, social and environmental injustice – acknowledging our own role in this. **We speak out:** calling out the big blockers that prevent progress for communities and working to amplify voices, redistribute power and strengthen rights. **We innovate:** developing, co-producing and supporting evidence-based ideas to drive progress towards a thriving world for all. **We collaborate:** building connections at local, national and international levels, to support diverse partners to tackle the climate, nature and inequality crises so that people and the planet can thrive. Come and be part of this exciting journey with us!

Our values

IIED's core values are at the heart of what we do. They are:

We build mutual trust and respect local knowledge; we act transparently and with integrity and treat each other with consideration.

Respect and dignity



We prioritise wellbeing and care towards each other, our partners and collaborators, marginalised groups and the planet.

Care



We address social, economic and environmental injustices and unfair power dynamics, embedding decoloniality principles in our everyday actions and outputs.

Justice and Fairness



We proactively seek to collaborate with others, break down silos and share power with our partners.

Ethical Partnership



We do everything we can to deliver impactful and systemic change that addresses major environmental, economic and social challenges and inequity.

Transformative Change



We approach gender justice and anti-racism through an intersectional lens. Where equity and inclusion is championed through daily active allyship.

Inclusion and Equity



About the role

The Researcher (Forest and Farm Finance) is an exciting role in IIED's Collective Organizations for Resilience (COR) Task Team that comprises mostly foresters serving IIED's proposition to 'Promote forest, farm and fisheries systems that feed and nourish people and planet'. Working closely with IIED colleagues and a network of international partners across the Global South with special emphasis on Latin America (with programmed work in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Guatemala), the Researcher will support IIED's work programme on supporting collective organisations in the forest and farm space.

The Researcher will ensure the delivery of action research projects including its design, implementation and monitoring, with a focus on collaborative work with forest and farm producer organizations (FFPOs) to build knowledge, capabilities and interactions on forest and farm finance – for example, supporting FFPOs to mobilise internal investment finance, access and blend in external equity or loan finance, develop credit facilities for their members, develop green value chains, alongside broader research assessments of how to improve the quality and quantity of climate, nature and development finance to FFPOs through increasing the recognition and scale of self-generated finance models led by smallholder producer organisation, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

Main Responsibilities

Research and intellectual leadership (approximately 50% of time)

- Plan, identify and manage appropriate, feasible and innovative methods to generate qualitative and quantitative evidence.
- Design, adapt and apply appropriate conceptual and theoretical frameworks to research.
- Undertake analysis of evidence and use this to create a new body of knowledge or enhance existing intellectual understanding of the subject.
- Write up research in styles appropriate for publication and dissemination in various forms.
- Identify and develop new research themes and small-scale research project ideas which are relevant to the group strategy.
- Contribute to developing, conceptualising and promoting new research themes within the current group body of work.

Management and coordination (approximately 15% of time)

- Design innovative projects, which fit with own group work and strategy.
- Deal with partners and subcontractors and procure other inputs for complex projects as necessary.
- Work collaboratively to organise and implement project planning, delivery and reporting.
- Provide inputs to create and maintain project budgets and finances and to donor financial reporting.
- Coordinate collaborative work and supervise and delegate tasks to other researchers, research partners and collaborators.
- Line manage, supervise and/or mentor other researchers, colleagues, consultants or interns, as appropriate, through the sound application of IIED human resources policies.
- Contribute to the development of the group vision and objectives.
- Manage personal administrative tasks related to own work.

Communications outreach and influence (approximately 15% of time)

- Write or co-write, review and edit research findings for publication and dissemination targeting different audiences and using different media.
- Disseminate knowledge and communication products and promote subject knowledge in international forums and debates
- Use innovative deliberative tools and mechanisms to engage and influence stakeholders
- Harness research outcomes and evidence to build compelling narratives and influence planning and decision-making by policy makers and practitioners.
- Participate in, organise or contribute to organising, meetings and events.

Business development and fundraising (approximately 10% of time)

- Under supervision, develop and coordinate the preparation of funding concepts and proposals within the thematic area of focus.
- Collect and analyse background documentation.
- Identify and follow up partnerships.
- Help develop proposals' rationales and conceptual frameworks.
- Write or co-write technical sections of relevant application forms.
- Collaborate with managers, coordinators and Finance colleagues to prepare budgets and other financial information to finalise proposals.
- Sustain long-term relationships with funders of projects under own responsibility.
- Raise funding towards covering own salary with support from the organisation and senior members of staff.

Liaison and networking (approximately 5% of time)

- Contribute to group / team strategies, plans and proposals.
- Contribute to shaping the group / team stakeholder engagement strategy.
- Nurture partnerships in own area of work. In particular, develop research partnerships and capacities of local partners in developing countries.
- Sustain relationships with donors, key actors and other stakeholders to foster collaboration, generate and share learning, influence agendas, raise profile and attract potential funding.
- Participate in and contribute to developing relevant networks and networking processes.
- Join international bodies and communities of practice and promote links with academia and other teaching / training institutions.

Contributions to institutional life (approximately 5% of time)

- Provide advice internally in areas of expertise and represent the group in the discipline community externally.
- Participate in group, cross-cutting and institute activities and processes as required.
- Participate in organisation-wide projects, initiatives, forums or working groups.
- Support the development of research agendas, plans and strategies.
- Act as a mentor to peers and colleagues.
- Develop internal contacts, networks and interactions and contribute to intellectual debates and peer-reviews.

The job description defines the main areas of responsibility and is not an exhaustive list of responsibilities. The employee may be required to perform other duties as reasonably assigned by management, in alignment with the overall purpose and objectives of the position and organisation. This does not form part of the contract between IIED and the post holder.

About you

To be successful you will have the following (essential requirements), and it would also help if you have the following (desirable requirements)

Essential requirements

Qualifications

- Relevant postgraduate degree including e.g. forestry, land use, economics and sustainable development or equivalent experience
- Relevant work experience
- Professional training/certification in economics or access to finance for vulnerable communities

Knowledge

- Knowledge of institutions, actors, and current debates and research agendas in the field of forestry, agriculture and development
- Understanding of the how to work effectively with partners in developing countries, including work with government, civil society organisations and communities
- Advanced knowledge of office software (word processing, spreadsheets, presentation software, databases and communications)

Experience

- Solid research background, skills and experience evidenced by a track record of growing publications in own field (e.g. research reports, policy briefs, tools or toolkits)
- Field research and in-country experience in forest and farm development work in Latin America
- Experience of research team coordination including from a distance
- Keen interest in and ability to provide policy analysis and advice
- Evidence of a growing a network of contacts in own field
- Work experience in research or in technical capacity development in relevant areas such as forestry or agroforestry, forest enterprise development, climate or development finance

Skills

- Good oral and written communication skills. Fluency in both English and Spanish (at mother tongue or equivalent) to convey messages in a clear, concise and effective manner to different audiences
- Ability to write effectively in different styles and forms
- Ability to work in multidisciplinary and multicultural settings, including remotely via digital communication
- Willingness to travel to developing countries

- Excellent technical, analytical and conceptual skills, e.g. relevant research methods, salient conceptual models and techniques of data analysis
- Strong qualitative and quantitative research skills including
- Management skills:
 - Projects: some direct experience of applying project management approaches
 - People: ability to coordinate, support and motivate colleagues, partners and other collaborators in multicultural settings. Commitment to mentoring and team working
 - Budget: ability to manage and monitor budgets
 - M&E: experience of M&E and quality control for own projects
- Competency in relevant office software commensurate with the specific job role
- Ability to translate research ideas into fundraising concepts, proposals and applications

Commitment

- Commitment to IIED's mission and core values, particularly around diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), and sustainability
- Adaptive and open-minded, with a willingness to learn and evolve in a dynamic organisational context

Desirable requirements

Qualifications

- Relevant post-graduate degree in economics, finance or business or equivalent experience
- Experience in climate and nature finance access for local organizations

Knowledge

- Knowledge of different international approaches and programmes delivering climate and development finance to the forest sector
- Knowledge of political economy factors that influence project design and delivery.
- Knowledge of approaches and mechanisms for facilitating access to finance for smallholder producers

Experience

- Field research and in-country experience in forest and farm development work in Africa and Asia
- Experience working with developing country partners, including government partners and business practitioners

Skills

- Working knowledge of French
- Ability to develop infographics and creative communication products
- Extended residential experience in Africa, Latin America, or other developing region countries.
- Experience in organising and running national/international workshops/events

- Statistical analysis and/or financial product development skills
- Experience in contributing to successful proposals

At IIED, we are fully committed to safeguarding and maintaining a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of exploitation, abuse, and harassment, including sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH), as well as to any failure to act when such harm occurs. Safeguarding is central to our work, and we actively seek to strengthen our safeguarding capacity across all areas of our operations.

We participate in the [Inter-Agency Misconduct Disclosure Scheme](#). In line with this Scheme, we will request information from applicants' previous employers regarding any findings of sexual exploitation, abuse, and/or harassment during their employment, as well as any ongoing investigations at the time of their departure. By submitting an application, applicants acknowledge and consent to these recruitment procedures.

As part of our [safeguarding](#) commitment, we carry out appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks in line with the DBS Code of Practice and our Recruitment and Selection Policy. This role requires a basic DBS check.

We encourage applications from all qualified candidates. Having a spent or unspent conviction does **not** automatically disqualify an applicant. If a conditional offer of employment is made, we will engage in a fair, confidential, and balanced discussion to assess the relevance of any disclosed convictions in relation to the role.

IIED is a Global organisation that serves the Global Majority. We are committed to equity of opportunity, to being fair and inclusive, and to being a place where all belong. We therefore particularly encourage applications from candidates who are likely to be underrepresented in IIED's workforce including members of minority groups and those with lived experience of the work we do. Even if you don't satisfy all the criteria, we still encourage you to apply, as we will offer support to upskill the right candidate for the role.

We are also a Disability Confident employer and offer a guaranteed interview for any disabled applicant who may wish to take up on this offer, where they meet the minimum requirements for the role. Therefore, if you have any accessibility requirements or would like to take up IIED's Disability Confident guaranteed interview scheme, please let us during the application process so that we can fully support you. If you need this application in a different format, please contact peopleteam@iied.org

