



Spatial Data Advisor

Job grade	5	Reports to	Senior Sustainable Finance Specialist
Directorate	Conservation & Policy	Function	Sustainable Business & Finance
Contract	One year, fixed term	Location	Regent's Park / Remote Flexible location within UK

Responsibility for resources

Direct line reports	None	Responsibility for other resources	None
Financial resources	None		

Our vision and mission

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is an international conservation charity, driven by science, working to restore wildlife in the UK and around the world. Our vision is a world where wildlife thrives and every role, every person in every corner of ZSL has one thing in common – we are all conservationists, and passionate about restoring wildlife.

ZSL works with commercial organisations, communities, NGOs and governments to address major global challenges to forest and biodiversity loss. We have a particular focus on working with the private sector to address nature-related risks in global supply chains. We are also developing a global portfolio of conservation finance projects including nature-based solutions and voluntary carbon projects to resource and incentivise biodiversity conservation and restoration.

Purpose of the role

The purpose of the position is to undertake or facilitate biodiversity-related spatial data gathering, assessment and analysis to enable data-driven decision-making for sustainable finance initiatives, responsible soft commodity sourcing, and nature-positive business development and investment. There will be a focus on carbon and agroforestry projects, as well as helping the finance sector assess and address biodiversity risks in their investment & lending portfolios.

The post holder will draw on their remote sensing, spatial data and quantitative analysis expertise to produce a range of data products, maps and reports to understand land use and vegetation change in sites around the world. Their knowledge of innovations in their field including machine learning will provide new insights that drive on-ground action. They will work closely with field conservation teams, local partners, researchers in the Institute of Zoology and other subject matter experts in the Conservation and Policy Directorate to achieve their objectives.

Key responsibilities

In collaboration with other staff members, consultants and organisational partners, the postholder will perform the following tasks:

Technical Analysis

- Develop and manage the sustainable business & finance team's approach to spatial data collection, management, analysis and visualisation
- Develop data collection protocols and work with colleagues and external partners to source or collect primary or secondary data to input to spatial data analysis
- Collate and analyse, using GIS software, programming and machine learning, a wide variety of biodiversity- and carbon-related spatial data and produce spatial data outputs
- Undertake integrated spatial data approaches such as High Conservation Value/High Carbon Stock (HCV/HCS) to assess biodiversity and people-related risks and impacts
- Calculate biodiversity-related metrics from spatial data with a focus on carbon sequestration and avoided emissions from forestry, agriculture and other land uses.
- Prepare briefs, reports and products in an appropriate format for a wide variety of internal and external stakeholders, from private sector executives to Indigenous community groups

Representation & Capacity Development

- Provide training and capacity building within the department and externally on the topic of spatial data analysis related to biodiversity
- Provide technical advice to staff in field programmes undertaking spatial data analysis related to the role, as well as externally to private sector and conservation partners
- Represent the programme in external fora and events related to data and finance, such as the Taskforce for Nature-based Financial Disclosures and the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil
- Contribute to original thinking in the field through academic publications, presentations and practitioner guides.

Project Development & Coordination

- Facilitate the completion of assigned projects and outputs with staff and partners
- Prepare project reports in accordance with project plans
- Draft, amend and facilitate project and consulting contracts
- Contribute to grant applications, commercial proposals and capacity statements.
- The postholder may be responsible for management of volunteers/interns and contractors as required. The postholder may also be required to help supervise or co-supervise students

The duties and responsibilities described are not a comprehensive list and additional tasks may be assigned from time to time that are in line with the level of the role.

Person Specification

Experience	
Essential	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrated spatial data expertise obtaining, compiling, analysing and interpreting field and remote sensing data and secondary datasets• Demonstrated quantitative/statistical analysis expertise such as building analytical models in R and/or Python

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to present spatial data and analysis findings in a range of formats, including academic publications, executive briefs and community infographics • Experience in participating and contributing to working groups and other technical fora • Experience of working with international teams in cross-cultural environments
Desirable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience with carbon modelling and carbon and biodiversity credits standards and methodologies, such as Verra, Gold Standard and Plan Vivo • Experience with the application of HCV/HCS approaches and other supply chain risk assessments in tropical soft commodity landscapes
Knowledge and skills	
Essential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of the principles of carbon and biodiversity credit estimation and calculation in voluntary carbon projects • An understanding of the biodiversity and people-related risks and risk analysis approaches related to commodity sourcing from tropical forest landscapes, such as HCV/HC • High-level, working proficiency in written and spoken English
Desirable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-graduate qualifications related to the role • An understanding of how to collect biodiversity data related to species abundance and diversity, including through the use of remote sensing • A familiarity with machine learning and the use of AI in data acquisition and analysis • Working proficiency in a relevant language, such as Bahasa Indonesia/Malayu, French, Portuguese or Hindi.
Additional requirements	
Essential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated passion for the natural environment and empowering local communities • Strong commitment to creating a culture that lives ZSL values (collaborative, inspiring, inclusive, innovative, impactful and ethical) and commitment to safeguarding, equality and diversity. • This post is a blended role for office and home working; some travel to Zoo sites will be required. • The position is likely to be required to travel domestically and internationally.