From: Christina Kennedy
Subject: Position Available: Postdoctoral Research Associate (Conservation Social Science/Anthropology), The Nature Conservancy

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Postdoctoral Research Associate (Conservation Social Science/Anthropology)

The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Global Lands Program (http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/urgentissues/land-conservation/index.htm) is recruiting a Postdoctoral Research Associate to work with an interdisciplinary team to synthesize and analyze the evidence of the effectiveness of socially-oriented conservation strategies implemented in partnership with indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLC). This project will focus on two IPLC strategies as pathways to social and ecological impact: 1) culturally aligned, environmentally sustainable economic development, and 2) leadership development and capacity building.

Position Description:
The Postdoctoral Research Associate will work closely with TNC scientists and field staff in collaboration with external partners to conduct systematic literature review on causal links between economic development and/or leadership development and social and ecological impacts. The research will involve aggregating programmatic information to develop generalizable causal models as informed by existing TNC programs; assessing the evidence behind causal links; analyzing the conditions and interventions that enhance the likelihood of successful outcomes for people and nature; elucidating knowledge gaps; and identifying opportunities to add to the evidence base through monitoring and evaluation. The results will inform a methodology and/or decision-support tool to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of TNC conservation initiatives involving indigenous and communal lands and focused on economic development and/or leadership development.

Within this scope, opportunities exist to develop and explore novel research questions of interest. This position offers a unique opportunity to publish in high impact journals and disseminate research to key decision-makers inside and outside the organization, while doing applied research that speaks to both theory and practice.

Responsibilities will include:

- Aggregate programmatic information to develop generalizable causal models that are rooted in evidence and informed by existing TNC projects.
- Create database on the evidence behind causal links that builds upon existing academic and gray literature, systematic reviews, and meta-studies.
- Conduct a systematic synthesis of the empirical evidence that may include meta-analysis.
- Conduct quality assessment and sensitivity analyses to assess susceptibility of biases.
- Participates in workshop(s) with TNC staff in relevant field programs and external partners to refine and review the scientific evidence in conjunction with causal models developed by conservation practitioners.
- Collaborate with multi-disciplinary scientists within TNC and across partner institutions.
- Disseminate research by publishing in peer-reviewed journals, producing reports, presenting at national conferences, and communicating findings within conservation and IPLC communities.

This position will be supervised by Dr. Christina Kennedy (https://www.nature.org/science-in-action/our-scientists/nature-conservancy-experts-conservation-lands-christina-kennedy.xml) and will interact closely with other TNC scientists and practitioners supporting TNC's indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLC) strategy (https://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/urgentissues/land-conservation/indigenouspeoples/index.htm).

Required Qualifications:

- A Ph.D. in Anthropology, Social Science, Environmental Science, Applied Economics, Development Economics, or related/cross-disciplinary fields and at least 1-year related work experience.
- Proficient in systematic syntheses that may include meta-analytic approaches, data mining (e.g., random forests) using statistical analysis software (e.g., R, WinBUGS, STATA), and design of socio-ecological monitoring and impact evaluations.
- Familiarity with culturally aligned and environmentally sustainable economic development models.
- Familiarity with literature on environmental and resource economics, development economics, socio-ecological systems, common-pool resources, sustainable development, community-based natural resource management, and conservation biology.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills with a proven publication record in peer-reviewed journals and the ability to write technical reports.

Desired Qualifications:

- Familiarity with Geographic Information Systems software (ArcGIS, QGIS) and R, or Python.
- Demonstrated experience with spatial analysis.
- Willingness to learn new statistical models and software as needed for research.
- Ability to work effectively with an interdisciplinary team to meet deadlines. Highly motivated and capable of working independently to complete projects.
- Strong organizational and communication skills (both oral and written).
- Willingness to travel internationally and in remote locales.
- Experience in international conservation and international science efforts.

Benefits:

He/she will be a full-time employee of The Nature Conservancy with competitive salary and benefits. Position will be supported for 2 years subject to adequate performance review. Funding is available for travel costs to attend project-related team meetings and professional conferences.

Location:

Preferred location for this position is Fort Collins, CO.

Start Date:

Preferred start date is on or before June 30, 2018.

Application:

Apply through The Nature Conservancy Careers at:
https://careers.nature.org/psp/tnccareers/APPLICANT/APPL/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_APP_SCHJOB.GBL?Page=HRS_APP_JBPST&Action=U&SiteId=1&FOCUS=Applicant&JobOpeningId=46371&PostingSeq=1

Apply to **Job ID # 46371**, submit letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and contact information for three references. All applications must be submitted prior to 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on **April 30, 2018.**

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a global, non-profit organization (501c(3) under US Law) that is dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. We seek to achieve our mission through science-based planning and implementation of conservation strategies that provide for the needs of people and nature.