



JOB DESCRIPTION

GIS and Web Mapping Officer

Effective from: June 2018

Reporting to: Mapping Coordinator

Close working relationship with: Mapping team, Project Coordinators, additional staff and consultants in the Programmes Team.

Duration of Contract: until 31 August 2019 (with possibility of extension depending on funding)

The Rainforest Foundation UK

The mission of the Rainforest Foundation UK (RFUK) is to support indigenous peoples and traditional populations of the world's rainforest to:

- Secure and control the natural resources necessary for their long-term wellbeing and managing these resources in ways which do not harm their environment, violate their culture or compromise their future.
- Develop means to protect their individual and collective rights and to obtain, shape and control basic services from the state.

RFUK considers that an essential first step to protect and manage the tropical forests and to reduce poverty in tropical forest countries is to realise the rights of the traditional and indigenous communities who live in those forests. With secure rights to land and livelihoods, forest peoples can effectively manage forest resources and direct and manage their own development. Founded in 1989, RFUK has built a solid body of work based on this rights-based approach to development and protection of the rainforest. Although our work is focused on the Congo Basin, where RFUK has worked since 1996, we also work in the Peruvian Amazon.

RFUK tackles the underlying causes of deforestation and the linked problem of disenfranchisement of indigenous forest peoples globally and locally. From the field to the international policy arena, RFUK reinforces the influence of forest peoples over decisions that affect them. We work with over 15 partner organisations in tropical forest countries and our programmes work is split into the following thematic areas:

- Threats to forests from the extractive industries, infrastructure development and agro-industrial expansion;
- Conservation effectiveness and monitoring of initiatives to reduce deforestation from deforestation and degradation (REDD);
- Community-based forest management, and tenure reform;
- Geo-spatial management, including community mapping and forest monitoring, land-use planning;
- Indigenous peoples' rights.

RFUK currently has 28 staff size, with a number of volunteers or interns at any given time. It is governed by a Board of seven Trustees. The London-based Foundation is part of a network of sister organizations, which also include the Rainforest Foundation US and the Rainforest Foundation Norway. RFUK is managing a portfolio of projects in five Congo Basin countries and in Peru with an annual organisational budget of about £4 million funded by various donors.

The Programmes Team

The Programmes Team at the Rainforest Foundation UK is one of three teams in the organisation and is the main team responsible for the implementation of our projects under the five themes cited above.

RFUK community mapping, land use planning and monitoring work

RFUK implements a community mapping and monitoring strategy that aims at scaling-up and diversifying the role of geo-technologies in land and forest governance making them ever more responsive to community needs and embedded in policy processes.

As part of this strategy, in close collaboration with civil society organisations and government agencies, RFUK has been developing and undertaking participatory mapping in the Congo Basin for 15 years for supporting indigenous and traditional communities in their efforts to fulfil their rights to land and livelihood.

RFUK has developed advanced methodologies based on geo-spatial technologies enabling communities to record data about their lands and development needs at a significantly greater accuracy at scale.

In 2011, RFUK launched the [MappingForRights](#) platform which brings together expertise in the fields of participatory mapping, geo-spatial technologies and policy development concerned with community and indigenous land rights and improved forest governance in the Congo Basin.

RFUK launched a regional MappingForRights project in April 2016 that aims at empowering stakeholders in the Congo Basin to use community mapping data and the MappingForRights platform to inform community forest development and other land and forest related policy processes such as land use planning.

Building on this mapping work, RFUK has developed a specific methodology for community land use planning that has been tested in Cameroon and DRC. Following this test phase, RFUK is currently implementing two projects in those countries.

In 2015 RFUK has successfully developed and tested a ground-breaking new system, named [ForestLink](#), which enables communities anywhere in the world to capture and transmit accurately geo-referenced reports of forest illegalities to a central database in real-time, even from areas where there is no mobile phone or internet connectivity. ForestLink is currently piloted in four countries (Peru, Cameroon, DRC, Ghana).

RFUK's community mapping and monitoring initiative has been awarded a UNFCCC *Momentum for Change* Award in 2016.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The postholder will work from the Rainforest Foundation's London office and will support RFUK community mapping, land use planning and monitoring work. As a member of the programmes team, the postholder will participate in the development and implementation of the programmes strategy.

The GIS and web mapping Officer will be responsible for the following tasks, under the supervision of the Mapping Coordinator:

1. Spatial data management and map production (50%)

- Assessment and quality control of spatial data: quality control and revision of spatial data (mainly vector formats) to be undertaken at attribute and geometry-level;
- Processing, storage and maintenance of spatial datasets and metadata acquired from third parties, local partners and contractors; processing may involve formatting, cleaning, manual editing of attribute data, geometries;
- Support spatial analysis: regular sourcing, formatting of raster/vector data sets (rescaling, project, resampling, reclassing), raster to vector extractions (zonal, local statistics);
- Explore, assess and acquire any relevant new datasets for internal use;
- Support cartographic production/map layout.

2. Support web map development (40%)

- Support the further development and extension of the existing MappingForRights Website and database (MfR), including any structural and back-end elements;
- Work closely with third-party developers and contractors, and writing specifications and TORs for external developers and contractors;
- Contribute to the development of the RTM systems, according to country and partners' needs, and projects logframe, workplan and budget.

3. System and servers maintenance, documentation (10%)

- Develop, manage and implement back-up and recovery arrangements of MfR, and ensure that storage, archiving, back-up and recovery procedures are functioning correctly at all times;
- Document tasks, maintenance procedures, activities (including data audit) performed during the all duration of the contract.

4. Other

- Ensure good coordination with other members of the Programmes Team and ensure regular communication and information sharing in this respect;
- Liaising with the Media and Communications Manager in the production of communications outputs;
- Participate in RFUK's strategic development, including attending internal meetings, strategy away days etc.
- Undertake other tasks as required by the GIS database coordinator and the Mapping Coordinator.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Detail	Essential	Desirable
Knowledge and Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A relevant academic background in Geography/GIS or related subject; • At least three years' hands-on experience in management of spatial data, spatial relationships management and data aggregations (e.g. pivoting, spatial query, spatial joins); • Experience in the manipulation of large raster datasets and main GIS vector formats (file geodatabase, geoJson, Shapefiles, KML); • Experience with Python scripting for geoprocessing and Proficiency in the use of ESRI products (ArcGIS for Desktop 10) as well as open source software (e.g. Quantum/QGIS and relative plugins). • Knowledge of Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standards (WMS, WFS, WCS); • Good understanding of HTML, CSS and JavaScript - including experience in using mapping frameworks (OpenLayers, Leaflet, GeoExt, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expertise and knowledge in cartography production, design and layout; • A good understanding of database architecture, software and database management systems; • Experience with relational database management systems such as SQLite, PostgreSQL; • Knowledge or understanding of the Congo Basin or African context.
Personal Skills and Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attention to detail with implementation and maintenance of standards in relation to data and code; • Ability to work in a team, and alone; • Willingness and ability to learn on the job, keen to undertake training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong sense of layout and design; • Empathy with and commitment to the Rainforest Foundation's Vision and Mission; • Interest in human rights & environmental issues; • Strong editorial skills.

Summary Terms and Conditions

Hours, remuneration and place of work

The post is offered on a fixed term contract until 31 August 2019, with a 6 month probationary period.

The post is a full time post, based on a 35 hour working week.

The starting salary is £30,000 per annum, including London weighting

Monthly salary is paid by Bank Automated Credit transfer, on the 25th of every month.

Holidays, sick pay and other benefits are provided in accordance with statutory requirements. 30 days paid leave per year are offered.

Workplace pension (4% employer contribution).

The place of work is Units 2-4, The Atelier, Old Dairy Court, 17 Crouch Hill, London, N4 4AP. This is a non-smoking environment. There is no parking provided for the post-holder, although bicycles are allowed in the building.

Equal Opportunities

RFUK is an equal opportunities employer, and makes no discrimination on the grounds of gender, race, age, physical abilities, religious or sexual persuasion.