



JOB DESCRIPTION – August 2022

Monitoring System Coordinator (FullStack developer)

Location: London

Reporting to: Head of Programmes

Duration of Contract: 18 months (with possibility of extension)

The Rainforest Foundation UK

Founded in 1989, 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.

Our approach differs from that of other organisations in that we are committed to both human rights and environmental protection. We firmly believe that the best way to protect the rainforest is through empowering indigenous peoples and local communities to defend their ancestral lands. We promote the establishment of community rights to rainforest lands, tackling the root problems causing deforestation, and paving the way for local people to benefit fairly from the use and protection of forest resources.

RFUK is now recognised as a leading force in the protection of tropical forests and their inhabitants, particularly in the Congo Basin region of Africa. As well as delivering high quality on-the-ground practical projects, often in difficult conditions, the organisation is also known for its strong policy and advocacy work in promoting forest peoples' rights.

Part of a network of sister organisations, which also include the Rainforest Foundation US and the Rainforest Foundation Norway, we currently work with over 15 indigenous and NGO partners in the Peruvian Amazon and across West and Central Africa.

The Programmes Team

The Programmes Team at the Rainforest Foundation UK is the main team responsible for the implementation of our projects, which is where this role sits within the organisation. Our work is split into the following thematic areas:

- Land rights, community-based forest management and tenure reform;

- Community based forest monitoring and civic participation;
- Geo-spatial management, including community mapping, , and land-use planning;
- Threats to forests from the extractive industries, infrastructure development and agro- industrial expansion;
- Conservation effectiveness and the impacts of strict nature protection and forest offset schemes;
- Indigenous peoples' rights, gender and social inclusion.

The Programme: Community based Real Time Monitoring

The aim of our monitoring work is to combat deforestation, tackle climate change and stop human rights abuses. We provide tech tools to forest communities and civil society in seven countries so that they can spot illegal deforestation and rights abuses, send alerts real time, and push governments to sanction those responsible and promote systemic change. The Monitoring System Coordinator plays a central role in this process.

In 2014 RFUK and our partner in Cameroon, FODER, developed a real time, community based forest monitoring system – [ForestLink](#)- that has been successfully deployed in seven countries in Africa and Latin America. Since 2015, ForestLink has succeeded in enhancing law enforcement, pushing for sanctions, legal action and better compliance with social responsibility agreements, and strengthened communities and local civil society. At the organisational level, a strategy for the future of ForestLink has been developed and incorporated into our overall strategy, setting clear objectives for improving on the technology, methodology and policy advocacy work.

The ForestLink system comprises four central elements: Monitaur platforms, which are web platforms for each country implementing the project, the Collectaur application, which is a mobile app for data collection, a Verificator application used to verify collected information and a community hub. Monitaur has been developed using NodeJS and is connected to CouchDB – a NoSQL database - and is hosted on AWS. The Collectaur mobile application is a central element of the system, as it permits community members to document illegal activities according to pre-established forms and send geo-referenced alerts to the country's Monitaur platform. It is a native android app just as the verification app. Each country partner has the leeway to develop their own monitoring forms and upload them to Collectaur.

As part of the new ForestLink strategy, we are looking to overhaul the system to consolidate all platforms into one, in order to make it more efficient while maintaining each country's control over their own data. A central platform also intends to facilitate data aggregation and analysis across countries. In this sense, another overall improvement that we are looking to introduce in the coming months is the standardization of monitoring forms, so that collected data filters to the central database in an organised way that permits aggregation and analysis. Adaptations to Collectaur, Verificator and Monitaur will be probably needed to accommodate this new feature too.

Responsibilities

The Monitoring System Coordinator will play a central role implementing this strategy, leading on the technical developments foreseen for ForestLink, maintaining the system and supporting partners so they can use the tool, as well as constantly improving the system based on their feedback. The postholder will work in close collaboration with the RTM Project Coordinator (in charge of project implementation and the strategic direction of the work) and the GIS and Database Coordinator (who we lead on data structure and management and making data available in a way that can support campaigning, advocacy and media engagement). As a member of the programmes team, the postholder will participate in the development and

implementation of the programmes strategy.

This will include the following tasks, under the supervision of the Head of Programmes:

Monitoring System

- Lead the development of a new ForestLink platform, in close coordination with the RTM Project Coordinator and the GIS and Database Coordinator;
- Maintain and constantly improve all aspects of the ForestLink system (Collecteur, Moniteur, Verificateur), including new features such as a two-way communication system and improving offline capabilities;
- Manage all ForestLink recurring costs and subscriptions and coordinate with relevant members of the Programmes Team to ensure these are paid from appropriate budgets; maintaining a centralised control of all expenditure;
- Develop a new text messaging functionality for the monitoring system, following a pre-established development plan.
- Coordinate the successful roll out of the Verificateur app (ongoing) and the text functionality, taking into account partner feedback;
- Ensure frequent backup and restoration of the databases whenever necessary;
- Setup adequate security measures to protect the RTM system and ensure software is kept up-to-date and develop new protocols if required;
- Improve overall user experience of the system by taking into account user's feedback in the (re)design or (re)development of existing or new functionalities;
- Provide technical support and training to partners regarding the administration of the system;
- Under the leadership of the GIS and Database Coordinator, contribute to the development of the [ForestLink Alerts Map](#), particularly by ensuring that the monitoring system feeds information into the database in appropriate formats and supporting the compilation of data and analytics to support campaign and advocacy;
- Documenting all technical developments and support in the development of training documents, user manuals and similar outputs;
- Providing support and training to RFUK staff responsible for deploying the system in different countries.

General

- Remain abreast of most recent technological developments relevant to the Monitoring work and participating in conferences and forums as appropriate;
- Maintain good understanding of the general social, political and environmental landscape in our focus countries;
- Contribute to programme and organisational level Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL), in particular by ensuring that the data collected to the ForestLink system feeds into these efforts;
- Contributing to the development of reports, briefings, leaflets and other media to inform RFUK target groups;
- Ensure good coordination with other members of the Programmes Team and ensure regular communication and information sharing in this respect;
- Contribute to the development of RFUK's organisational knowledge base, such as by providing contacts for the central database etc.
- Contribute to the development and implementation of the Organisational strategy;
- Where relevant, represent the organisation in relevant local, national and international fora, on relevant policy issues;
- Where possible, contribute to RFUK's community mapping and land use planning work, under the leadership of the GIS and Database Coordinator;

- Perform other tasks as may from time to time be requested by the Head of Programmes and the Executive Director.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

This role would suit a candidate with a strong commitment to environmental justice and to the empowerment of those who suffer social and economic marginalization. They will be a self-starter who is able to operate effectively across different environments and with a range of different stakeholders from the project team in London to remote forest communities to international institutions.

Detail	Essential	Desirable
Knowledge and Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree in Computer Science or equivalent • Knowledge of cloud platforms (AWS ideally) • Experience with NoSQL database • Strong experience with Core Java • Experience in native Android app development with Android studio • Working knowledge of NodeJS • Experience in web development with ReactJS • Some understanding of Python • English language skill at level C1 on the Common European Framework and fluency in French, written and spoken. • Experience of budget management using Excel. • High level of competence in using software packages, including the main Microsoft Office applications. • Awareness of the main issues affecting global rainforests and Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' rights. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working knowledge of git • Knowledge of Bitbucket • Understanding of CI/CD • Understanding of GIS • Experience of working with local partners in developing countries and developing civil society capacity. • Knowledge of Spanish. • Experience of independent forest monitoring initiatives, particularly in Africa or Peru. • Experience of projects related to forests, land tenure and indigenous peoples' rights, or other experiences in the "tech for good" sector.
Personal Skills and Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrable personal commitment to defending human rights, in particular of forest communities and indigenous peoples. • Good communication and training skills, particularly to transfer knowledge and build capacity of people of different backgrounds. • Cultural sensitivity and demonstrable commitment to RFUK's values and to the principles of inclusion and non-discrimination. • Desire and capacity to work on complex issues in a complex environment. • Careful and conscientious with demonstrable attention to detail. • Excellent organisational and time management skills with the ability to work under pressure and to multiple deadlines. 	

SUMMARY, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Hours, remuneration and place of work

The post is offered on a fixed term 18-month contract, with possibility of extension, and with a six-month probationary period.

This position is for a full-time role based on a 35-hour working week. Much of the work can be carried out at home, working remotely. However, there is an expectation of at least two office days a week for all staff at The Rainforest Foundation UK.

The salary is £ 35,562 gross per annum.

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 after two months in the role (4% employer contribution).

The place of work is RFUK's London office located in Units 2-4 The Atelier, The Old Dairy Court, 17 Crouch Hill, London N4 4AP, United Kingdom. Remote working arrangements may be considered for exceptional candidates.

Visa Sponsorship

RFUK holds an active sponsors license and a Visa maybe offered if required by the selected candidate.