

JOB SPECIFICATIONS AND RECRUITMENT PROFILE

RESEARCHER

Job specification

We are seeking someone to work on the *Improved Watershed Management for the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System* project, which is part of a multipartner initiative under the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN). Other project areas involve fisheries and tourism. Within the watersheds project, the current pattern of land use within the region, and historic changes over the past decade, will be assessed, and future patterns simulated and integrated with models of hydrology, erosion and sediment dispersal. Partnerships with the local agribusiness community will simultaneously be built up to support best practice in land management. Scenarios on the possible and probable impacts of land use practices in watersheds on coral reefs will be developed by holding a regional stakeholder workshop, contracted to local consultants. Levels of threat to local coastal ecosystems will be evaluated. UNEP-WCMC has responsibility for the land-use modelling and scenario workshop components, and will work alongside WRI and WWF.

The Researcher will;

- Report to Head of Programme.
- Manage project funds.
- Identify ecosystem/land cover datasets.
- Analyse and adapt existing models to allow trends in land use change to be identified and future events predicted.
- Work with collaborators to develop and apply similar models to water catchments and hydrology.
- Synthesise modelling outputs to produce models of sediment inputs to coastal waters.

Recruitment profile

General: This post requires someone with a fairly specific background and set of skills and experience, since a large part of the work is already defined to focus on land-use modelling and scenario development relating to MesoAmerican water catchments and water-borne links to coastal ecosystems. These are however generalizable skills since the issues involved are widespread and globally important, so we will be looking for someone who combines this specific **technical ability** with **flexibility and imagination, diligence, responsibility** and **attention to detail**, as well as the **ability to draw out the best** from collaborators in MesoAmerica and elsewhere.

Education:

- First degree in geography, environmental science, ecology or similar
- Higher degree in spatial planning, tropical agriculture, soil science or similar

Experience:

- At least **five years' relevant experience** is required.
- Experience of **land-use modelling/scenario development** is required.
- Experience of **project management/project development** is required.
- Absolute **fluency in the English and Spanish languages** is required.
- Experience of **fund-raising** from a variety of donors is desirable.
- Experience of **workshop facilitation** is desirable.
- Meso/Latin American **field experience** is desirable.