Senior Technical Specialist, Blue Carbon

Climate & Nature Linkages

“In the past century FFI has consistently saved species from extinction and protected habitats from destruction. Their solutions have always been practical, efficient and sustainable in local circumstances.”

Sir David Attenborough, FFI Vice-president
Fauna & Flora International

Fauna & Flora International (FFI) saves species from extinction and habitats from destruction, while improving the livelihoods of local people. Our guiding principles are to work with and alongside local partnerships, act as a catalyst for change, make conservation relevant, and base decisions on sound science. Founded in 1903, FFI is the world's longest established international conservation body; our conservation work, and impact, spans the globe.

Climate & Nature Linkages

The twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss are inextricably linked, and there is no pathway to effectively responding to climate change that does not include the protection of nature. FFI's ambitious programme of work focusses on nature-based solutions (NbS) to climate change, and the urgent protection and restoration of the natural world, by and with local partners. This approach is time sensitive; as anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions increase, the capacity of our natural systems to absorb CO₂ are diminishing as a result of habitat loss and destruction. With the increasingly negative impacts of ecosystem degradation, there is a need for significant additional investment in the global conservation effort.

The Climate & Nature Linkages (CN) team lead on FFI’s ambition to deliver high quality, locally appropriate Nature-based Solutions to climate change that enable thriving biodiversity, empowerment of, and benefits to, local communities, and clear climate benefits. Innovative models for achieving and sustaining conservation impact are required, looking beyond traditional grant models and connecting grassroots conversation action with diverse sources of finance, including through the voluntary carbon markets.

Across FFI’s global portfolio from rainforests to mangroves, grasslands to peatland, our work includes diverse initiatives, from scaling REDD+ in Liberia and Indonesia, to blue carbon opportunities in multiple seascapes. We focus on mitigation and adaptation strategies, and prioritise building internal and partner capacity and influence.

FFI views the phenomenal growth in awareness and interest in climate and nature linkages as key to scaling up the implementation of high quality NbS. By the same token, the surge in demand for NbS, particularly in the context of meeting net zero commitments, is both an opportunity and a risk. The challenge now, and where FFI’s efforts are focused, is to enable a rapid scaling of NbS that have positive impacts for climate, biodiversity and people, driving finance to where it is needed most; and to ensure that the use of NbS serves to raise climate ambition and accelerate the transition to net zero.

Marine Programme

FFI has been working in marine conservation for decades. However, it launched its formal marine programme in 2011 focused on the following three strands:
securing important areas to safeguard marine biodiversity;
informing and influencing policies and practice affecting the marine environment; and
supporting key national local institutions to help them deliver effective marine conservation.

Since 2011, we have worked across 17 countries with over 90 partners. We have contributed directly to the establishment or strengthening of over 50 marine protected areas and dozens of new no-take zones, witnessed a reduction in destructive fishing activities at 45% of all sites and seen evidence of recovery in key species groups and habitats. Please see our [website](#) for an overview of current projects.

The Opportunity

FFI is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of Senior Technical Specialist, Blue Carbon. Responding to the increasing interest in blue carbon project development across the global marine portfolio, you will play a vital role in undertaking project feasibility assessments and supporting field teams and partners in the development of blue carbon projects, including addressing key knowledge gaps. This is an opportunity to lead the development of blue carbon focused projects at a global scale, helping to drive profound and positive change for communities and biodiversity reliant on vulnerable coastal ecosystems.

In this technical role you will use your substantial experience in blue carbon project development and the assessment of carbon storage and sequestration in marine and coastal habitats, to lead the nascent pipeline of blue carbon opportunities in collaboration with our multi-disciplinary team of regional and cross-cutting experts, and partner organisations. You will use your networks and connections to identify opportunities for funding and technical partnerships, and lead on project management, capacity development and communications. You will have a passion for marine and coastal biodiversity conservation, coupled with a strong proven track record in multi-stakeholder coordination and blue carbon project development.

In return, the role offers the opportunity to work within an international, impactful and groundbreaking organisation, at the forefront of global conservation. In addition, FFI offers a generous pension contribution, attractive annual leave allowance and life insurance. Our offices are located in central Cambridge, just a few minutes' walk from glorious historic buildings and museums, the picturesque River Cam, the central market and shopping centre, and a host of cafés and restaurants.

Terms and Conditions

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<tr>
<th>Start Date:</th>
<th>As soon as possible</th>
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<tr>
<td>Duration of Contract:</td>
<td>Permanent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Probation Period:</td>
<td>Six months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salary:</td>
<td>Circa £44,000 depending on skills and experience</td>
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Location: Fauna & Flora International Cambridge  
(Current policy offers partial remote working within the UK)

Benefits: 25 working days annual holiday entitlement plus Public/Bank Holidays and any normal working days that fall between 24th December and 1st January inclusive, during which time FFI UK offices are closed.

For employees on UK-based contracts, FFI currently provides a pension contribution of 8% of salary after 3 months’ continuous employment.

Group Life insurance for all staff on UK-based contracts, currently set at a benefit of 4 x basic salary.

Hours of Work: This is a full-time position, working 37.5 hours per week Monday to Friday.

Job Description

Job Title: Senior Technical Specialist, Blue Carbon, Climate & Nature Linkages

Reporting to: Senior Programme Manager, Nature-based Solutions and Climate Finance, Climate & Nature Linkages

Key Relationships: Head of Marine  
Members of the CN, Social Equity, Agriculture & Enterprise (SAGE) and Corporate Sustainability (CS) teams  
Relevant cross-cutting specialists, project managers, regional teams and partners

Purpose:

In close collaboration with the marine team, play a key role in developing blue carbon projects within FFI’s existing marine portfolio, through research and analysis, planning and design, partnership development, and fundraising. The role will advance FFI’s strategy of better integrating and enhancing nature-based solutions to climate change across the marine portfolio, which address both the biodiversity and climate crises, equitably benefit local people, and connect with climate and conservation finance as a sustainable financing mechanism to enable enduring positive impact. This is a global role, with an expected initial focus on Cambodia, Honduras, Tanzania and Turkey.

Specific Duties:

Technical Input
- Undertake relevant research and analysis on existing and developing methodologies and independent standards for the assessment of blue carbon assets, the costs of and markets for these assets, and other key topics related to the high-quality implementation of blue carbon approaches.
Identify and assess potential blue carbon finance opportunities for FFI seascapes, projects and partners, in collaboration with regional teams.

Collaborate with relevant cross-cutting and regional staff to undertake feasibility studies to evaluate the viability of identified blue carbon opportunities.

Lead on the technical assessment of climate benefits from the protection and restoration of blue carbon stocks, and support the design, delivery, monitoring of projects to meet relevant international standards; collaborating with, and coordinating the inputs of, other relevant experts.

Play a key role in the development of financial models for new opportunities, ensuring robust sustainable finance logic and alignment with biodiversity conservation objectives.

Help identify and support the development of new initiatives and strategic partnerships that will advance FFI’s work in the field of blue carbon.

Conduct due diligence and support development and management of technical partnerships and consultancies, as agreed.

**Project Development & Marketing**

Identify potential funding opportunities relevant to the work of the CN team and related regional projects and partnerships.

Support and manage the development of blue carbon project concepts, funding proposals and investment pitches.

Play a leading role in the marketing and external communications of blue carbon projects developed by FFI and partners, to raise the profile of the twin climate and nature impacts of this work, and support projects to connect with high integrity funders/buyers.

**Learning and Engagement**

Track latest innovations and developments in the blue carbon space, with a particular focus on the developing science and advances in practice on the ground; maintaining relationships with, and representing FFI within, key initiatives, both in the UK and globally.

Work closely with the Senior Programme Manager, NbS and Climate Finance and the Head of Marine to build and maintain relationships with a wide range of interested funders and investors.

Play a leading role in FFI’s efforts to build internal and NGO, government and private sector partners’ capacity on blue carbon, including acting in an advisory capacity to NGO, government and corporate partners, as relevant.

Contribute actively to FFI’s communities of practice on marine, climate & nature linkages and sustainable finance, and play a lead role in building the capacity of FFI staff and partners in the field of blue carbon.

Write relevant articles, guidelines, briefing papers, templates etc, as required.

Represent FFI at relevant events, as requested.

**Other**

With the agreement of the Senior Programme Manager, Nature-based Solutions and Climate Finance, perform any other tasks as requested, where relevant to the role.
## Person Specification

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<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
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<td><strong>Skills</strong></td>
<td><strong>Language(s) relevant to FFI’s work and target countries, including Spanish, Portuguese, Turkish, Khmer, Swahili</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Early-stage business development and fundraising skills</strong></td>
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<td>• Proven technical competency in practical approaches to blue carbon project development, including conducting feasibility assessments, advising on approaches to blue carbon accounting and conducting fieldwork&lt;br&gt;• Ability and willingness to engage directly with private sector, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), and government actors&lt;br&gt;• Ability to assess, mentor and help build technical capacities of regional staff and partners&lt;br&gt;• Excellent written and oral communication skills, including report and proposal writing with fluent English&lt;br&gt;• Confident presenting to internal and external audiences, and distilling complex concepts for a non-technical audience</td>
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<td><strong>Knowledge and experience</strong></td>
<td><strong>Proven knowledge of international policies relating to blue carbon and climate finance</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Experience of working in developing countries, particularly Cambodia, Honduras, Tanzania</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Experience of managing a project validation and/or verification audit process to meet the requirements of certification standards</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Knowledge of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) approaches</strong></td>
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<td>• Applied knowledge of the growing field of blue carbon and the voluntary markets for nature-based carbon credits&lt;br&gt;• Experience of developing business plans and sustainable finance models for climate and or conservation projects&lt;br&gt;• Proven experience developing projects for certification to recognised standards for blue carbon, for example under VCS or the Plan Vivo Standard&lt;br&gt;• Experience of engaging with governments and/or civil society on policies and frameworks in relation to blue carbon, climate change and/or blue economy&lt;br&gt;• Direct experience of developing funding proposals and investment pitches&lt;br&gt;• Post-graduate degree or equivalent level qualification in a relevant discipline or equivalent experience&lt;br&gt;• Proven, established network within relevant blue carbon technical fora</td>
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## Behavioural qualities

- Committed to FFI’s mission and values
- Excellent team player, highly collaborative and able to work flexibly and effectively across cultures
- Highly motivated self-starter
- Highly organised and attentive to detail
- Ability to work under pressure and to deadlines
- Lateral and holistic thinker, flexible and adaptable in evolving work situations

## Other

- Ability to undertake international travel

## FFI Values

Values underpin who we are and how we act. Just as values shape who we are as individuals, they define us as an organisation, creating the culture of success for which FFI is renowned. Our people exemplify our shared values, which are interconnected and interdependent:

- We act with integrity
- We are collaborative
- We are committed
- We are supportive & respectful
- We get things done

## How to Apply

Applications, consisting of a covering letter explaining why you feel you should be considered for this post, a full CV (tailored to the role as advertised, highlighting relevant experience and achievements) and contact details for two referees (who will not be contacted without your permission) should be sent to [charlie.fisher@fauna-flora.org](mailto:charlie.fisher@fauna-flora.org)

Please mark your application ‘Senior Technical Specialist, Blue Carbon’.

The closing date for applications is **Sunday 3 April 2022**. Interviews are likely to be held during the week commencing **11 April 2022**. Candidates selected for interview will be contacted by email or telephone – please specify your preferred method of contact in your covering letter and indicate where you saw the position advertised.

Regrettably, due to limited resources and the high number of applications we receive, we are only able to contact short-listed candidates. If you do not hear from us within four weeks of the closing date, please assume that you have not been successful on this occasion.
Applicants with Disabilities

FFI encourages applications from individuals with a disability who are able to carry out the duties of the post. If you have special needs in relation to your application, please contact Jade Bedwell, HR Adviser, FFI, on Tel: +44 (0)1223 749044 or Email: jade.bedwell@fauna-flora.org.

FFI values diversity and is committed to equality of opportunity.