As the science and knowledge service of the Commission, the mission of DG Joint Research Centre is to support EU policies with independent evidence throughout the whole policy cycle.

The JRC is located in 5 Member States (Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain). Further information is available at: https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/

As part of the Sustainable Resources Directorate, the Land Resources Unit provides policy support on how to balance competing land use demands whilst securing access to natural resources and maintaining ecosystem services. The Unit operates the European Soil Data Centre and coordinates the soil module of the LUCAS Survey. There is strong collaboration with a range of European Commission services, the European Environment Agency and the FAO.

This position focuses on understanding how changing environmental, societal and economic conditions drive land use or management practices, which in turn affect trends in soil condition, land degradation, desertification and the sustainable management of land-based ecosystem services, and the possibilities offered by land restoration.

Specifically, the position will support the implementation of the European Land and Soil Observatory through the development of an EU-wide land degradation and restoration assessment, reflecting the global approach adopted by the IPBES. This should include a detailed European Land Degradation map, an underpinning database and a detailed analysis of the land restoration potential in the EU. The assessment will both quantify the impact of EU policies on the pressures responsible for land and soil degradation (e.g. intensive agriculture, waste management, climate change, urban sprawl, pollution, desertification, etc.), and establish a baseline to monitor progress towards the goal of Land Degradation Neutrality and related SDG targets. Particular emphasis will be placed on modelling changes in key soil physical, chemical and biological characteristics (e.g. compaction, pesticide residues, C, P, N, soil biota). The successful candidate will also help develop recommendations for land restoration and increased resilience of soils through the adoption of sustainable soil management practices.

Qualifications:

Candidates must possess an undergraduate degree in soil science, earth sciences, environmental sciences or agricultural sciences, together with at least 5 years Job-Related experience.
on modelling or geostatistical analysis of soil condition or land degradation processes.

A post-graduate qualification in a related field, contributions to national-continental-global land or soil degradation assessments, experience of working with large spatial datasets (including EO data) or in the implementation of land or soil restoration techniques, would be an advantage.

Candidates are expected to lead and contribute to scientific publications, policy briefs and technical reports that require clear, well-structured texts.

In this case a high level of written and oral English (C1) is required.

| Directorate Unit        | Sustainable Resources  
|                         | Land Resources        
|                         | Further information: [https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/](https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/) |

| Indicative duration     | 36 months initial contract with possible renewals up to maximum 6 years |

| JRC Site                | Ispra                
| Country                 | Italy                |

| Rules and eligibility   | The candidate must be on a valid EPSO reserve list for Function Group IV contract staff.  
|                         | If you are not in any valid EPSO reserve list for Function Group IV contract staff, you can still apply by following these steps.  
|                         | You express your interest by applying to the CAST Permanent or to the permanent JRC Call for researchers.  
|                         | 1. CAST Permanent: open-ended selection procedure to create a pool of candidates from which the institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the European Union (EU) can recruit contract agents. [https://epso.europa.eu/documents/2240_en](https://epso.europa.eu/documents/2240_en)  
|                         | (Only for GFIV – Researchers/Scientific profiles):  
|                         | Only then you can apply for this specific position, through [http://recruitment.jrc.ec.europa.eu/?type=AX](http://recruitment.jrc.ec.europa.eu/?type=AX)  
| Article 3b of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union applies: the actual period of employment within the Commission under this type of contract, including any period under renewal, shall not exceed 6 years.  

*Please note that in case a high number of applications is received only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.*  |