



VACANCY NOTICE – 2023-IPR-D1-FGIV-022821

Environmental data scientist – scientific methods to assess the implementation of Europe’s nature protection laws

Type of contract	Member of the European Commission’s contract staff, Function Group IV (article 3b of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants)
Duration of contract	36 months (renewable up to maximum 6 years)
Area	Natural resource management, geospatial sciences, Earth Observation
Place of employment	Ispra (Italy)
Indicative basic salary	3877,47 - 5616,29 € + allowances For more detailed information please consult: Working Conditions

WE ARE

The [Joint Research Centre \(JRC\)](#) provides independent, evidence-based knowledge and science, supporting EU policies to positively impact society.

The current vacancy is in the Forests and Bioeconomy Unit of the Sustainable Resources Directorate of the JRC. The unit promotes sustainable management of forest resources and the bioeconomy through anticipation, conception, monitoring and impact assessment of relevant EU and global policies, whilst providing scientific and technological contributions to policies for climate change mitigation and adaptation and for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Unit provides scientific support to various EU policies related to land-use, forests and climate, and the bioeconomy, such as the Nature Directives, the 2030 Biodiversity Strategy, the Land Use Land-Use Change and Forestry Regulation, the Deforestation-free products trade Regulation, and the EU Forest Strategy. In line with the latter, the team develops Earth-Observation-based monitoring tools for European forests, in order to a.o. assess and monitor forest condition in the EU. These tools are shared publicly but also used to better ensure that Europe’s environmental laws are complied with. The final goal is to catalyse the use of new geospatial technologies, particularly Earth Observation, in the development and implementation of European environmental policies.

We are looking for a specialist in natural resource management to use scientific, including geospatial and statistical, data and analyses to monitor the implementation of European environmental laws.

We offer:

a job in a dynamic and multidisciplinary work environment that is active at the interface between science and policy. Our team develops analytical methods to monitor natural



resources, and particularly protected forest habitats with geospatial data including Earth Observation data collected through remote sensing. We make these methods freely and openly available and apply them, among other things, to support the Commission in assessing compliance with EU environmental legislation. The job therefore provides a unique opportunity for concrete, high-level policy impact through scientific investigation. The team is physically present in Ispra, Italy, and meets on a regular basis both in person and online. Occasional travel to our stakeholders (mainly in policy DGs in Brussels) is envisaged.

WE PROPOSE

A position as an analyst, with the duties of contributing to the work programme of the Unit related to the activities on EU forests and bioeconomy. The candidate's investigations will contribute to catalyse the use of Earth Observation in forest monitoring in Europe and to the Commission's ability to use geospatial intelligence for environmental compliance assurance. The jobholder's main tasks will include:

- Work within a team to develop and apply methods to assess the management of EU-protected habitats, and other natural resources, using reported, statistical and geospatial data, including Earth Observation
- Compile and analyse statistical, reported, and scientific data, including geospatial data, to assess where compliance with European environmental legislation may be at risk. These assessments may be either targeting very specific geographical sites and questions when they are instigated by reports of compliance concerns, or they may serve to check compliance risk systematically and proactively over large areas.
- Develop a course for policy and legal officers dealing with environmental compliance assurance. The course should introduce the role that scientific and especially geospatial information can play to assess compliance with environmental law.
- Establish procedures for the efficient use of geospatial information and intelligence in environmental compliance assurance
- Synthesise methods and results of science-based compliance risk assessments in reports and briefs for policy makers and case handlers
- Follow-up ad-hoc requests for data, information and advice from Commission services, other European institutions, Member States and other stakeholders in collaboration with in-house and external experts.

WE LOOK FOR

An engineer or scientist with an interest to develop and apply different approaches to monitoring the application of EU environmental laws, particularly those that concern protected habitats, using statistical, scientific and geospatial methods and data.

Candidates should have an interest in European environmental legislation, and how scientific innovation can help its design, promotion, implementation, monitoring, and enforcement. Applications will be mainly related to forests and protected habitats, but may concern other natural resources covered by European environmental law.

Candidates should have an understanding of natural resources and their management and how they can be monitored with geospatial data, including Earth Observation. Therefore, a background in natural resource management, environmental engineering or sciences, and experience with handling reported, statistical, and geospatial data are key.

Qualifications:



- A university master degree followed by a PhD or by at least five years of working experience in environmental sciences, engineering, or management, or a closely related field such as forestry
 - Experience handling and analysing geospatial, reported, and statistical data
 - Excellent drafting and presentation skills, with very good knowledge of spoken and written English (B2 level)
- Demonstrated academic or professional experience in the following is considered important:
- Natural resource management



- Statistical methods and data visualization through programming languages such as R or Python
- Proven experience in disseminating information and findings to non-technical audiences, or audiences from other disciplines

The following will be considered as assets:

- Experience working in multidisciplinary teams on environmental monitoring and risk assessment
- Familiarity with EU environmental law
- Experience working at the science-policy interface, particularly in the EU
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills
- Ability to prioritise and organise daily tasks
- A sense of responsibility and service culture

The abilities to collaborate with others within a multidisciplinary and multicultural research environment and with external contractors, and to handle high workload when necessary and deliver under pressure are essential.

HOW TO APPLY

If you are **already on a valid CAST FG IV reserve list**, or you **have already applied to one of the calls below**, you can directly submit your application at <http://recruitment.jrc.ec.europa.eu/?type=AX>.

If not, before applying to this position, **you must register** for one of the two following:

- the [Call for Expressions of Interest | EU Careers \(europa.eu\)](#) (CAST Permanent FG IV), which is used by a wide range of organisations (institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the European Union), or
- the [specialised call for researchers](#) (JRC Call COM/1/2015/GFIV – Research), which is mainly used by the JRC.

Note that each of the calls above has **different minimum eligibility requirements and different selection tests**.

The JRC cultivates a workplace based on respect for other people and the environment, and embraces non-discriminatory practices and equality of opportunity. In case of equal merit, preference will be given to the gender in minority.