# JOB DESCRIPTION

**Job Title:** Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Peace-Centred Development

**Grade:** AC1

**Department:** Livelihoods and Institutions Department, NRI

**Responsible to:** Senior Lecturer in Climate Change, State Fragility and Conflict

**Responsible for:** n/a

**Key Contacts:** Head of Livelihoods and Institutions Department

**Standard Occupational Classification (SoC code):** TBC

**Non-Contractual Nature of Role Profile:** This role profile is non-contractual and provided for guidance. It will be updated and amended from time to time in accordance with the changing needs of the University and the requirements of the job.

## PURPOSE OF ROLE

The Livelihoods and Institutions Department at the Natural Resources Institute (NRI) is seeking a highly motivated Postdoctoral Researcher in Peace-Centred Development to contribute to the development and delivery of high-quality research on various aspects of peace-centred development and socially-just futures. This position is linked to a UKRI-funded Prosperity and Peace Pathways Project.

The successful candidate will be part of a dynamic team working on cutting-edge research that explores the intersections between prosperity, peace, climate change and social justice. He/she will come from a social science background with experience working on projects related to conflict, peace, development and social justice, preferably in low-income settings. In addition, the candidate will have strong research and analytical skills, with experience in qualitative and quantitative methods, as well as experience in using different knowledge co-creation tools.

The candidate will bring a wealth of both academic and practitioner knowledge into the project, assisting the PI in analysing new data emerging from the Project's Citizen Labs (which are currently operational in Chad, Niger and Nigeria), including delivering activities around scenario-based forecasting and backcasting, prosperity-peace pathway modelling and SDG localisation.

The role is ideally suited for someone who is:

- Capable of using innovative social science data gathering approaches that are inclusive, participatory and deliberative, such as Young Citizen Panels, Consensus Conferences and Local Citizen Labs.
- Comfortable with desk-based work and experienced in extracting, filtering, querying and analysing large amounts of information from literature materials on conflict, fragility, prosperity, peace, complex emergency and the environment, and from other sources such as the news media, case studies, historic texts and encyclopaedias.
- Capable of working with project colleagues and collaborators to publish excellent academic papers and build upon ideas in published papers to foster knowledge transfer and impact through production of podcasts, policy briefs, opinion pieces, videos and pieces of artistic expression.
- Eager to explore new ways of knowledge exchange and evidence synthesis in emerging areas linked to conflict transformation, peace-centred development and socially-just futures.
- Looking to build networks across the scientific and practitioner communities in areas such as climate security, environmental peacebuilding, environmental stewardship and sustainable development.
- Eager to contribute to the research profile of the Natural Resources Institute and its submissions to the Research Excellence Framework.

The successful candidates will be highly ambitious and have knowledge of interdisciplinary, applied research related to peace-centred development and socially-just futures, with a focus on sustainable livelihoods, conflict transformation, peacebuilding and institutional arrangements for creating equitable, inclusive and sustainable societies that prioritise the well-being and rights of all people. He/she will be able to coordinate analysis of large datasets; and a hard worker, who is eager to learn and be trained, seeking out and considering different knowledge systems, with good judgement about when to use initiative and when to consult, and consistently performing at a high level.

The candidate will be expected to embrace NRI's and the University of Greenwich's core values of undertaking interdisciplinary, collaborative and impactful research being part of interdisciplinary and diverse teams and in equitable research partnerships involving academic, civil society and grassroots institutions and/or colleagues both in the UK and across the Globe.

**KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES**

**Team Specific:**
- Undertake interdisciplinary research on peace, development and social justice that meets the highest international standards.

- Analysis of quantitative and qualitative data and contribute to drafting reports to the funder and preparing manuscripts for submissions to peer reviewed journals.
- Disseminate research findings at national/international conferences and symposia and at internal meetings and seminars.
- Attend and contribute to team, citizen labs and other project meetings and coordinate the workload of a team of researchers in Africa.
- Maintain high quality, productive and equitable working relationships with NRI colleagues and partners from across the Globe.
- Undertake any training relevant to the role.
- Undertake any additional administrative tasks if required.

**Generic:**
- Work efficiently to ensure the project achieves key milestones in a timely fashion while also contributing to NRI research profile.
- Take part in project impact pathway activities, outputs and outcomes.
- Demonstrate a commitment to represent NRI and University of Greenwich in relevant fora and in project meetings with partners.

**Managing Self:**
- Keep abreast of key literature and developments within the field and seek continuous improvement of own professional practice.
- Be able to work effectively both independently and as part of multicultural, multi-site social science teams.
- Be able to meet deadlines and behave in a manner which reflects the University values and creates a positive environment for work.
- Regularly communicate progress to the project leader.

**Core Requirements:**
- Commitment to key strategic priorities of NRI, the Faculty and University.
- Adhere to and promote the University's policies on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Information Security.
- Ensure compliance with Health & Safety and Data Protection Legislation.
- Support and promote the university's Sustainability policies, including the Carbon Management Plan, and carry out duties in a resource efficient way, recognising the shared responsibility of minimising the university's negative environmental impacts wherever possible.
- Adhere to current legal requirements and best practice relating to digital content and accessibility, including Web Content Accessibility Guidelines when creating digital content.

**Additional Requirements:**
Undertake any other duties as requested by the line manager or appropriate senior manager, commensurate with the grade.

This is a professional, demanding role within a complex organisation with an ambitious strategic plan and agenda for change. The role holder will be expected to show flexibility in working arrangements, including working hours, to ensure that NRI delivers the required level of service.

**KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:**
- Meet project deadlines, including deadlines for data preparation and analysis, publications, presentations, research group meetings, etc., within agreed timelines and targets.
- Development of and familiarity with relevant literature.
- Publication of research findings in leading international peer-reviewed journals.
- Familiarity with project impact objectives and plan.
- Work effectively with a wide variety of project partners to produce research and other outputs.

**KEY RELATIONSHIPS (Internal & External):**
- Project Leader/Coordinator.
- Academic colleagues.
- Head of Department.
- NRI administrative and technical staff.
- Project team members in Africa.
- Project stakeholders in different institutional environments and at a variety of levels.
- Research community in area of subject specialism.

**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

**EXPERIENCE:**
**Essential Criteria**
- Demonstrable experience of undertaking interdisciplinary conflict, peace, human security and development research.
- Good knowledge/understanding of the socioeconomic and ecological challenges that households and communities face in fragile and conflict affected countries.
- Extracting, filtering, querying and analysing large amounts of information from literature materials, primary/secondary datasets and/or from other sources such as the news media, case studies, historic texts and encyclopaedias.
- Demonstrated capacity to contribute to high-quality research for publication in top, peer- reviewed journals and build upon ideas in published papers to foster knowledge transfer and impact through production of podcasts, policy briefs, opinion pieces, videos and/or pieces of artistic expression.
- Evidence of collaboration and teamwork to deliver quality outputs against set timelines and targets.
- Organising, convening and facilitating workshops, stakeholder engagements and knowledge exchange activities involving a diverse range of actors including academic and non-academic stakeholders.

**Desirable Criteria**
- Knowledge of peace and development challenges in the Sahel and Lake Chad region.
- Publication(s) in high quality peer-reviewed journals.
- Dissemination of research findings at conferences or symposia.

**SKILLS:**
**Essential Criteria**
- A keen eye for technical details with ability to evaluate the quality of evidence and "why" of data, considering a variety of interpretations and translating evidence into policy insights.
- Excellent IT skills with knowledge of typical data analysis tools such as SPSS and NVivo, as well as knowledge of the Microsoft office productivity suite, including PowerPoint, Excel and Word.
- Proven ability to present data and research findings in a compelling manner and across formats, e.g., academic papers, reports, infographics and maps.
- Strong interpersonal skills, including excellent social and networking skills.
- Proven ability to work with little or no supervision, and to plan and deliver project activities to agreed timelines.
- Fluency in English (knowledge of French will be an advantage).

**Desirable Criteria**
- Ability to use innovative social science data gathering approaches that are inclusive, participatory and deliberative, such as Young Citizen Panels, Consensus Conferences or Citizen Labs.
- Ability to build networks across the scientific and practitioner communities.
- Ability to coordinate the work of colleagues/project team members.
- Willingness to undertake travel to research sites when required, subject to risk assessments.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**
**Essential Criteria**
- PhD (or close to completion) in conflict, peace, security and development studies, or a closely related discipline.

**Desirable Criteria**
- N/A

**PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES:**
**Essential Criteria**
- We are looking for people who can help us deliver the values of the University of Greenwich: Inclusive, Collaborative and Impactful.

**Desirable Criteria**
- N/A