

Managing Ecological Economist – Remote Working

Job Description

The Organisation

The Lifescape Project is a small but growing charity which undertakes projects that protect and restore wild landscapes, helping to provide a future for all life on earth. We focus on ambitious projects looking at new ways to solve complex environmental problems, bringing together the skills and expertise of a multi-disciplinary team. Our work focuses on leveraging the skills and expertise of specialists across five disciplines to protect and restore wild, natural landscapes: science, law, economics, technology and culture. You can read more about our project work [here](#).

The Lifescape Project is a UK registered charity with a board of 7 trustees from diverse professional backgrounds, seventeen team members, a varying number of part and full-time placement students/interns, numerous contractors delivering specialist services, and a large number of volunteers providing their professional skills pro bono.

Job purpose

We are seeking to hire a dynamic and passionate environmental economist to join The Lifescape Project, to lead our projects with an economic and/or financial focus or element and to grow this impactful area of work.

The Managing Economist role will focus primarily on leading the economic projects and elements of our work. The individual in this role will be committed to finding ways to catalyse the restoration and protection of wild landscapes through natural capital approaches, ecosystem services valuation, incentive mechanisms and other market-based measures. At the same time The Lifescape Project, as an ambitious and forward-thinking organisation, is committed to delivering economic projects that go beyond conventional natural capital valuation and market-based approaches. We believe that just as economic analysis informs environmental policy and decision-making, rewilding and ecological science can also play a role in shaping economic thinking, valuation methods, and advocacy.

The successful candidate will be in an exciting and important position with the opportunity to help shape our future direction as a charity, particularly in leveraging economics to promote the restoration and protection of wild landscapes. The candidate will therefore play a fundamental role in Lifescape's ongoing development. Candidates will need to be comfortable with taking on significant responsibility and helping to guide the direction of a rapidly expanding NGO, as well as dealing with the technical detail of select economics-based projects.

Our economics-related projects are currently centred around three key closely related themes:

- **Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)** translates environmental economic concepts into financial opportunities for ecosystem service users and providers. This includes our work in Biodiversity Net Gain, global carbon markets, emerging biodiversity markets, and localised financial mechanisms for water and soil quality.

- **Natural Capital** relates to the valuation of nature using economic principles, with a focus on broader societal value of ecosystems and natural assets. This may include undertaking ecosystem services assessments for entire restoration projects, assessing the potential societal value of a lynx reintroduction through economic cost-benefit analysis (CBA), and the carbon and soil benefits of a wood ant translocation.
- **Research and Thought Leadership.** As a rewilding charity, we aim to generate and share insights on using economic tools to inform practitioners and support nature recovery.

Our main economics related projects are currently:

- **FORBEST – EU Horizon:** Led by Oulu University in Finland, the FORBEST project is a consortium of mostly academic partners aiming to research synergies between biodiversity and carbon to inform forest management and conservation policies. Lifescape will lead a work package focusing on modelling financial and economic opportunities under different management scenarios, ultimately helping to enhance the protection and management of forest ecosystems across Europe.
- **[Natural Capital Laboratory \(NCL\)](#)** – The NCL (Birchfield) is a natural capital focussed rewilding site and partnership project based in Inverness-shire, serving as a testbed for delivering rewilding interventions, while using innovative technologies to measure and model natural capital changes. We are looking to scale up and expand the initiative.
- **Rwanda PES pilot and scaling** – This pilot is underway and involves working with Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association to register a rural community restoration project with the Plan Vivo carbon standard, facilitating carbon finance flows and creating a scalable, nature-based financial model.

Working Relationships

The position will be line-managed by the CEO of Lifescape Project, Adam Eagle, and will work closely with him. The position will directly line-manage Amelia Holmes, Rewilding Economist – this will involve working very closely with Amelia who has worked with Adam to develop Lifescape's rewilding economics work over the past two years. For certain projects, such as the Rwanda PES Pilot, we also have a senior ecological economist [Petrina Rowcroft](#), who provides technical advice on specific aspects. The position will also interact regularly with the Finance & Operations Manager.

The Managing Economist will work with the other leaders of overall work areas (the Legal Director and Lead Ecologist) and on occasion with Lifescape's trustees, who are at times involved in day-to-day operations. The post will oversee technical work by supporting and guiding Amelia while also providing capacity to deliver current, pipeline and new projects. The role also involves engaging with volunteers, interns, contractors, and pro bono professional advisers.

The economist will work closely with other environmental organisations and collaborators working with us on our projects, including the [Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association](#), [AECOM](#), Oulu University, University of Cumbria, etc.

Key Responsibilities

- **Leadership of economics workstreams and strategy.** Working with the Rewilding Economist and with input from the CEO and board, the role will be responsible for guiding and updating our strategy to leverage economics and financial mechanisms to protect and restore natural ecosystems.
- **Managing and delivering economics projects** to ensure they are well managed, that clear work plans are in place, deadlines are met, projects are properly resourced, risks are assessed and managed, outputs and outcomes are delivered and measured, and that team members/external contractors are adequately completing their roles. The level of involvement in detail and delivery will vary depending on the project stage and the specific work division with the reporting Rewilding Economist (and other future team members). At the beginning, the role will therefore involve a significant amount of delivery/technical work alongside higher-level leadership duties.
- **Project Budgeting & Financial Management.** Develop and manage budgets for economics projects, track expenditures, ensure financial reporting meets funding requirements, keep projects on budget and financially accountable, authorise project costs/expenses, with support from the Finance & Operations Manager.
- **Proactively seeking new opportunities** to expand Lifescape's economics work internationally, with a focus on developing interdisciplinary projects that also integrate expertise from social and ecological sciences, law, and other areas. This includes identifying funding sources, leading bids, and establishing partnerships and collaborations with input from the team, the CEO, and trustees as needed.
- **Managing team members** as the team grows. Being responsible for their line management, pastoral care, and conducting annual reviews. Managing any volunteers, contractors and other key external resources being deployed to economics projects.
- **Managing project and economics related external communications**, with the support of the Rewilding Economist and volunteers.
- **Working alongside the leaders of the other four disciplines** to ensure the integration of law, culture, technology and ecology into our economics projects and of economics matters into their work.
- **Sitting on the Management Team** as a senior member of the charity, to support the CEO with strategy development, external and internal communications, HR, organisational planning and other similar matters.
- **General** - Keeping up to date with relevant policy, guidance and best practice relating to topics such as nature finance, rewilding economics, natural capital, ecosystem services and environmental valuation.

Person specification

Education and training

- Relevant degree (essential) – e.g. a degree in Ecological Economics or Environmental Economics and/or another degree with a core component of environmental economics or economic analysis (such as Environmental Policy, Geography, Health Economics, Finance)
- Relevant masters and/or PhD, or equivalent experience on the job (desirable)

Experience and knowledge

- 5+ years' experience managing skilled individuals and teams to deliver ecological economics and/or nature finance related projects in the public or private sector (essential);
- Strong experience of project management (essential);
- Experience with applying and distinguishing between environmental economics and ecological economics approaches and analyses (desirable)
- Experience working on economics of rewilding or ecosystem restoration, such as the application of natural capital frameworks and tools, and nature finance mechanisms (desirable);
- Experience working on carbon offsetting or other payments for ecosystem services projects (desirable);
- Experience working with civil society organisations and/or regulators (desirable);
- Experience working as a member of multi-stakeholder working groups or coalitions (desirable); and
- Experience working in a range of country and cultural settings (desirable).

Key Competencies

Core Capabilities

- English fluent/at CEFR Level C2 (essential)
- Proficiency in the use of Microsoft Office including Word, Excel and PowerPoint (essential);
- Excellent research and report writing skills, including for example in the development of literature reviews (essential);

Analytical and project delivery

- Ability to prioritise tasks and manage time effectively, including under pressure and in response to changing project and programme demands (essential).
- Strong attention to detail and the ability to plan and structure the delivery of project outputs effectively as part of a multi-disciplinary team (essential);
- Strong numerical and analytical skills and the aptitude to understand and communicate complex technical information, including Excel-based quantitative analysis (essential);
- Resourcefulness and adaptability in proposing and applying creative solutions to practical issues on projects such as data limitations and time constraints (essential);
- The ability to work with GIS software (desirable);

Interpersonal skills and values

- Commitment to non-profit/public interest advocacy for nature (essential);
- Ability to manage a team or individuals to meet project goals (essential);
- Ability to lead as well as work as part of a team, and the capacity to collaborate and communicate effectively and regularly with colleagues, clients and stakeholders (essential);
- Ability to communicate confidently and willingness to represent Lifescape at official meetings, stakeholder forums and other relevant public events (essential);
- Self-motivated, enthusiastic, and ambitious (essential);

Salary: £47,000-52,000, full time, depending on qualifications, experience, and specific working arrangements (flexible and remote working policy is applicable). Salary increases are planned for the role as the organisation and team grow.

Benefits: 36 days annual leave (28 not including public holidays), annual Lifescape retreat and team meetings, full pension, computing equipment, staff remote working and development allowances, flexible and remote working.

To Apply: Please email amelia.holmes@lifescapeproject.org a CV and covering letter (no more than 2 pages) outlining how you meet the person specification, and why you are the right person for this role.

Location: This position will be remote-working and will involve international travel. Both UK residents and non-UK residents will be considered (with a time difference of up to 3 hours on average from the UK), although salary and benefits will be adjusted depending on location to account for cost of living differences outside of the UK.

Deadlines: The deadline for applications is 5pm on the 21st May 2025 and shortlisted candidates should expect to hear from us by the 26th May, but we will continue to consider applications until a suitable candidate is found.

First round interviews will be scheduled on the 28th and 29th May (although accommodations can be made). There will be at least one interview, but likely two, before we decide on the successful candidate. We hope to have selected the final candidate by the 2nd of June 2025, subject to changes to the process outlined above.

The role will commence as soon as possible from 1 August 2025.

Notes: Lifescape works a 40-hour working week as standard. We will need the successful applicant to provide us with a basic self-DBS check. Exact role title will be included in any offer of employment. We are open to having no-obligations conversations with potential candidates who are considering applying for the role.

At the Lifescape Project, we aim to cultivate a workplace that [values and celebrates diversity](#), fostering an inclusive working environment where all individuals (staff, volunteers, trustees, partners, and beneficiaries), regardless of background or identity, feel respected and empowered. We encourage applicants from all backgrounds. We also encourage applicants who do not meet every single element of the person specification.