



Job Opportunity

Sustainability and Conservation Education for Rural Areas (SCERA)

Title:	Project Coordinator, Okomu National Park
Employment period:	01 May 2021 - 30 June 2022
Probation Period:	Six months
Reports to:	National Programmes Coordinator (NPC), SCERA
Salary:	Attractive
Benefits:	As follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <u>Annual leave & holidays</u>: 18 working days annual leave entitlement and national public holidays- <u>Insurance</u>: Group Life and Medical insurance- <u>Lodging</u>: Accommodation at Okomu National Park

About SCERA

Sustainability and Conservation Education for Rural Areas (SCERA) is a conservation and environmental education non-government organisation (NGO) committed to the conservation of Nigeria's biological diversity, by identifying environmental problems through research and providing evidence-based sustainable solutions while advocating for environmentally friendly actions. Our objectives are: (1) To identify and investigate environmental problems through research so as to understand the underlying factors driving environmental change and negative behaviours. (2) To identify and provide evidence-based sustainable solutions while advocating for environmentally friendly actions. (3) To tackle environmental problems through capacity building and rural empowerment. (4) To promote the involvement of local communities in environmental communication and biodiversity conservation. (5) Establishing strong collaborations for biodiversity conservation.

Our mission is to promote biodiversity conservation in Nigeria using science-based solutions, through sustainable partnerships and public empowerment, working with people closest to nature.

The project

Of Nigeria's total forest area of 90,410 km², less than 30% is under some form of protection. The country's diverse ecosystems range from freshwater swamp forest, mangrove forest and coastal vegetation, lowland forest, savannah, to montane ecosystems and hosts a rich variety of species of fauna and flora, including over 7,000 plant species, about 20,000 insects and 1,000 bird species, more than 1,000 fish species, close to 250 mammals and over 120 reptiles. A

number of these species have become threatened and remaining populations depend on protected areas for their survival. However, the country has suffered from severe environmental threats that have led to the loss of biodiversity driven by large scale forest conversion, unsustainable forest management and harvest of natural resources, pollution, invasive alien species and climate change.

SCERA has secured funding from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) for the mainstreaming of biodiversity in national policies and environmental practices. The Project will focus on generating much needed information on biodiversity and will support the mainstreaming of biodiversity values in environmental practices of the private and public sectors. Part of the project will be implemented in the Okomu National Park and surrounding forests located in Edo State. The project will address data gaps on globally threatened and endemic species, including the Nigeria-Cameroun Chimpanzee, White-throated Guenon, African forest elephant, Grey Parrot etc. and raise awareness among the general public on the importance and values of biodiversity and the impacts of biodiversity and forest loss, on human health and well-being (e.g. link between forest loss and zoonotic diseases), especially in light of the COVID19 pandemic.

SCERA will work closely with partners and stakeholders in the conservation arena, establishing partnerships and building capacity for biodiversity and forest protection while providing the tools needed for long-term conservation and management of some of Nigeria's most threatened species and habitats.

Purpose

We are looking for a dynamic and committed conservationist to coordinate implementation of project activities at the Okomu National Park, working with the Okomu National Park Management and local, state and national stakeholders. The successful candidate will work within a multi-disciplinary team, leading a small team at the field site and reporting to and working closely with technical and administrative teams at SCERA's offices in Jos and Abuja.

Project Coordinator, Okomu National Park

- **Job Type** Full Time
- **Qualification** MSc.
- **Experience** Minimum of 2 years
- **Location** Okomu National Park

Specific responsibilities:

Biodiversity Stakeholders Coordination

- In collaboration with ONP partners, support the establishment of a Biodiversity Stakeholders Platform (BSP);
 - Working with the Okomu Park Management, partners and local communities, and based on an agreed criteria, support the selection process for community participants on the CEPF project
 - Organise quarterly meetings of the BSP and providing secretarial support where needed

- Facilitate the development of a terms of reference (TOR) for the BSP, including the roles and responsibilities of members, structure of the group, a sustainable financing plan etc.
- Facilitate the development of a grievance redress mechanism under the BSP in line with the procedure outlined in SCERA's process framework for stakeholder engagement
- Support the rolling out of environmental guidelines developed under the CEPF project, through the BSP

Project Coordination

- Co-ordinate and lead on SCERA's activities in the ONP:
 - Supervise project staff and interns and ensuring that activities are carried out in line with agreed budget and timelines
 - Produce narrative and financial reports and provide other relevant materials/products and information required for M & E purposes to the Technical Programme Coordinator (TPC)
 - Schedule regular update meetings with the TPC and the Programme Operations Coordinator (POC)
 - Supported by the SCERA Project officer ONP, co-ordinate logistics for research teams and consultants, ensuring smooth running of planned activities

Technical Input

- In collaboration with the Head of Research at the ONP, co-ordinate research activities implemented by SCERA and support implementation of socioeconomic and/or biodiversity related research and monitoring in line with their expertise
- Lead the development of technical and policy documents on biodiversity, including the development of a policy brief on mainstreaming biodiversity into the practices of natural resource and agricultural companies
- Organise and participate in training workshops and other events planned under the CEPF grant and ensure that stakeholders are well informed about the project
- Provide technical inputs to the development of awareness raising materials and messages, including environmental education and biodiversity outreach themes

Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

- Working with the Project Officer and Park Management, liaise with local stakeholders, ensuring effective communication and positive relationship with communities at all times
- Ensure regular and effective communication with the NPC, TPC and POC and other SCERA technical and Finance teams
- Represent SCERA in appropriate forums at the park and state level, and ensure good working relationship with state-level actors, private sector and other stakeholders
- Support the development of communication materials, including the introduction of a bi-annual newsletter for ONP.

General

- Carry out any other tasks assigned by the NPC, in line with your experience and expertise

Position Requirements

- MSc. in any of the following relevant fields, Conservation Biology, Forestry or Wildlife Management, Environmental Management (training in conservation, policy and biodiversity mainstreaming is an added advantage).
- Minimum of 2 years' experience in conservation and project management

Essential:

- High level of professionalism
- Demonstrable experience of developing good working relationships and working in partnership with others to achieve shared outcomes
- Project management skills to ensure effective project delivery, manage risks, costs, time and project teams
- Organized, with time management, facilitation and planning skills
- Sense of confidentiality
- Strong computer skills, and familiarity with Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel and in statistical software such as R, SPSS etc.
- Ability to manage and follow work plans
- Good interpersonal skills (communication, able to negotiate, influence, give effective feedback, be a team player)
- Able to manage stress effectively, juggle competing priorities, balance various programmatic, logistic and team needs
- Ability to work under pressure in a remote location
- Excellent problem-solving skills and ability to find creative solutions

Preferred:

- Experience working in a non-governmental organisation
- Experience working in a protected area and liaising with government and civil society
- Knowledge of conservation and environmental policies
- Experience in project management
- Experience of working with local communities in a collaborative and diplomatic manner
- Knowledge of ArcGIS or other GIS mapping software

Application Procedure

Deadline for applications is **20 April 2021**. Interested applicants must submit a CV and cover letter stating their interest in and suitability for the position. Applications should be sent in soft copies by email to info@scera-ng.org with the subject '**Ref: Project Coordinator, Okomu National Park**' or in hard copies submitted in sealed envelopes marked with the same subject as above, to the SCERA **Jos Office** at A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute, Laminga Jos East LGA, Plateau State or **Abuja Office** at #8 Nassarawa Avenue, War College Estate, Gwarinpa, FCT. All applications should be addressed to the National Programme Coordinator.