

Job description - Westonbirt tree conservation manager (PB5)

Job summary

As highlighted in the State of the World's Trees, published by Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) in September 2021, 30% of the world's tree species are threatened with extinction in the wild. In light of threats to trees, and towards the arboretum's vision to be a world leader in trees, Westonbirt, The National Arboretum, is scaling up its global tree conservation work, contributing to global initiatives including the Global Conservation Consortia (GCC), collectively coordinated by Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI).

Westonbirt leads the GCC for Whitebeams, Rowans and Service Trees, and contributes to work of other GCCs including Acer, Conifers and Nothofagus. Westonbirt also supports the conservation work of Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest.

As Tree Conservation Manager, you will help develop and deliver on Forestry England's National Tree Collections Global conservation strategy, in alignment with Westonbirt's Vision to be a world leader in trees through conservation, education and participation.

Key responsibilities & accountabilities

- lead Westonbirt's Global Conservation Consortia (GCC) work, particularly focusing on the GCC for Whitebeam, Rowan and Service Trees
- support the tree conservation objectives of Bedgebury National Pinetum and other Forestry England tree collections, where work contributes to shared conservation goals
- identify opportunities for Westonbirt, Bedgebury and other Forestry England tree collections to contribute to other GCCs such as *Acer*, *Conifers*, *Oak*, *Nothofagus* and *Magnolia* as appropriate
- undertake IUCN Red List assessments and gap analyses for target plant groups
- provide technical advice to GCC network where relevant
- liaise with BGCI on GCC Whitebeam management where required
- engage with IUCN Specialist Groups as appropriate
- lead fieldwork activities as appropriate, working in collaboration with partners nationally and internationally
- support conservation-focused communications and links with engagement, learning and participation activities
- support metacollection development for target species to be held across Forestry England collections and beyond
- work closely with fellow Westonbirt Tree Management Team staff
- supervise volunteer groups as required
- develop and maintain contact with botanical institutions globally, promoting Westonbirt, Bedgebury and Forestry England
- provide feedback to the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum, help promote their role and assist with third party fundraising initiatives to support and expand Westonbirt's conservation projects and GCC activities

And any other task reasonably requested by your line manager.

Location-specific information (optional)

Skills, knowledge & experience

Essential professional and technical experience

- practical fieldwork experience
- working as part of curatorial team in a botanic garden
- organisational, communication and independent working skills
- supervisory experience
- ability to manage own time and workload efficiently, prioritise and meet tight deadlines
- strong written and oral communication skills
- strong botanical knowledge (particularly temperate trees)
- working knowledge of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species
- knowledge of threats and conservation needs of UK native species

Desirable professional and technical experience

- experience of undertaking conservation gap analyses
- report writing
- experience of working with the Global Conservation Consortia model
- experience of working with botanical institutions nationally and internationally
- experience of working with metacollections of threatened species

Qualifications

Essential

- at least 3 years working experience and/or a qualification in conservation, horticulture, arboriculture or another relevant discipline

Desirable

- MSc in plant sciences or closely related subject
- trained IUCN Red List Assessor