

Job Description - Forest Resilience Skills and Capability Lead (PB4)

Job summary

Forestry England is an exemplar of forward-thinking, sustainable forest management. Guided by our Forest Resilience Strategy and Action Plan, we are committed to bold, ambitious and evidence-based action that will ensure the nation's forests thrive for decades to come. We have a strong track record in building forest resilience, but the challenges facing forests continue to grow, including climate change, biodiversity loss, emerging pests and diseases, and changing societal expectations and economic pressures.

This role will support the continued development and delivery of Forestry England's forest resilience work. You will:

- Provide technical expertise, training, and guidance on forest resilience, supporting and upskilling colleagues across the organisation.
- Work with colleagues, researchers and external partners to develop our forest resilience approach and translate scientific evidence into practical guidance and tools.
- Support the implementation of the Forest Resilience Strategy and Action Plan, helping to embed forest resilience principles into planning and operations.
- Contribute to the development of the next iteration of the Strategy and Action Plan, ensuring it is informed by the latest evidence and best practice.
- Collaborate on projects within a new multi-million-pound Defra-funded programme that will help strengthen resilience across the nation's forests.

Success in this role will depend on working closely with colleagues across Forestry England and the wider Forestry Commission, understanding operational challenges, and identifying practical solutions that support forest resilience objectives.

This is an opportunity to contribute to a nationally significant programme that is shaping the future of UK forestry.

Key responsibilities & accountabilities

Build organisational capability in forest resilience

- Build effective relationships and networks across Forestry England to identify knowledge gaps and training needs relating to forest resilience.
- Support the translation of complex research into practical tools, guidance and resources for operational teams.
- Increase understanding and application of forest resilience principles through effective communication, training, mentoring and knowledge-sharing approaches.
- Identify opportunities to improve processes, guidance and approaches to embedding forest resilience principles across Forestry England, contributing to continuous improvement and organisational learning.

Coordinate forest resilience research and evidence

- Coordinate the Forest Resilience Service Level Agreement with Forest Research, which has an approximate value of £200,000 per annum, ensuring research priorities are clearly defined and progress is monitored and communicated.
- Apply organisational, sector and technical knowledge to identify forest resilience knowledge and evidence gaps and contribute to the development and maintenance of Forestry England's forest resilience research pipeline.
- Support the dissemination of research findings across Forestry England, working with research leads to ensure outputs are tailored, relevant, accessible and practical.
- Contribute to the delivery and review of the Forest Resilience Strategy and Action Plan, while supporting the development of its next iteration, ensuring activities are informed by emerging evidence, operational learning, and best practice.

Stakeholder engagement and influencing

- Develop and maintain effective relationships with internal and external stakeholders to support the delivery of Forestry England's forest resilience objectives.
- Work closely with key roles across Forestry England, Forest Services, and Forest Research.
- Represent the Forest Resilience Team in meetings, working groups and stakeholder forums, communicating Forestry England's approach to forest resilience and promoting collaborative working.
- Support clear and consistent communication of Forestry England's Forest Resilience Strategy and Action Plan, helping stakeholders understand its importance and practical application. Project delivery, monitoring, and reporting
- Provide technical advice and support to the delivery of Defra-funded forest resilience projects across Forestry England.
- Collate and analyse forest resilience data to support programme delivery. Additional responsibilities Undertake any other duties consistent with the grade and role as reasonably requested by the line manager.

Skills, knowledge & experience

Essential professional and technical experience

- Experience of woodland or forest management, with a strong understanding of forest resilience principles and their practical application.
- Knowledge of current and emerging threats to forest resilience, including climate change, pests, diseases and environmental pressures.
- Working knowledge of the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) and UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS).
- Experience of supporting the learning and development of others.
- Ability to interpret and apply scientific, technical or policy evidence and translate complex information into clear, practical guidance.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to build effective working relationships and influence across teams and levels.
- Competent user of Microsoft Office, including Excel, PowerPoint, Word and Teams.

Desirable professional and technical experience

- Experience of working with research organisations, scientific partnerships or commissioned research programmes.
- Experience of using GIS and spatial data.
- Project management skills.
- Strong analytical skills, including the ability to collate, interpret and present data and evidence to support decision-making, monitoring and reporting.
- Experience of working collaboratively to develop solutions, influence outcomes and achieve shared objectives.

Qualifications

Essential

- Educated to degree level, with a degree in forestry, ecology or similar discipline, or equivalent professional experience.
- A full current driving license

Desirable

- Professional membership of the Institute of Chartered Foresters or can demonstrate working towards chartered status.