

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

Environmental Studies Department

Predicting Species' Distributions under Climate Change to Inform Biodiversity Conservation

Two years, salary range \$64,500-72,000

DESCRIPTION

The Environmental Studies Department (<https://envs.ucsc.edu/>) at the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) invites applications for a postdoctoral scholar in Predicting Species' Distributions under Climate Change to Inform Biodiversity Conservation, under the mentorship of Profs. Natalia Ocampo-Peñuela (Conservation Ecology Research Group, Environmental Studies Department) and Erika Zavaleta (Conservation Science & Solutions Lab, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department <https://www.eeb.ucsc.edu/>). The postdoctoral scholar will collaborate on development of California species distribution models for terrestrial vertebrates and plants under climate change with a cross-disciplinary UC team. The position provides a unique opportunity to pursue primary ecological investigation using innovative computational approaches and action-research to address climate change challenges to wildlife, ecosystems and people.

Research in the Conservation Ecology Group focuses on the study and conservation of terrestrial ecosystems and their species by improving species distributions, mapping habitat connectivity under current and future scenarios, and enhancing conservation priority setting efforts. Our work combines field, spatial, computational, and interdisciplinary approaches. Current projects include developing and applying novel habitat connectivity models to conservation planning in California; studying birdwatching tourism in tropical countries; and investigating a century of land cover and climate change on bird populations in Colombia.

Research in the Conservation Science & Solutions Lab addresses varied aspects of biodiversity science including ecological and evolutionary responses to climate change across terrestrial taxa; conservation practice; and ecological knowledge partnerships for restoration and cultural revitalization. Current projects include adaptive responses to climate change in trees and alpine songbirds, cultural burning to restore wetlands and woodlands, and development of tools to facilitate land and species conservation planning in the context of climate change.

The postdoctoral scholar will join a vibrant community across two research groups that value collaborative inquiry; inclusive teaching and mentoring; engagement with policy, practice and non-academic partners; and comprehensive professional development.

Candidates with the following experience are especially encouraged to apply:

- Experience in terrestrial species distribution modeling
- Experience in terrestrial habitat connectivity modeling
- Expertise in spatial analysis in ArcGIS or equivalent

- Excellent Python and/or R programming language skills including management and analysis of large datasets
- Experience with assembling climate data and future climate projections, and with their application to forecasting land-cover and species distributions
- Excellent writing and communication skills, including a strong publication record in peer-reviewed journals
- Strong collaborative and interpersonal skills to contribute to a team that cuts across disciplines and sectors

ACADEMIC TITLE

Postdoctoral Scholar

SALARY

Commensurate with qualifications and experience (\$60,000-72,000). Minimum annual salary rates are made based on the individual's *Experience Level*, which is determined by the number of months of postdoctoral service at any institution. See current salary scale for Postdoctoral Titles at <https://apo.ucsc.edu/compensation/salary-scales/index.html>

POSITION AVAILABLE

This is a two-year appointment, starting as soon as possible. Ph.D. must be in hand at time of the initial appointment.

MAXIMUM DURATION OF SERVICE IN A POSTDOCTORAL TITLE

Postdoctoral Scholar appointments are full-time; the initial appointment is for two years, with the possibility of reappointment. Reappointment will be contingent upon positive performance review and availability of funding. The total duration of an individual's postdoctoral service may not exceed five years, including postdoctoral service at any institution. Under limited circumstances, an exception to this limit may be considered, not to exceed a sixth year.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

All documents and materials must be submitted as PDFs and should be forwarded to Natalia Ocampo-Peñuela (nocampop@ucsc.edu), Erika Zavaleta (zavaleta@ucsc.edu) and Blair McLaughlin (blair.mclaughlin@ucsc.edu).

Documents/Materials

- § Letter of application that briefly summarizes your qualifications and interest in the position (required)
- § Curriculum vitae (required)
- § Names and contact information for three or more references



RECRUITMENT PERIOD

Full consideration will be given to applications completed by **October 31, 2023**. Applications received after this date will be considered only if the position has not been filled.