

**Patron: His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales**

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## **Professional Vacancy Announcement**

Institution:	Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development (IIC), Guyana
Position Title:	Doctoral (PhD) Research Associate (RA)
Responsible to:	Dr. Isabella Bovolo (IIC) and Dr. Jay Mistry (Royal Holloway University, UK)

### Background

The project 'Local solutions for future challenges: **Community Owned Best practice for sustainable Resource Adaptive management in the Guiana Shield, South America**' (COBRA) is a three year collaborative project between research, civil society and small business organisations funded by the European Commission under the Environment theme of the seventh framework program. The COBRA project is coordinated by Royal Holloway University (UK) and project partners include the IIC ([www.iwokrama.org](http://www.iwokrama.org)) and its co-partner the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDDB), an umbrella organisation representing 16 local communities in the North Rupununi sub-region of south-west Guyana ([http://iwokrama.org/forestconnect/membership/profile/rd\\_nrddb.htm](http://iwokrama.org/forestconnect/membership/profile/rd_nrddb.htm)), the Institute of Environmental Security (Netherlands), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Netherlands Committee, the Equipe de Conservação da Amazônia (Brazil), the Politecnico di Torino (Italy), The Open University (UK) and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (UK).

The purpose of this project is to enable and disseminate grassroots solutions to complex natural resource management problems in the Guiana Shield using a participatory action research approach. The COBRA project will study the impact of new environment/development funding streams on indigenous groups, the response of civil society organisations, and strategies to influence policy and implementation practices at the local to international level.

A Research Associate (RA) is sought to join the COBRA project. This three year full-time position will be hosted at the IIC in Guyana and will be linked to the Politics, Development and Sustainability (PDS) research group of the Geography Department at Royal Holloway University in the UK ([www.rhul.ac.uk/geography](http://www.rhul.ac.uk/geography)) where the RA will be

The Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development is an autonomous non-profit institution established by Guyana and the Commonwealth. The Centre manages the nearly one million acre (371,000 hectare) Iwokrama Forest in central Guyana to show how tropical forests can be conserved and sustainably used for ecological, social and economic benefits to local, national and international communities.

registered as a Doctoral (PhD) student. The successful applicant will have a Masters degree and research experience in a relevant field, interested in both social and ecological change and processes, and wanting to bring about improved environments, social justice and good governance in societies

The RA will work in a collaborative team environment and is expected to conduct both independent and team-based research, and training activities in Europe and South America. The successful applicant will also be expected to be involved in disseminating results in a range of forms (written to audio-visual, face-to-face to online), contribute to writing research papers, support the development of research proposals, and undertake some project management including administrative and financial reporting for research activities. The candidate will have a unique opportunity to interact with indigenous groups, NGOs, local and national government and researchers in the Guiana Shield area of South America, as well as with civil society organisations, researchers and businesses in the UK and across Europe. The position will also be an active contributor to the PDS research group in the Geography Department of Royal Holloway University, through participation in seminars, workshops and post-graduate student support activities.

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

Under supervision of the IIC COBRA coordinator and Dr. Mistry at Royal Holloway University, the RA will work closely alongside other COBRA staff at IIC and NRDDDB to undertake research, management and dissemination activities in Guyana. In particular, the RA will:

- Coordinate IIC COBRA tasks and facilitate IIC deliverables;
- Work closely with the NRDDDB Team/and NRDDDB local researchers to support delivery of relevant COBRA project activities;
- Support IIC COBRA research activities or lead parts of research activities including field work and workshops;
- Provide specific research inputs such as literature reviews, interviews and data analysis;
- Help the IIC coordinator prepare written and oral reports on the work carried out for submission to the project consortium and to the European Commission;
- Assist in consortium training events and workshops;
- Assist in dissemination activities including content for website, community presentations, government and other stakeholder presentations within Guyana participation in workshops and international conferences, and publication in scientific journals and other non-scientific forums;
- Undertake PhD research to be defined by the candidate with help from Royal Holloway University;
- Undertake travel overseas for research related purposes;
- Participate in intellectual exchanges with other consortium members;
- Any other duties as required.

Essential Requirements:

- Masters degree (or equivalent) in Sustainable Development, Environmental Sciences or a related field;
- Three years of relevant experience in issues related to sustainable development, particularly using participatory research methods and applied research;
- Demonstrated ability to prepare and monitor wide-ranging consultative processes with indigenous communities and stakeholder institutions;
- Demonstrated research, analytical and writing skills;
- Ability to work with a range of stakeholders in a multidisciplinary and multicultural setting;
- Ability to negotiate and be culturally aware with excellent communication and networking skills;
- Ability to work independently and within a team;
- Excellent organisational and time-management skills;
- Prepared to work unusual hours;
- Excellent English language skills.

Desirable Requirements:

- Working knowledge of Makushi, Portuguese and/or Spanish,
- Knowledge of broader natural resources management issues;
- Experience in utilising Participatory Video;
- Good Presentation skills.

*Please note that all candidates should have good computer/word processing skills and be capable of working with people of different national and cultural backgrounds.*

To apply please send a copy of your CV, details of three referees and a covering letter to:

Dr. Isabella Bovolo & Dr. Raquel Thomas  
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Fax No: 592-2259199  
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Closing Date for applications:

September 30<sup>th</sup> 2011

The COBRA project started on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011. The RA will be expected to commence the post as soon as feasible after recruitment.