POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Project Officer – Arid Zone Monitoring
Organisation Unit: School of Earth and Environmental Sciences
Position Number: NEW
Type of Employment: Fixed Term, Part Time
Classification: HEW Level 6

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

The University of Queensland (UQ) contributes positively to society by engaging in the creation, preservation, transfer and application of knowledge. UQ helps shape the future by bringing together and developing leaders in their fields to inspire the next generation and to advance ideas that benefit the world. UQ strives for the personal and professional success of its students, staff and alumni. For more than a century, we have educated and worked with outstanding people to deliver knowledge leadership for a better world.

UQ ranks in the world’s top universities, as measured by several key independent ranking, including the Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities (43), the US News Best Global Universities Rankings (52), QS World University Rankings (47), Academic Ranking of World Universities (55), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (65). UQ again topped the nation in the prestigious Nature Index and our Life Sciences subject field ranking in the Academic Ranking of World Universities was the highest in Australia at 20.

UQ has an outstanding reputation for the quality of its teachers, its educational programs and employment outcomes for its students. Our students remain at the heart of what we do. The UQ experience – the UQ Advantage – is distinguished by a research enriched curriculum, international collaborations, industry engagement and opportunities that nurture and develop future leaders. UQ has a strong focus on teaching excellence, winning more national teaching excellence awards than any other in the country and attracting the majority of Queensland’s highest academic achievers, as well as top interstate and overseas students.

UQ is one of Australia’s Group of Eight, a charter member of edX and a founding member of Universitas 21, an international consortium of leading research-intensive universities.

Our 50,000-plus strong student community includes more than 13,000 postgraduate scholars and more than 12,000 international students from 144 countries, adding to its proud 240,000-plus alumni. The University has about 7,000 academic and professional staff and a $1.8 billion annual operating budget. Its major campuses are at St Lucia, Gatton and Herston, in addition to teaching and research sites around Queensland and Brisbane city. The University has six Faculties and four University-level Institutes. The Institutes, funded by government and industry grants, philanthropy and commercialisation activities, have built scale and focus in research areas in neuroscience, biomolecular and biomedical sciences, sustainable minerals, bioengineering and nanotechnology, as well as social science research.
UQ has an outstanding track-record in commercialisation of our innovation with major technologies employed across the globe and integral to gross product sales of $11billion+ (see http://uniquest.com.au/our-track-record).

UQ has a rapidly growing record of attracting philanthropic support for its activities and this will be a strategic focus going forward.

Organisational Environment

National Science Environmental Programme
The scope of the National Environmental Science Programme (NESP) is to deliver applied environmental science, particularly focused on biodiversity and climate systems research. The NESP is an ongoing programme that funds environmental research to inform Australian decision makers.

The Australian Government Department of the Environment manages the NESP. The NESP will be delivered through multi-disciplinary research hubs or consortia, hosted by Australian research institutions. Consortia have been chosen that have demonstrated capacity to manage and lead a substantial research program including multiple large-scale research projects.

Further information on the NESP can be viewed at the NESP website https://www.environment.gov.au/science/nesp.

Threatened Species Recovery Hub
The conservation of Australia’s rich and extraordinarily distinctive biodiversity should be secure or achievable relative to that of most other nations – we have relatively low human population density, vast areas of natural landscapes, a substantial conservation reserve system, stable governance, a relatively affluent and interested community, and good environmental legislation. Yet, Australia’s extinction rate is one of the worst in the world, and that rate of decline and loss is continuing unabated. This is the disconnect that this Hub seeks to resolve.

The Threatened Species Recovery (TSR) Hub is based on the premise that biodiversity decline and extinction in Australia can be understood, and remedied, and that this can be done in a manner that is cost-effective and that involves the community as informed and interested participants.

The $60 million TSR Hub is supported by funding from the Australian Government’s NESP, matched with contributions from 10 of the country’s leading academic institutions and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy.

It works closely with more than 20 collaborating organisations, including management agencies and non-government conservation groups, to ensure its research has an on-ground impact in threatened species management.

The overarching objectives of the Hub are:
1. A demonstrably improved conservation outlook for a substantial proportion of Australia’s threatened species and ecological communities.
2. Cost-effective strategies to provide early warning about extinction risk and triggers for immediate action.
3. Ongoing decline in the number of Australian species eligible for listing as threatened, through enhanced management of threats.
4. Increased community knowledge of, engagement and investment in threatened species conservation.

The Threatened Species Research Hub has six broad research themes:
1. Taking the threat out of threatened species.
2. The Red Hot Red List – help for species less than a decade from extinction.
3. Prioritisation and practical learning about what works for threatened species.
4. Refuges for species on the brink – stopping threats in specific locations.
5. Enhancing threatened species policy.

Further information on the TSR Hub can be at the Hub’s website www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au.

The Hub is hosted within the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences (SEES), which is a vibrant, multidisciplinary School. Further information and details of the School and its staff may be accessed on the school’s web site at http://www.sees.uq.edu.au/.

Information for Prospective Staff

Information about life at UQ including staff benefits, relocation and UQ campuses is available at - http://www.uq.edu.au/current-staff/working-at-uq.

DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

This is an identified position and the occupant must be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent under section 25 of the Queensland Anti-Discrimination Act 1991.

This position will support the NESP TSR project 3.2.5: Arid Zone Monitoring and plays a key role in the delivery of a research project that aims to develop a coordinated monitoring program for threatened vertebrates, their threats and the effectiveness of management across arid and semi-arid Australia.

Monitoring populations of threatened species in Australia’s deserts is challenging. Remoteness makes access difficult and costly. Desert species can be patchily distributed, at low densities, and have boom-bust cycles. As a result, we know very little about the distribution, abundance, and status of our desert fauna. Track-based monitoring is a simple, easy and cost-effective method of surveying for a wide range of desert species, and harnesses the expertise of Indigenous groups that live in desert regions. This method assesses the presence of key species and threats in a systematic manner. The technique blends scientific data collection principles with the traditional tracking skills of Indigenous Australians, and has been embraced by ranger groups across arid Australia, from the southern Kimberley to the Great Victoria Desert. Over a thousand sites have now been
surveyed (some once, others repeatedly) by ranger groups, government agencies, NGOs, and environmental consultants. However, much of these data have not yet been collated, analysed, or contributed to any broader national monitoring program.

This project will collate and analyse the existing track-based data from across Australia, collected by project partners (Indigenous and non-Indigenous), and develop the framework for a national database for future data depositions and reporting.

This position is based out of the University of Queensland, but alternative locations can be considered.

**Duties**

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

**Project delivery**

- Provide guidance to help ensure that the University is culturally responsible towards Indigenous Australian cultures, knowledge and practices including implementing appropriate communication protocols.
- Establish successful relationships with Indigenous Australian communities and with relevant University staff in the implementation of the project.
- Liaise with Indigenous partners to coordinate project team trips to sites to trial methods with ranger groups.
- Liaise with the project team and the project partners on project aims, progress, and partner needs, ensuring excellent two-way communication.
- Negotiate data sharing arrangements and gather data from project partners.
- Coordinate the delivery of project workshops involving 10-30 people, including representatives from Indigenous organisations.
- Assist with the organisation of steering committee meetings.
- Play an active role in shaping the aims, methods and interpretation of data analyses.
- Participates in preparing the project report, and other project documentation as required.
- Assist in the development of a framework for an ongoing monitoring program, including a centralised data base with associated data management provisions.

**Administration**

- Assist with the administrative and financial aspects of the project delivery and the development of associated documents.
- Assist the project team to complete Travel Forms, Fieldwork Safety Plans and Risk Assessments.
- Any other duties as reasonably directed by project leaders.
Other

Ensure you are aware of and comply with legislation and University policy relevant to the duties undertaken, including but not exclusive to:

- The University's Code of Conduct.

- Requirements of the Queensland occupational health and safety (OH&S) legislation and related OH&S responsibilities and procedures developed by the University or Institute/School.

- The adoption of sustainable practices in all work activities and compliance with associated legislation and related University sustainability responsibilities and procedures.

- Requirements of the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000, the National Code 2007 and associated legislation, and related responsibilities and procedures developed by the University.

Organisational Relationships

The position reports to Dr Sarah Legge, Principle Research Fellow in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences.
SELECTION CRITERIA

This is an identified position and the occupant must be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent under section 25 of the Queensland Anti-Discrimination Act 1991.

**Essential**

- A degree or an equivalent combination of relevant experience, education and/or training in conservation or environmental management.
- Experience working with Indigenous organisations and groups.
- Demonstrated ability to successfully articulate the interests and concerns of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and communities, as they relate to the project.
- Experience working in remote Australia.
- Excellent interpersonal skills including the ability to communicate effectively by telephone, email and in person.
- Experience in the use of a wide range of computer applications (particularly Microsoft Office).
- Ability to interpret and apply policies and procedures.
- Ability to prioritise own workload, work independently as well as within a team, and meet deadlines.

The University of Queensland values diversity and inclusion and actively encourages applications from those who bring diversity to the University. Please refer to the University's Diversity and Inclusion webpage (http://www.uq.edu.au/equity) for further information and points of contact if you require additional support.

This role is a half-time position; flexible working arrangements may be negotiated.

Accessibility requirements and/or adjustments can be directed to the contact person listed in the job advertisement.