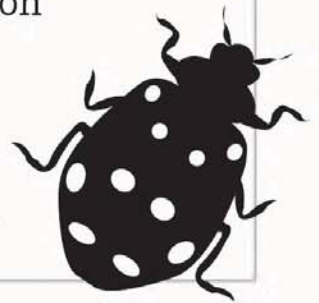


ECOLOGIST



JOB DESCRIPTION

An ecologist studies the relationship between plants and animals, and their interaction with their physical environment. They may specialize in a particular habitat (such as a rain forest) or groups of species (such as lions). Their work could range from conducting research on global issues to developing plans for local land management. A deep passion to protect the environment and biodiversity drives most ecologists.



SALARY

Newly qualified ecologist ★★★★★

Experienced ecologist ★★★★★

INDUSTRY PROFILE

Many potential employers, especially in government, environmental agencies, and academia • Fierce competition for higher-level posts

CAREER PATHS

To work as an ecologist, you need a degree or graduate qualification in ecology or biological science. Opportunities exist with national and local government agencies, environmental consultancies, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that campaign for the environment and wildlife.

VOLUNTEER Volunteering for a conservation NGO and gaining experience in the field will improve your chances of employment once you obtain a relevant degree.



GRADUATE You should hold a relevant degree, and be experienced in carrying out field research and data analysis. Graduate degrees are becoming increasingly sought after.



MARINE ECOLOGIST

Studies marine organisms and ecosystems to protect biodiversity, conserve habitats, and help preserve commercially important fish stocks and other marine life.



ECOLOGIST Early in your career, you will carry out field surveys, write reports, and provide advice to various organizations. With experience, you could move into management roles or work on environmental policy in a government department or with an NGO, before specializing in a number of different fields.

SKILLS GUIDE



Good written and verbal skills to write and present reports and academic papers.



A methodical approach to gathering data and using lab equipment for analysis of samples.



Dedication and patience, as global projects may take many years to research and complete.



Good team-management skills for advising and leading a team on a large project.



Strong computer skills for the analysis, presentation, and accurate reporting of data.



CONSERVATION ECOLOGIST

Plans and carries out programs to preserve natural resources and encourage wildlife to flourish in a variety of environments.



BIODIVERSITY OFFICER

Works to protect endangered plant species and key habitats. Performs fieldwork in order to advise NGOs and government authorities.

RELATED CAREERS

- ▶ **CONSERVATION OFFICER** Oversees different types of environmental issues, including the management of conservation activities. This role may carry responsibility for ensuring the public has access to the land. Conservation officers often make presentations, either for education or publicity.
- ▶ **OCEANOGRAPHER** Studies the seas and oceans. Oceanographers also conduct research into the effects of climate change, and explore the impact of pollution on marine life.
- ▶ **ZOOLOGIST** Observes and studies animals and their behavior in their natural habitats. This job usually requires a degree in zoology, animal ecology, animal behavior, or conservation.

AT A GLANCE



YOUR INTERESTS Wildlife and environmental conservation • Botany • Biology • Zoology • Chemistry • Geography • Mathematics • Statistics



ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS A degree in a subject such as ecology, geography, or environmental science is required. Postgraduate study can be useful.



LIFESTYLE Ecologists tend to be highly committed to wildlife and the environment. The job often requires long working hours.



LOCATION Ecologists can work in an office, laboratory, or in the field. Travel to sites may mean being away from home for extended periods.



THE REALITIES Long periods of field work and research can be physically exhausting. Site-to-site travel can become extensive.