

Postdoc for a 2 year study on grasslands and pastoralism in Mountain and Semi-arid Landscapes

July 2023

Centre for Pastoralism (CfP) works on a range of pastoralists' issues across the country. The National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) works on the frontier areas of biology to advance an integrated view of life processes. CfP and NCBS, are partnering on a research project that seeks to understand the relationship between grasslands and pastoralism in mountain and semi-arid landscapes.

This project outlines four research objectives aimed at addressing the gaps in our understanding of pastoral ecology. The project hopes to investigate the drivers and scale of sedentarisation among pastoralists, examining the effects of tree planting on carbon stocks and socio-economic impacts in rangelands, understanding pastoralists' decision-making processes and perceptions of environmental changes, and assessing the effects of grazers on rangeland dynamics. The project will involve field surveys, interviews with pastoralists, ecological assessments and data analysis to provide valuable insights for policy interventions and contribute towards knowledge on pastoral systems and ecologies.

NOTE : The postdoc fellow will be based full-time at the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore and will be required to frequently travel to field areas in the Western and Central Himalaya and the Deccan plateau.

Postdoc fellows are expected to:

1. Co-develop appropriate research questions and study design.
2. Participate in all aspects of the research including data collection and analyses, writing reports and manuscripts.
3. Help build a team of and mentor graduate students and junior researchers.
4. Present findings at meetings, workshops and seminars.

Desired experience and qualifications in Ecology:

We are looking for someone who has a strong research background and is able to understand the aspects of grassland ecology and has a working understanding of pastoralism in India. The ideal candidate will be a highly motivated, independent and a creative thinker with some experience of conducting field research and a demonstrated ability to lead projects and publish scientific papers. Previous experience of being a part of collaborative research is highly desirable but not essential.

The candidate must have the following qualifications:

- A PhD in ecology, biology, life sciences, environmental sciences or a similar field. Candidates who have submitted their PhD dissertation and are awaiting their degree will also be considered.
- Ability to travel across field sites and conduct fieldwork for an extended duration.
- Ability to perform statistical analyses preferably using the language R.
- Good scientific communication skills including speaking and writing.

We will accept applications till August 31, 2023 and start shortlisting candidates for interviews and continue until the position is filled. Please write to Aniruddh Sheth (aniruddh@centreforpastoralism.org) or Dr Mayank Kohli (mayankk@ncbs.res.in) for more information on CfP, NCBS, the project or the position. To apply, please fill up this [form](#) and submit your **CV** and a **Cover Letter**.