



British Ecological Society

## The British Ecological Society (BES)

The vision of the British Ecological Society is a world that is inspired, informed and influenced by ecology.

The BES' many activities include the publication of a range of scientific literature, including five internationally renowned journals, the organisation and sponsorship of a wide variety of meetings, the funding of numerous grant schemes, education work and policy work. The Society was established in 1913 and has approximately 5,000 members worldwide, and membership is open to all with an interest in ecology.

The Society is funded through income from subscriptions, publications and its investment portfolio. It is an independent organisation that receives little outside funding.

The BES is located at:

British Ecological Society, Charles Darwin House, 12 Roger Street, London, WC1N 2JU.

[www.britishecologicalsociety.org](http://www.britishecologicalsociety.org)



## Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)

CIEEM is the leading professional membership body representing and supporting ecologists and environmental managers in the UK, Ireland and abroad. Our vision is of a society which values the natural environment and recognises the contribution of professional ecologists and environmental managers to its conservation.

Established in 1991 and receiving our Royal Charter in 2013, we have members drawn from across the employment sectors including local authorities, government agencies, NGOs, environmental consultancy, academia and industry.

The diversity of our membership is our greatest strength, enabling us to take an integrated and holistic approach to furthering the management and enhancement of biodiversity and the ecological processes essential to a fully functional biosphere.

[www.cieem.net](http://www.cieem.net)



# Rooting for a Career in Ecology or Environmental Management?

Non-Governmental  
Organisations (NGOs)

Science Education

Science  
Communication

Business and  
Industry

Ecological  
Consultancy

Science and  
Research

The Government  
and Statutory Sector

## Using this leaflet -

This leaflet is intended to provide an introduction to the environment sector and is not a comprehensive guide. For more information, please visit the careers webpages of the British Ecological Society and Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.



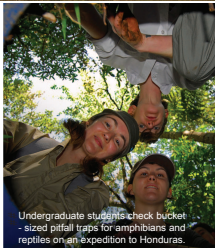
Setting net to catch mountain hare in Scotland.



## The Government and Statutory Sector

Departments and agencies of central and local government have responsibilities to promote the conservation of wildlife, habitats and landscape quality. Think tanks and research institutes engage in research and advocacy work to influence policy too. Employment opportunities in this sector are a direct result of UK and European Union policies.

Employers: Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage, Environment Agency, government departments such as Defra, local planning authorities, think tanks and National Parks.



Undergraduate students check bucket-sized pitfall traps for amphibians and reptiles on an expedition to Honduras.

## Science and Research

Ecological research covers a broad range of topics and is carried out by academic institutions and research centres funded by organisations such as the UK Research Councils. Research will often involve a significant amount of time carrying out laboratory and fieldwork.

Employers: Universities, UK Research Councils such as the Natural Environment Research Council, government departments and industrial clients.



Underwater surveying of habitat-forming animals on artificial habitats.

## Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

NGOs include charitable organisations that carry out practical conservation, research, recording and monitoring activities, and campaigning. Competition for salaried employment is intense; many roles are carried out by volunteers and work can be seasonal.

Employers: RSPB, the Wildlife Trusts, the National Trust, Greenpeace, Groundwork Trusts, National Biodiversity Network, WWF-UK.



## Business and Industry

All industries impact on the natural environment in some way. Environmental action and employment opportunities, are driven by legislation on pollution and the requirement for environmental impact assessments (EIAs) to be carried out in the planning stages of development.

Employers: Industries involved in mineral extraction, growing and processing food, production and supply of energy, pest control, civil engineering.

## Ecological Consultancy

Consultancies undertake research on behalf of their clients, reporting on field surveys and advising on ecological matters related to environmental impact assessments (EIAs), mitigation and translocation.

Employers: Consultants can be self-employed, often developing highly specialist skills in a few critical areas or they can be employed by consultancies of varying sizes. They may also combine this role with other employment such as for The Wildlife Trusts, research institutes or universities.



Freshwater crayfish sampling.

## Science Communication

Science communication is becoming an increasingly popular area for ecologists to communicate results of scientific research to non-experts such as journalists, politicians and educators.

Job roles include science journalism, public engagement and project management. Some of the more public facing roles focus on organising activities, outreach programmes and events like workshops, exhibitions and talks for more diverse audiences.

Employers: Museums, publishing companies, charities, funding councils, television and radio.



Mai Avenue Primary School on a field exercise in Wajee Nature Camp collecting insects by use of sweep nets.



## Science Education

Education can include formal classroom teaching, teaching in field study centres and education roles with NGOs and other organisations. All include generating resources, activities and ideas that help people of all ages to understand ecology and its relevance to their lives.

Employers: Schools, field study centres, learned societies.

