



“It’s Time to Plan for a World Beyond 1,5 Degrees”

Senior Associate

Terms of Reference

February 2024

NatureFinance is looking for the right person to help us anchor the next stage of our timely, challenging, and provocative cross-cutting work on “planning for a world beyond 1.5 degrees”.

About NatureFinance

NatureFinance is a Geneva-based, Swiss non-profit organization committed to making nature count in global finance.

Nature-related finance has many dimensions, actors and change pathways. The measurement and pricing of nature related risk and opportunities is generating a new data industry alongside new tools, standards, and regulations. Policymakers and financial regulators are considering the place of nature in financial stability and prudential regulation, as well as new rules connecting nature impacts to everything- from trade and investment to money laundering rules. Emerging nature markets and technologies are also creating new nature related opportunities, from nature credit markets to infrastructure and food systems.

In this landscape, our engagement in a broad range of different activities aimed at aligning finance with more equitable, nature-positive outcomes, leveraging an extensive range of networks and modalities of influencing. We are a small, highly networked, and entrepreneurial hybrid organization. We undertake classical policy advocacy and forward-looking research, and we also incubate new entities and maintain a market-shaping investment fund. We support public campaigning, as well as more inside track technical work, and have multiple ventures and related brands emerging that impact our operations on a dynamic basis.

More about NatureFinance is at www.naturefinance.net.

Beyond 1.5

Launched in advance of COP28, our pamphlet, [*“Time to Plan for a World Beyond 1.5 Degrees”*](#), set out an agenda for seeking to shape and harness the global narrative as it pivots to an acceptance that the world is heading well beyond 1.5 degrees increase in global temperatures relative to pre-industrial times. The pamphlet’s main messages are summarized in an accompanying op ed, [*‘Planning for a World Beyond 1.5 Degrees’*](#).

The pamphlet has been met with mixed reactions, from appreciative relief through quizzical engagement to requests for help all the way to anger and a sense of betrayal. More specifically, feedback has indicated that:

1. The inevitability of beyond 1.5C is far less contentious now but framed by many as a ‘temporary overshoot’ (with no reference to tipping points) and so not impacting the need to continue to focus on the 1.5-degree Paris target.
2. That shifting to a ‘B1.5’ narrative might unlock more ambitious, unconventional, disruptive action has been met with mixed reviews, many completely agreeing and others saying this is unlikely, with a group in between wanting more clarity on concrete examples of what more ambitious and disruptive action looks like through this new frame.
3. Considerable support for our propositions that: (a) we need to identify and pivot away from ‘maladaptation’ investments, (b) the narrative shift could be captured by low ambition actors and more inward looking populist political agenda.

NatureFinance is moving to the next phase of our B1.5 strategy in extending and deepening ways in which the narrative pivot can be a force for good. This will include taking deep dives in specific fields to highlight and advance more ambitious efforts and stress testing of NF’s own work and where relevant changing our existing and emerging portfolios to be aligned to the changing needs of a world moving well beyond 1,5 degrees. It also includes identifying disruptive action relevant to this changing situation in key systemic areas, such as food, finance and refugees (as illustrated in the pamphlet) and building and deploying capabilities to support partners and networks in figuring out how to rise to the challenges and opportunities of accepting we are moving into a world profoundly disrupted by climate change and nature crisis.

The Role

NatureFinance is seeking a dynamic individual to join us to play an anchor role in the development of this cross cutting, rapidly evolving, and challenging body of work. At its core, the work will be to manage the development, execution and impact of a series of inter-related work packages.

The successful candidate will be aligned to NatureFinance’s core values and mission, have a broad international perspective, and probably associated practical experience, be able to work within a highly distributed network environment, and be self-motivated and entrepreneurial.

Such a person would need to be able to deliver across the following aspects of the role:

- Demonstrable competence in all aspects of the management of a dynamic, heterogeneous set of activities, partners, and networks, including engagement, community building, research, and active communications, and including the management of financial resources and wider capabilities.
- Ability to advance a diverse research portfolio will be a core part of the work, in multiple forms including in-house, partnership based, and commissioned work, requiring the successful candidate to be able to develop, curate, ensure effective and timely delivery, and at times undertake research, especially in developing unconventional action pathway proposals fit for a B1.5 context.
- Effective communication will be key to the success of this work. The candidate is expected to be able to work closely with internal and external communication people and processes, and themselves to be able to be a good all-round communicator including speaking engagements, community curation and writing, given the external facing aspects of the role.
- This role encompasses an ‘all organization’ portfolio, requiring demonstrable capabilities to work creatively and productively across the whole team and associated work portfolios, working with

and through expert teams to stress test their work in helpfully disruptive ways, and within a limited time period, supporting the design of needed changes in what we do and how.

- Resourcing the work is also a core part of the job to be done, working with relevant NF team members to support fundraising, ensuring that the work's messaging is productively located across our broader resource mobilization activities, and requiring the successful candidate to be able to effectively contribute to this broader effort.
- Domain expertise related to NatureFinance's current portfolio is an advantage but not a requirement, notably in the areas relevant to the nexus of financial markets, biodiversity and climate, and the nature or bio-economy.

Overall, the envisaged portfolio is one of an incubation unit that is both inward and outward facing, and includes both content domains and strong communication aspects, requiring the person to provide dynamic and creative leadership that goes beyond what is normally envisaged for conventional project management roles.

Role in Context

The successful candidate will work directly with co-CEO, Simon Zadek to anchor this effort, supported by a steering group drawn from NatureFinance's senior leadership; They will work closely with colleagues across NF as well as through external partnerships and network development, complemented at times through commissioned support for example in the areas of technical research and communications.

NatureFinance operates without a central, physical hub giving us locational flexibility in building out our teams and broader capabilities. While proximity to the work area in Switzerland is preferred due to the intense nature of collaboration, it's not mandatory.

NatureFinance has a globally distributed team and network, emphasizing the value of cross-cultural and multi-language capabilities. Proficiency in English, both spoken and written, is required for effective communication

Our B1.5 work is already underway with ambitious targets and timelines for 2024. That means that the successful candidate will be expected to commit full time or near full time within a reasonably short period, whilst for the right candidate we would seek to accommodate transition commitments and associated timelines.

The successful candidate will be offered a 12-month contract renewable by mutual consent, with every intention of the person extending their involvement over a longer period given the two-way investment that is to be made. NatureFinance offers competitive remuneration in line with our organization's standards.

Application

If the approach, ambition and envisaged role is of serious interest to you, and you feel that you fit our profile, or can bring a unique perspective, please submit a cover letter, resume with references (who will not be contacted without your permission) and a sample of something you have exclusively written to Joanna O'Malley at Joanna.Omalley@naturefinance.net copied to Melina Inglese at Melina.Inglese@naturefinance.net.