

Living together with Wildlife: International approaches to managing human-wildlife coexistence

Department: Sustainable Development

Research group: Environmental Sciences

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Project description

In this Assistantship you will work as part of the team of the WildlifeNL project. With a broad consortium of researchers and societal partners, WildlifeNL studies ways to support coexistence between humans and wildlife. We investigate the interactions between humans and animals, and explore how the behavior of wildlife and humans can be influenced in such a way that a low-conflict coexistence of humans and wildlife becomes possible.

The last decade the concept of human-wildlife coexistence has gained more and more attention. Using the concept of coexistence (instead of the lens of conflict), we can move away from a focus on negative interactions between people and animals to understanding ways positive interactions can be build. Coexistence could support a transformation in the way we live together with wildlife, changing the way in which we perceive and relate to wildlife, the way we manage the different interactions between people that come in contact with wildlife and wildlife management. However, the question remains how coexistence is operationalized in wildlife management approaches, and whether they manage to reach low-conflict coexistence.

As a Brights Minds Assistant, you will support this project by diving into the concept of human-wildlife coexistence, supporting the development of a methodology to compare different approaches on human-wildlife coexistence and in collecting and analysing data using this methodology. This could for example include developing a survey or conducting interviews with practitioners that implement interesting approaches that have been identified together with the team. You will do this in close collaboration with the postdoctoral researcher of the project, and you will be part of the WildlifeNL early career research group, consisting of students, PhD-candidates and postdoctoral researchers. You can also contribute to and co-author on the scientific article that will be published based on this research.

For more information, please see our website: www.wildlifennl.nl

Job requirements

- An interest in human-environment interactions, social-ecological transformations, and wildlife management
- Knowledge of quantitative and/or qualitative research approaches, such as interviews or surveys is a merit