

Coordinator for Southwest England, as part of 'The Seed
Sovereignty Programme for UK & Ireland'
at The Gaia Foundation



Duration:	Fixed Term: Maternity Cover, 2.5 days (17.5 hours) per week until September 2021
Location:	Home Based, Southwest England Region
Start:	9 December 2020
Salary:	£27,000 pro rata
Hours:	Part time
Annual Leave:	25 days paid annual holiday plus recognised statutory public holidays. These are pro-rated for part-time employees.
Reports to:	Programme Manager
Working with:	Programme Manager, Head of Communications, other Coordinators and partners

Please send your CV, a covering letter and the application form below to Mara Carraro – mara@gaianet.org by midday on Wednesday 18th of November 2020.

The programme is managed by The Gaia Foundation which have over 30 years' experience accompanying partners, indigenous communities and Earth defenders in Africa, South America, Asia and Europe. Together we work to revive bio-cultural diversity, regenerate healthy ecosystems and strengthen community self-governance for climate change resilience.

Through a holistic and long-term approach working with local and indigenous communities, civil society groups and social movements, we focus on four key areas:

- **Seed, food & Climate Change Resilience** - Building seed, food and climate change resilience, enabling small farmers and growers to enhance their knowledge and seed diversity.
- **Sacred Lands & Wilderness** - Protecting sacred lands through legislation and policy change, and the assertion of custodial rights, helping communities to gain legal recognition that is rooted in their traditions.
- **Earth Jurisprudence** - Promoting Gaian governance through the Rights of Nature - recognising nature as the primary source of law and ethics, and challenging the current capitalist system.
- **Beyond Extractivism** - Moving beyond extractivism, backing those at the front line of mining struggles to defend their ecological and cultural heritage and to build alternative pathways whilst affirming their right to say 'no'.

Seed Sovereignty of UK & Ireland Programme

The programme, which began in 2017, facilitates the development of a biodiverse and resilient seed system in the UK and Ireland through building networks, providing training and mentoring, and supporting routes to market for seed producers. It raises awareness about the benefits of locally produced open-pollinated seeds and the need for a varied seed system as well as acting as advocate and partner to existing organisations in the sector.

The programme supports strategic collaboration across the UK and Ireland and the international seed movement in addition to the delivery of specific activities, training and

resources aimed at up-skilling farmers and growers. These opportunities are made available through regional seed hubs located around the UK and Ireland where training, networking and opportunities for collaboration are made available and facilitated by regional coordinators.

The programme has identified three overarching objectives for the second phase of the programme within which all of the activities have been organised:

1. More open-pollinated locally produced seed is available in the UK and Ireland. Increasing the amount of open-pollinated seed produced in the UK and Ireland as well as facilitating clear routes to market for producers and clear avenues to buy for growers.
2. Increased knowledge of open-pollinated locally produced seed and its benefits in the UK and Ireland
3. Increased solidarity with and unified direction for the wider international seed sovereignty movement. Solidifying links to international partners/collaborators, providing a clear position on policy, influencing decision-making around open-pollinated and small-scale seed production nationally and internationally.

Job Description

This is a home-based, part-time post, with travel required throughout Southwest England and sometimes further afield (when safe to do so under current Covid regulations). This role is maternity cover for the current coordinator of Southwest England and will run at 2.5 days/week until the end of September 2021.

Role

This role is for a Coordinator to assist in the development of the second phase of the Seed Sovereignty Programme in the southwest of England. As maternity cover, the work will predominantly focus on the network and deliverables put in place by the current Southwest England Coordinator, with scope for expanding development to other areas in the region. This role will include supporting the members of the regional hub through training, mentoring, and routes to market and engaging with other groups and individuals through events, workshops and talks. It also involves collaborating with the rest of the team remotely to share best practices and develop the programme.

The Coordinator will also help establish further hubs in the region if required and to promote the hub(s) and the issue of seeds and seed production to interested parties and farmers/growers in the region.

Responsibilities

- Coordinate activities, resources and equipment. These activities will include training, mentoring opportunities, variety trials, seed production and information.
- Build and maintain strong working relationships with regional partners.
- Monitor & track progress for the regional hub as a whole as well as for funders. Maintain any records as required.
- Act as the main point of contact for enquiries and interested parties in your region.
- Contribute to overall programme strategy/initiatives

- Develop new opportunities of work, new collaboration opportunities in network, new side-initiatives for programme
- Report directly to the Programme Manager

Person Specification

Must be able prepared to travel regularly, particularly within Southwest England, when it is safe to do so under the current Covid restrictions. At this time it is anticipated that much of the activities will take place online for the foreseeable future with in-person events when safe to do so.

Skills & Expertise	Essential	Desirable
Good teamworker	X	
Good internet connection and ability to work remotely	X	
Excellent written and verbal communication skills	X	
Excellent time management and IT skills	X	
Experience of developing and presenting talks and/or training	X	
Ability to work independently and liaise virtually with a team	X	
Good connections with like-minded orgs and networks, ideally the South West Seed Savers, and ability to collaborate		X
Good organisational skills and attention to detail	X	
Ability to assess and adjust work quickly and agilely as the situation requires	X	
Experience monitoring and evaluating programme work		X
Minimum 2-3 years experience in the area of seed production	X	
Experience in working on or running a farm or market garden and/or relevant degree		X

Please send your CV, a covering letter and the application form below, to Mara Carraro - mara@gaianet.org— by midday on Wednesday the 18th of November 2020.

Confidential Application

Regional Coordinator for Southwest England Region
Maternity Cover

The Gaia Foundation

Please complete this brief application form and attach a CV outlining your career to date, plus any academic and professional qualifications. Also include details of any voluntary post undertaken. Please send your application, by midday on 18th November 2020, to mara@gaiagnet.org

Full Name:

Address:

Mobile Phone:

Home Phone:

Email:

How did you hear of this post?

Are you eligible to work in the UK? :

REFERENCES

Please give details of two professional referees - your current employer (they will not be contacted prior to an offer), and your previous employer or personal referee:-

1 - Name and professional relationship to you:

The Recruitment Process

Timetable

Deadline for applications	Midday on 18 th November 2020
Interview Date (Time to be arranged)	Week commencing 23 rd November 2020

To Apply

If you would like to apply for the role then please send your CV, covering letter and Application Form to mara@gaiagnet.org by midday on 18th November 2020.

Information

If you require any further information or you would like to discuss anything in more detail, please contact Programme Manager Sinéad Fortune at sinead@gaiagnet.org.