

Host organisation(s)	Luc Hoffmann Institute
Host supervisor(s) & contact email address	Jessica Villat, Head of Communication and Project Lead (Future of Philanthropy for Biodiversity) jvillat@wwfint.org
Proposed placement title / topic	<p>Future of Philanthropy for Biodiversity</p> <p>By December 2023, the project envisions that a diverse set of stakeholders from the philanthropic and environmental sectors collectively take forward a vision for how an innovative and radical reframing of giving and thinking could lead to systems change for people and nature to flourish as one.</p>
General description	<p>Philanthropy is inherently paradoxical. In a 2021 Mongabay article André Hoffmann, member of the Luc Hoffmann Institute Advisory Council, said, “If you destroy nature to make a profit then you are creating the problem that you then try to solve with philanthropy”. Now more than ever, recent events such as the COVID pandemic and the reawakening of the social justice movement in the United States have reinforced how desperately a paradigm shift is needed in philanthropy if it hopes to contribute to more durable solutions to the world’s most complex challenges.</p> <p>Power dynamics - between grantors and grantees, donors and communities - have always been an inherent part of philanthropy. In the past decade, growing awareness of economic inequality and racial disparities has begun to make these often unspoken undercurrents much more visible.. There are also systemic issues that need exploring.</p> <p>Indeed, traditional philanthropy tends to be siloed, with funding going to single-issue agencies. This means that the co-benefits from biodiversity conservation within the climate space, health, public safety, community and economic development, education, or arts and culture often go unrecognised. However, incubating and testing bold initiatives needs to happen in an integral, hybrid space.</p> <p>If the majority of donations go to noble causes such as public health, peace and security, human rights, international development, etc., only two percent of worldwide donations are directed to the environment.. And compared with other major categories, climate and adjacent fields, such as environmental/nature conservation, receive far less grant funding. Is it possible for conservation organisations to partner with other fields that are systemically entwined? And could the co-benefits from nature conservation of health, public</p>

	<p>safety, community and economic development, education, or arts and culture be better defined to meet both donor and recipient goals? Donors are reexamining who they fund and how, how they are staffed, and what representation they have at the leadership level to also tackle systemic racial and power issues..</p> <p>The growing trend in participatory grantmaking is part of the shift in traditional power dynamics in philanthropy . Traditional funding comes with restrictions on how, when, and where it can be used. This assumes the donor knows best just because they have the money, rather than acknowledging the hard-earned insights of organisations, local communities and indigenous peoples on the ground. Instead, sharing power has involved donors having conversations with grantees and communities, and incorporating their viewpoints into strategies and funding decisions, with some donors even ceding power to communities Some donors are working with nonprofits and communities to set impact and learning goals together so that outcomes can be measured and evaluated more equitably, including who gets to decide what success looks like and what gets measured, so that quality of life and not just quantity is taken into account. Some donors provide unrestricted funding and let the recipient decide. However, unrestricted funding requires trust, and this trust too often is awarded to organisations led by leaders in the Global North with whom donors feel most comfortable (Candid, 2020).</p> <p>In light of this, for societal and biodiversity resilience and regeneration, the Luc Hoffmann Institute is exploring the possible futures of philanthropy. What paradigm shifts are occurring that will shape ways of giving in the future? What are new and innovative paradigms and models of funding/giving and beyond that that could increase net-positive outcomes for nature and people? For this exploration, the institute is conducting background research and interviews, and plans to use the emerging themes and questions to form a background report and spark a conversation with a diverse range of people from the philanthropic sphere, NGOs, indigenous people and local communities.</p>
<p>What conservation leadership challenge(s) will the placement address?</p>	<p>In order to bring about more just and equitable futures of philanthropy, the project aims to understand 1) what might need to change in order to get there and 2) who are the likely actors for achieving a systems change. In this way the project aims to situate current and emerging leaders in the field of environmental conservation and philanthropy on a mindset spectrum to better</p>

	<p>understand the levers, barriers and entry points for shifting the overall paradigm of philanthropy to better serve a vision of biodiversity that centres issues of justice, power, equity and indigenous rights to name a few. This is a challenge faced not only by conservation and philanthropy across the board, but will also serve to guide the institute's own thinking and development on issues of funding.</p>
<p>What specific activities might the student be required to undertake during the placement?</p>	<p>Draw on a dataset of 60+ transcribed interviews with philanthropic actors to discover innovation in philanthropy for biodiversity.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take an innovative approach to developing or refining a framework for analysis of the interviews that is agreed on by the project team. 2. Determine desired outputs for graphic design/illustration 3. Analyse the transcripts (using inductive and deductive approach) of 60 plus interviews with stakeholders from the philanthropic and environmental sector to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify points of agreement, divergence and conflict - Identify emerging themes or salient data to turn into graphic data or illustrations - Calibrate interviewees along a mindset spectrum 4. Suggest and agree with the project team ways to depict insights from the interviews in an illustrative and inspiring way, and work with an external graphic designer to visualise agreed findings as graphic representations or illustrations. 5. Bring together the findings from the analysis in a report or other output to be agreed. 6. Present findings to the organisation and/or a wider audience, TBD.
<p>What leadership skills will the student develop/ demonstrate in this placement?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building expertise and a deep understanding of the philanthropy space. - Strengthen analytical and qualitative thinking from the local to global level. - Interpret and develop a framework to make sense of complexity and nuance. - By listening and reading the interviews, gain insight into how a diversity of leaders think.
<p>Are there any specific skills or characteristics required for this placement?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experience with qualitative interview analysis. - Experience with and access to qualitative data analysis software, such as Nvivo.

<p>How will the host organisation benefit from the placement?</p>	<p>By getting fresh interpretations and analysis of data and interviews via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a potential framework for analysis - an illustrated depiction of the data - a report on the findings
<p>Location(s) of the placement</p>	<p>Remote</p>
<p>Facilities that will be made available to the student</p>	<p>Access to interview data.</p>