



Job Posting.

DIRECTOR, NATURE-CENTRIC APPROACHES.

August 2024.

Organizational Host: United Nations Foundation

Location: Fully remote

Reporting to: Executive Director, ASRA

Time: FTE, negotiable

Compensation: \$120,000 to \$150,000 USD commensurate with experience

Type: Consultant, 1-year renewable

Context.

The Accelerator for Systemic Risk Assessment (ASRA) mobilizes a diverse global network of risk professionals and thought-leaders radically rethinking risk as a way to address current and future crises. ASRA aims to catalyze the science and practice of systemic risk assessment and to strengthen systemic risk response capacities especially amongst policy- and decision-makers at global, national, and sub-national scales. An independent, not-for-profit initiative hosted by the United Nations Foundation, ASRA is on a mission to accelerate transformative action that protects Earth's ecological systems and humanity from the threats of escalating systemic risks.

ASRA is founded on a set of principles including non-human sanctity. Incorporating nature into risk analysis is not merely a matter of environmental stewardship or human self-preservation. Nature-centric approaches attribute intrinsic value to all living organisms and ecosystems, independent of their utility to humans. This perspective recognizes the interconnectedness of all life forms and the importance of preserving the integrity and health of other species and ecosystems for their own sake, and not just as a resource for humans. This approach involves evaluating the impacts of human activities on biodiversity, habitat connectivity, and ecological processes.

The role.

Reporting to the Executive Director of ASRA, the Director of Nature-Centric Approaches will be responsible for initiating and managing a new effort on non-human sanctity, inherent value, and agency as it relates to systemic risk assessment and response. This position will help deliver on firmly establishing ASRA in its set of [principles](#), in particular: *Non-human Sanctity and Interdependence Principle to recognize the sanctity, inherent value, and agency of non-human life, and the*

interdependence and interconnectedness of human and natural systems and species, and make this recognition central to systemic risk assessment and response.

The successful candidate will explore whether and how underlying anthropocentric values and priorities influence the outcome of systemic risk assessment and response; and whether and how a nature-centric view on systemic risk assessment and response will lead to different strategies to mitigate, prepare for, adapt to, and transform identified risks and their systemic drivers. As well, this position will develop the evidence base and case for the size & scale of the opportunity for nature-centric approaches to have positive impacts on reducing systemic risks to other systems, and explore how taking a nature-centric focus holds potential as a social movement, e.g., exploring the power of nature-centric approaches to convene those with different perspectives.

Main responsibilities include: research and analysis on good practice; mapping and engaging the ecosystem of actors, in particular building strong relationships with relevant stakeholders; testing, implementing, and mainstreaming nature-centric approaches for systemic risk assessment and response; and supporting the ASRA network, Steering Committee, and team in integrating bio- and eco-centric values into our collective work. This role will enhance ASRA's ambition to be a hub of knowledge on systemic risk assessment and response and provider of tools and frameworks ready to use at sub-national, national, regional, and global scales amongst public and private actors.

Preference will be given to candidates who can also contribute to the dynamic and strategic development of ASRA as a start-up initiative as it relates to strategy development, stakeholder relations, management, and organizational development.

Core responsibilities.

Research.

- Explore whether and how underlying anthropocentric values and priorities influence the outcome of risk assessment and response; and whether and how a nature-centric view on systemic risk assessment and response will lead to different analysis and strategies to mitigate, prepare for, adapt to, and transform identified risks and their drivers
- Review the best approaches to navigate trade-offs and exploit synergies around the impacts of systemic risks on nature and vulnerable human populations
- Generate early options for integrating nature-centric approaches to systemic risk assessment and response, defining measures and mechanisms to mitigate complex risks by illuminating theory, good practice, and case studies
- Analyze research for areas of consensus, non-consensus, tension, and debate in processes, methods, and tools for decision-making, including their strengths and limitations
- Ensure inclusion of different forms of knowledge such as Indigenous and local knowledge, tacit knowledge, stakeholders' values, and ethical maps, etc.
- Stay on the pulse of, and track emerging R&D, innovative applications, and thought-leadership on, nature-centric approaches
- Translate research into digestible forms for staff, the ASRA network, and ASRA Steering Committee

Application and implementation.

- Review ASRA's systemic risk tools and methods (both assessment and response) considering their ability to elevate nature-centric considerations and balance human needs with ecological sustainability
- Determine and implement strategy to test and apply principles to systemic risk assessment and response tools and methods
- Assess 2024 pilots (currently under way to test new systemic risk and response methods and tools) to explore how integration of nature-centric principles into systemic risk assessment and response can lead to practices and policies that improve long-term resilience and integrity of the entire biosphere
- Undertake additional strategic pilots in diverse geographies and across scales

Strategic support and stakeholder relations.

- Convene and lead a nature-centric working group for network members
- Assist in identifying, establishing, and supporting permanent and ad hoc expert working groups needed to advance ASRA's mission
- Understand and map, in particular, key decision-makers across sectors, scales, and geographies including strengths, needs, opportunities, and challenges
- Develop a strategy for strategic outreach together with the Executive Director, other key staff, and the ASRA network of experts and practitioners
- Contribute to collective priorities including convenings, reports, etc.
- Represent ASRA at meetings and conferences, in international discussions with key stakeholders as needed and appropriate
- Contribute to communications to advance new narratives

Organizational development.

- Work to enhance integration of non-human sanctity and interdependence considerations in ASRA's processes and plans
- Contribute to the dynamic and strategic development of ASRA as a start-up initiative as it relates to strategy development, stakeholder relations, management, and organizational development
- Contribute to a professional, results-driven, and solutions-oriented organization
- Contribute to fostering a positive, collaborative, transparent, and coordinated working environment through teamwork amongst staff, the ASRA network, and other stakeholders
- Support strong internal communications
- Contribute to fundraising and reporting

Competencies.

- 10+ years of experience in a related field
- Experience and expertise in fields of ecology, natural systems, nature-centric theory and practice, biocentrism, ecocentrism

- Experience and expertise in global governance, public sector advocacy, policy and decision-making, as well as concomitant networks with key stakeholders
- Experience and expertise in risk assessment theory and practice, frameworks, models, data, and tools
- A passion for, and knowledge of, applying a systems lens to resilience decision-making
- In-depth knowledge of systems thinking, complexity theory, etc. and familiarity with core concepts such as uncertainty, risk, resilience, etc.
- A bold and ambitious vision for what ASRA can be, as well as a strategic mind and the personal commitment to help realize the collective vision
- Is values-driven
- Experience working with transdisciplinary efforts, coordinating multi-actor processes, and negotiating at a high level in international and political environments
- Experience in working across many types of institutions, including academia, multilaterals, government, private sector, civil society, and military
- Strong dialogue, facilitation, and conflict resolution skills
- Ability to engage an extensive network at different scales (local & global) through working effectively in a transparent and open manner and maintaining good relations with stakeholders
- Ability to work in a highly collaborative environment with steering committee, staff, and network
- An understanding of the complex realities of the current state of our planetary systems and personal commitment to efforts to mitigate those threats
- Demonstrates adaptive leadership, is adept at reading the landscape, is astute at recognizing patterns, is agile in responding to changing conditions, and is engaged interactively and interdependently with staff and stakeholders
- Understands what it means to work as part of a small, virtual, and flexible team where a range of practical tasks needs to be taken care of by the whole team
- High tolerance for the complexities of working in a multi-partner, cutting-edge start-up

How to express interest.

Please submit *in one singular PDF* a comprehensive resumé along with a cover letter which outlines how your professional and lived experience prepared you for this role, what inspires you about this opportunity, and why this is the right time for you to undertake such an endeavor. Please send to:

Zabrina Kjeldsen
 Operations Manager
 Accelerator for Systemic Risk Assessment (ASRA)
zkjeldsen@asranetwork.org

Applications are due by **Friday 20th September no later than 5:00pm EDT**. We are committed to creating a diverse environment. All qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, religion, gender or sexual orientation, national origin, location, or age.

About ASRA.

ASRA (the Accelerator for Systemic Risk Assessment) aims to mainstream systemic risk assessment in policy and decision-making in response to current and future challenges. Hosted by the United Nations Foundation, this independent non-profit initiative advances the field and practice of systemic risk, and advocates for transformative action for the prosperity of all people, societies, species, and ecosystems. Learn more at: www.asranetwork.org.

About United Nations Foundation.

For 25 years, the UN Foundation has built novel innovations and partnerships to support the United Nations and help solve global challenges at scale. As an independent charitable organization, the Foundation was created to work closely with the United Nations to address humanity's greatest challenges and drive global progress. Learn more at www.unfoundation.org.