



## Nadine Bowles-Newark

BSc(Hons) Environmental Management,  
2012

Assistant Programme Officer, United Nations  
Environment Programme – World Conservation  
Monitoring Centre

### A career in conservation

Despite only graduating in 2012, Nadine Bowles-Newark has landed her dream role working for the Ecosystem Assessment Programme at UNEP-WCMC (United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre), as an Assistant Programme Officer.

In her role, Nadine focuses on project work related to ecosystem assessment and biodiversity indicators. This includes working on a range of national and international initiatives including the UK National Ecosystem Assessment (UK NEA) Follow-on Phase, Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and UK Biodiversity Indicators. She is also currently producing guidance to support National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan practitioners, incorporating spatial data and mapping for reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The international remit of Nadine's job means that she has the opportunity to see her initiatives in action around the world. *'Travel is an important part of the job as we work with many international partners and across most regions – I've recently been to the Falkland Islands and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.'*

### New direction

Nadine's route into conservation and ecology was not wholly conventional. She began studying at the University

of Hertfordshire as a mature student, having originally worked in retail management. *'Even though I enjoyed my job, I decided that after ten years I fancied a career change. I've always been interested in the environment, something which grew throughout the course, and changing career was the best decision that I ever made!'*

She began working for the UNEP-WCMC in the position of Programme Assistant – a role that she held for 12 months before being promoted to Assistant Programme Officer.

### Lifelong learning

It's clear that Nadine is passionate about her role, and her interest in the field means that she plans to stay in her role for the foreseeable future. Her enthusiasm for her specialism means that she's also keen to keep learning. *'If possible I'd like to undertake further, part-time study in the future, possibly through a Master's.'*

For those considering a career in conservation, Nadine recommends getting as much experience as possible – something which she believes gave her an edge in her interview – as well as thoroughly researching the organisation and sector. She also stresses the importance of what she learnt on her degree course. *'I use my degree every day, and the skills and knowledge that I learnt are very important. I remember citing the UK NEA in my dissertation – now I'm part of it!'*



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