

PIVOTAL

WANTED: ECOLOGICAL EXPERTS

Can you identify birds, bats or frogs from acoustic data?

Or can you identify plants, mammals and insects from images?

We need experts like you for paid work online.

IMPROVE THE WAY THE WORLD MEASURES BIODIVERSITY

Businesses are finally starting to realise they depend on nature and that their activity often damages biodiversity.

More and more businesses are making claims about their impact on biodiversity, but few can prove those claims. So how will the world know whether what they say is true? We want businesses to have evidence of their real impact, so we are helping them collect data on the ground and to analyse it effectively – this is vital to enable them to measure their impacts robustly.

We have built machine learning algorithms that can identify species in sound and image files, and we need your expertise to check that the technology is working correctly.

With your help, we can equip businesses to protect and restore biodiversity.

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH MORE THAN 100 EXPERT ECOLOGISTS AROUND THE WORLD

We are looking for more ecologists who have experience identifying at least one of the following:

Audio	High resolution images	Camera trap images
Birds	Plants	Mammals
Bats	Insects	
Frogs		

THE ROLE

This is a paid role that you can do online, from anywhere, at any time. The role involves adding species labels to the audio or image files to name the species present. Your expertise will help us protect nature by providing accurate evidence.

Together, we will build the most detailed set of annotated, species-level biodiversity data ever compiled.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Fill out the application form [here](#). It should only take you five minutes.
2. When we have an upcoming survey that matches your expertise, we will invite you to do a short trial exercise.
3. We will review the results and let you know whether you have been selected for the upcoming survey.
4. We will agree an hourly rate of pay with you. You are now ready to start working on projects!

WHO ARE PIVOTAL?

Pivotal was set up in 2021 by Dr Zoe Balmforth, who holds a PhD in Ecology and has spent 25 years working on biodiversity issues, and Cameron Frayling, an experienced entrepreneur.

Our mission is to provide the data people and businesses need to invest in positive outcomes for nature. If we can make data collection and analysis scalable, vast areas of the world could be economically viable for conservation and restoration.

Using advances in technology, we enable affordable collection, analysis and reporting of on-the-ground data that tracks changes to species and habitats. This data helps us get much closer to knowing the truth about real changes than the predictions made from models, proxy data or global averages that businesses and investors currently tend to use.

We work with businesses, governments, standard setters like [Plan Vivo](#), and financial institutions.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much will I be paid?	This will depend on your expertise, as demonstrated by the trial.
Do I need any qualifications?	No. As long as you are able to pass an initial trial to demonstrate your skill set, we will be happy to work with you.
Do I need expertise in flora/fauna of a particular region?	We will ask you which regions and taxa you have experience in as part of the application process and will get in touch when we have a survey that matches your expertise.
What is the trial?	We will send you an online trial asking you to identify species that we expect to find on the survey you will be assigned to. If you do not pass the trial, you won't be penalised and will still be able to apply to work on other projects in the future.
What does a typical schedule look like?	We collect and process data gathered at a site and batch it into small projects which we assign to you or other experts from our community. We agree the deadline with you and you can do the work whenever you like to meet that deadline.
What if I am unable to accept a piece of work I'm offered?	You can accept or decline work as you wish. You will not be penalised for saying no.
Will I have a contract?	Yes. Once you have completed the trial and we have agreed a rate of pay you will sign the contract.
Do I need any particular software or licenses?	No, you can do all the annotation from our online site.
What hardware do I need?	Some of the files require some processing power so we find it works best if your computer has at least 8GB of RAM.
What internet speed is needed?	You will need a stable internet connection, ideally with a speed of 10Mbps or more.
Will I need to travel to carry out field research?	The annotation work is all done remotely, online and can be done from the comfort of your home or wherever you have a stable internet connection!
How will I receive payments?	You will need a bank account that can receive payments from the UK.
What clients do we work with?	We work with a wide variety of clients, including big corporates, large and small conservation NGOs, farming co-ops, rewilding NGOs, forestry companies, conservancies, agricultural companies and more.