Career Profiles:

Name: Tricia Beecher

Role: Conservation Ranger with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in Ireland

AN OVERVIEW OF YOUR JOB:

Conservation Rangers have a very varied job. It includes conservation management, monitoring species and habitats, enforcing wildlife legislation and engaging with the public.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THIS ROLE?

I have been a Conservation Ranger for 2 years and I've worked in different environmental and conservation jobs for 12 years. I previously worked in the Burren National Park in Co. Clare and the Grasslands National Park in Canada.

WHERE ARE YOU USUALLY BASED?

Killarney National Park, Co. Kerry, I spend most my time outdoors in the National Park but I do spend some time in the office, writing reports and preparing for different projects.

A TYPICAL DAY...

No two days are the same but Duty Ranger has to be covered 7 days a week so we each do a day. We answer any phone calls, respond to incidents, patrol the National Park and make sure everything is ok.

WHAT'S THE FAVOURITE PART OF YOUR WORK?

Working on different conservation projects and learning new skills. My favourite project so far has been the White Tailed Eagle Reintroduction Project. From feeding them in captivity to watching them take their first flight, it is just amazing! I am learning how to operate our boats so we can go out on the lakes to monitor the eagles.

WHAT'S THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF YOUR WORK?

The weather!! Safety is our priority so we change plans for remote hikes or boating trips if the weather conditions aren't right. The lakes water levels fluctuate quickly so we lose access to parts of the National Park due to flooding.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THIS CAREER?

I grew up in the countryside and always had an interest in being outdoors adventuring and observing the amazing nature around me. I went on to study Applied Ecology for my bachelor's degree and Wildlife Biology and Conservation for my master's degree.

HELPFUL TIPS

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A YOUNG PERSON INTERESTED IN THIS CAREER PATH?

You will be forever learning about nature so start with a species or habitat that you like, find out some information about it online or at your local library. You could look for citizen science projects in your area or start recording your biodiversity findings in your school grounds on the National Biodiversity Data Centre website.

WHAT WORK EXPERIENCE, QUALIFICATIONS OR TRAINING WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FOR GETTING INTO THIS CAREER?

Any outdoor skills like mountaineering, boating, kayaking or diving are useful skills to have. Keeping fit and becoming an experienced hiker prepare you for long days out on the hills.

BESIDES FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS, WHAT SKILLS OR TRAITS ARE MOST USEFUL FOR YOUR TYPE OF WORK?

Wildlife ID skills are an important part of the job. There are some great resources and free courses online to help you get started and get the eye in for identifying different flowers, insects, birds or trees.

Nature Quiz Answer

The correct answer is.....

2. Beavers have never lived in Ireland (but maybe they would be a welcome addition!)

Get Involved and discover more with the Biodiversity Awareness Programme of the NPWS

Notice Nature on:
Facebook
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Thanks for reading! You can subscribe or unsubscribe from the newsletter here and make sure you check out the BioBeo website by scanning the QR code! Buzz you again soon!

If you want to learn more about Killarney National Park you can check out the website here or follow on Instagram here.

An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Co-funded by the European Union

Career Profiles:

Name: Conor Haugh

Role: Education Coordinator with BiOrbic

AN OVERVIEW OF YOUR JOB:

As Education Coordinator with BiOrbic, the Research Ireland Centre for Bioeconomy, I help connect cutting-edge bioeconomy research with youth-focused education.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THIS ROLE?

I have worked in environmental education for about 10 years. I've worked with BiOrbic for nearly two years.

WHERE ARE YOU USUALLY BASED?

University College Dublin, but I work with young people all across the country. Depending on the day, I could be in any corner of Ireland!

A TYPICAL DAY...

A typical day involves a mix of planning and running workshops or events, collaborating with colleagues on projects, and engaging with youth groups to support their sustainability initiatives. Some days I might be on the road visiting schools, while others I'm at my desk creating resources or writing reports.

WHAT'S THE FAVOURITE PART OF YOUR WORK?

I love how frequently I learn something new from the young people I work with. Recently, a participant shared how fishing with his dad made him notice species and water quality declines, connecting it to what we were discussing about climate change. Moments like this, where we learn from each other, are the best part of my work.

WHAT'S THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF YOUR WORK?

Given the scale of the climate crisis, it can be tough to keep young people optimistic about the impact of grassroots actions. I understand how these efforts can feel small compared to global issues, but I do believe that change comes about through such actions, and I have seen the impact they have on local communities and beyond.

HELPFUL TIPS

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A YOUNG PERSON INTERESTED IN THIS CAREER PATH?

Now is the time to get involved! We need all types of skills and perspectives to tackle climate change and support the bioeconomy. Volunteer, join youth programmes, or seek internships to gain experience. Environmental education isn't just for scientists—it's a space where diverse skills, from art to technology, can thrive.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THIS CAREER?

In 2010, I began a biology degree out of an interest in the environment. During and after my studies, I worked in part-time, freelance, or voluntary environmental education roles. In 2019, I completed a Masters in Ecology and later worked as an ecological consultant. I soon missed interacting with young people and eventually transitioned back to build a full-time environmental education role.

BESIDES FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS, WHAT SKILLS OR TRAITS ARE MOST USEFUL FOR YOUR TYPE OF WORK?

Flexibility, creativity, and the ability to communicate complex topics in an engaging way are essential. It also helps to have good organisational skills and a genuine passion for working with young people and the environment.

Learn more about BiOrbic's educational projects here or follow them on LinkedIn

Thanks for reading! You can subscribe or unsubscribe from the newsletter here and make sure you check out the BioBeo website by scanning the QR code! Buzz you again soon!

Co-funded by the European Union

Career Profiles:

Name: Rita Escórcio

Role: PhD Student in NOVA University of Lisbon, investigating bio-based materials from plant polyesters

AN OVERVIEW OF YOUR JOB:

As part of my work, I carry out research on plant polyesters and bio-based materials made from industrial agricultural waste, mainly tomato pomace (the tomato's seeds, stems, and peels after they are processed to make ketchup, for example).

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THIS ROLE?

As part of my bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, I have been working on the valorisation of tomato pomace for eight years!

WHAT'S THE FAVOURITE PART OF YOUR WORK?

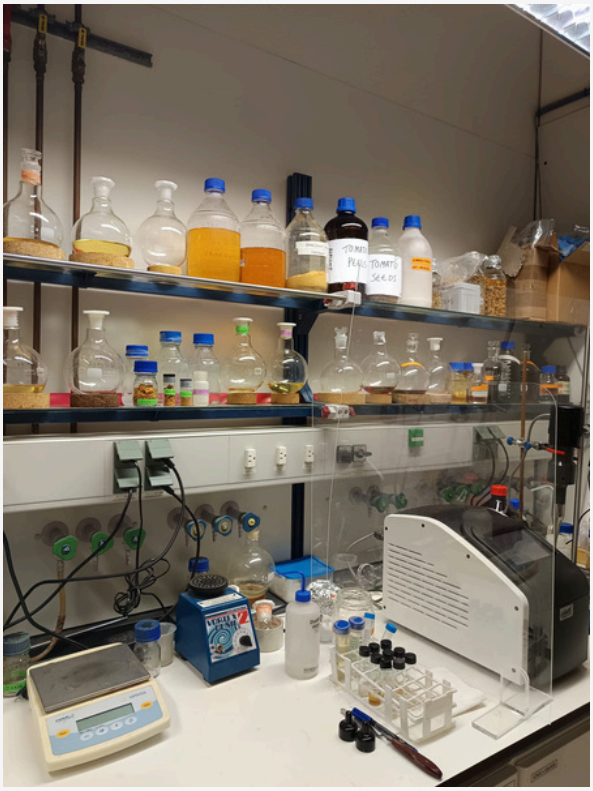
I like challenges, and scientific research is full of them. My favourite part is undoubtedly the bench work (pipetting, weighting) and being in the laboratory.

WHERE ARE YOU USUALLY BASED?

I'm now based in Lisbon, Portugal, where I spend the majority of my time in the lab at ITQB NOVA at the NOVA University of Lisbon.

WHAT'S THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF YOUR WORK?

To establish a balance between the experiments and the writing/reporting part. Bench work is always more enjoyable, and data organisation and writing can lag behind at times.



HOW DID YOU GET INTO THIS CAREER?

Science was always one of my favourite subjects in school, and Biology looked like the perfect choice for understanding and exploring nature! Then, while studying for my bachelor's degree, I discovered the valorisation of industrial wastes and haven't looked back since.

BESIDES FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS, WHAT SKILLS OR TRAITS ARE MOST USEFUL FOR YOUR TYPE OF WORK?

I'd say perseverance and determination; experiments don't always work, and failure is a common occurrence. To that, I would add creativity and ingenuity; after each failure, we have to develop another way of trying again or move into another direction.

HELPFUL TIPS

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A YOUNG PERSON INTERESTED IN THIS CAREER PATH?

It is critical to establish boundaries and care for your mental health; burnout is common in scientific research because while you are excited about understanding the world and contributing to the development of new tools and materials, you frequently forget your own well-being.

A TYPICAL DAY...

When I get to the laboratory, the first thing I do is open my computer and check my emails. Then I proceed to see whether I have any experiments planned and/or organised for that day; normally on Mondays, I prepare the experiments for the week and book the equipment that I will need. If I don't have any experiments scheduled for the day, I normally spend my time on the computer analysing or organising data.

HEAR MORE FROM RITA IN THE AMAZING BIOECONOMY MATTERS PODCAST, WHICH SHE COHOSTS!

Nature Quiz Answer

The correct answer is.....
2. No, bats do not fly into people's hair. That is just an urban legend!

Bioeconomy Matters Podcast

Bioeconomy Matters - your daily dose of sustainability! Tune in this month to hear all about development of Latin America's bioeconomy!

In this episode, Henry Alterio discusses his experiences in the development of Latin America's bioeconomy, with an emphasis on Colombia. Given that the Amazon rainforest covers a considerable area of Colombia, biodiversity protection awareness has grown in recent years. By 2030, the country hopes to create half a million new green jobs related to the bioeconomy.

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