Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust – Madagascar Programme
Job description - Head of Species Conservation & Research

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Start Date: 23rd May 2016, or as soon as possible thereafter
Duration of Contract: Permanent
Probation Period: 20 weeks
Salary Range: depending on experience
Location: Madagascar
Hours of Work: A full-time position of 40 hours per week, working Monday to Friday whilst based in the office in Tana. During fieldwork, flexibility on working hours will be required
Team/Department: Field Programmes - Madagascar Programme
Reporting to: Madagascar Programme Director (Line Manager)
Line reports: Seven field managers at present time.

JOB DIMENSIONS

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust is focussed on saving some of the world’s most threatened species in the most threatened places. The organisation has four main operational arms, our Field Programmes, Training, Animal Collection and Conservation Science. We are most effective when these different components work together in close synergy and this role will require the post holder to engage will all aspects of the organisation’s operational structure. Durrell has field programmes in 18 countries and Madagascar is our single largest investment, with a full time staff of over 50 people working in eight field sites across the country. Durrell’s approach to conservation in Madagascar differs to other field programme regions as we place a major focus on working with local communities to save species and protect habitats. So while the post holder will be responsible for the leadership and development of our species programmes in Madagascar, they will operate within broader socio-ecological systems and therefore an understanding of landscape level conservation and community processes would be highly beneficial. The post holder will be a member of the Senior Management Team in Madagascar, working with the other team members to lead all activities in Madagascar. The post holder will lead a team of seven direct line reports based in the field and will work closely with the Data Manager, also a line report to manage our core assets in the form of our species monitoring data. Working with field projects in remote regions of Madagascar brings challenges and the post holder must be able to respond to unforeseen situations professionally. The role is based in our headquarters in Antananarivo, but will require travel to the field sites and at least 20% of time spent in the field working with teams on their species projects.
RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Lead the management of all species restoration projects.
2. Ensure the maintenance and development of standards and good practice within our two captive breeding centres at Ampijoroa and Antsohihy.
3. Coordinate population monitoring activities for key focal species; ensuring the timely collection, management and analysis of data. The post holder will also work with Durrell’s Conservation Science team to support the use of monitoring data within the Durrell Index monitoring and evaluation framework.
4. Lead the operational management of species conservation projects – including fundraising, project management and reporting to donors.
5. Support the communication of our field programmes both in Madagascar and globally.
6. Act as the focal point for all external researchers and provide support to facilitate delivery of research led by external partners.

REQUIREMENTS

The post holder must have:

• Proven track record in management of conservation projects in the developing world
• Proven background in animal ecology and/or conservation
• Experience in survey and monitoring design and implementation
• Fluency in English and have good knowledge of French and/or Malagasy
• Proven experience managing large data-sets
• Proven track record in successful grant-writing and management.
• Proven track record in publication in scientific literature.
• Strong leadership and management skills
• Proven ability to work independently and respond to unforeseen situations
• Physically fit and able to spend time in the field away from comforts.

DESIRABLE

It would be beneficial if the candidate had:

• Experience with data analysis and management within Geographic Information Systems.
• Experience with landscape ecology and ecosystem sciences
• Experience/knowledge of a range of different research and statistical methods
• Knowledge/experience of captive-breeding of endangered species
• Experience/knowledge of Madagascar species and Madagascar conservation issues
• A good understanding of global conservation issues, especially in developing country contexts