

Research Officer

Job Specification & Description

Overall purpose of the job

To contribute to applied research in the framework of the planning and implementation of effective vulture conservation measures. The Research Officer will manage and analyse existing datasets and databases, produce technical reports, contribute to project deliverables and scientific publications; and organise and supervise scientific collaboration between the [Vulture Conservation Foundation](#) (VCF) and partner organisations.

Position

Full-time 12-month fixed-term contract, with potential to renew for at least 3 years
Reporting to: VCF Scientific and Conservation Coordinator

Background

The VCF is the leading organisation on vulture conservation in Europe, and is now managing several large-scale projects, including EU-funded LIFE projects, in many different countries in Europe, that are generating considerable amounts of data (e.g. data on movements and activity of GPS tagged vultures, mortality events, capture-recapture data, demographic parameters, etc) that need to be analysed. The VCF is a Dutch foundation with a legal seat in Holland, and registrations in Switzerland, France and Spain. The VCF project portfolio, activities, and ambition has been steadily growing, and so has its team.

Main duties & responsibilities

We are looking for an ambitious and versatile conservation scientist to follow technical implementation of projects, manage and analyse the increasingly complex datasets, produce technical reports and co-author scientific publications. A key role of the Research Officer is to promote, lead and supervise research collaborations amongst universities, NGOs and other research institutions, to facilitate applied research to inform effective conservation action at local, regional and cross-continental scales.

- Collaborate on existing project deliverables, namely LIFE projects.
- Establish and manage vulture databases (demographics, productivity, mortality, etc).
- Provide relevant data for conservation status assessments.
- Analysis of other existing data sets.
- Establish and organise collaboration with research partners (e.g. universities, NGOs and other partners).
- Producing technical reports and to co-author scientific manuscripts.

- Attending and presenting research and project reports at meetings, workshops and conferences.
- Keeping up-to-date with published vulture research.
- Contributing to funding proposals and application.

Education - Skills - Experience required

- University degree level: MSc or PhD in ecology, conservation biology or closely related field.
- Good organisational and planning skills and an ability to adhere to deadlines.
- Experience in the handling and management of large datasets (including documentation such as data sharing agreements and metadata management).
- Good networking and communication skills.
- Experience in leading applied research in conservation biology.
- Ability to determine and set work priorities, organise activities, meet deadlines and monitor projects in a flexible environment with, at times, little supervision.
- Knowledge and use of relevant data analysis methods and programmes:
 - Methods: movement and ranging patterns; resource/habitat availability and selection; population demographics (viability; survival; reproduction); mortality risk assessment; ecosystem service assessment; general species ecology; general spatial analysis and mapping.
 - Programmes: R statistical software and associated packages; Arc GIS / QGIS; Vortex or equivalent; MARK or equivalent; Movebank; Microsoft Office suite; database programmes.
- Fluency in English (writing and speaking C1/C2).
- Working knowledge of at least one other European language and ability to use freely available translation programmes.
- Able to travel at least 3-4 times a year.

Job Location

Home-based in a European country. Candidates from the Netherlands , Spain or France may have a slight advantage.

Salary and benefits

2100€-2200€/monthly net depending on country of residence; 25 days annual leave; travel expenses covered by the VCF.

Documents requested

CV plus cover letter, to be sent by 1 December 2023 11:59 to recruitment@4vultures.org in **one single pdf** file.