

Vacancy

Post of Research Officer

The Wildlife and Nature Protection Society of Sri Lanka

The Anawilundawa Accelerated Natural Regeneration of Mangrove Project POST OF RESEARCH OFFICER

The Anawilundawa Sanctuary was declared a Ramsar Wetland on 3.8.2001. It consists of several seasonal reservoirs and associated vegetation, as well as a complex of mangroves and intermittent salt marshes on its western border. It is situated a few kilometres north of Chilaw and south of the Mundal Lake.

A part of the natural mangrove vegetation had been cleared for prawn farming and subsequently abandoned for over 10 years. Natural recovery has not happened, or is slow, because of damage to the soil structure, obstruction to natural water flow and the lack of seedlings in the vicinity.

The Anawilundawa Accelerated Natural Regeneration of Mangrove Project has been proposed to re-establish mangrove vegetation in the abandoned prawn ponds. It is a project of the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) in partnership with the Wildlife & Nature Protection Society of Sri Lanka (WNPS) as principal partner and Wayamba University (WU) as the science partner. Other partners will be added for specific aspects. The project involves hydrological interventions to correct soil chemistry and restore appropriate water movement, identification of mangrove species native to the location surviving in adjacent remnant mangrove patches, establishment of a seedling nursery and re-planting when the soil conditions are suitable. All stages of the project will be scientifically monitored, and the data collected used for future projects of a similar nature.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Design and maintain nursery for restoration purposes and maintain all data for reporting.
- Collect and record data on: - water quality; soil parameters; plant propagation & diversity; recruitment and distribution of fauna; and any other parameters deemed necessary as the restoration proceeds.

- Perform and/or Assist in field surveys and other logistics associated with the monitoring programme and contribute to the undertaking.
- Facilitate site visits by the Project Team.
- Contribute to the understanding of the project objectives and long-term benefits of the project by communication with the wider local community.
- Conduct surveys and gather data of the local community to enable dissemination of information related to the restoration site to the local community and other stakeholders.
- Facilitate stakeholders and partners in monitoring programme activities.
- Write proposals and progress reports, periodically analyse data and produce presentations, reports, and scientific papers as required.
- Maintain contact with sponsors of plots and provide appropriate feedback.
- Be responsible to the WNPS for financial management and accountability at the field site.
- Maintain cordial relations with and co-ordinate information flow between regional level and national level officers of the DWC and act as the link between the DWC, the WNPS, and WU.

Direct reporting line: Prof. Sevvandi Jayakody – Head of Science.

Other reporting lines: Chairman, Marine Committee/Wildlife & Nature Protection Society (WNPS), Deputy Director of Protected Areas, Assistant Director/NWP, Park Warden of Anawilundawa Sanctuary/Department of Wildlife Conservation

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

MPhil. or MSc in the Bio-Sciences, Marine Sciences, Conservation Biology, Fisheries Management or Aquaculture. OR
BSc with Honours degree in Marine Sciences, Marine Ecology, Marine Biology or Marine Conservation or Fisheries Management and Aquaculture. OR
Equivalent combination of education and experience.

OTHER REQUIRMENTS

- A good knowledge of mangroves, mangrove biology, mangrove taxonomy and ecology, and coastal ecosystems and their processes. Knowledge of the current status of mangrove ecosystems in Sri Lanka, and habitat restoration will be an advantage.
- Ability to work with minimal supervision, and to make independent decisions based on analysis, experience, and judgement.
- Previous experience in conducting marine related surveys will be an advantage.
- Fluency in written and spoken Sinhala and English is required; a knowledge of Tamil will be an advantage.
- A good collection of relevant publications will be an advantage.

BENEFITS

All-inclusive Salary Rs. 60,000/- per month. (Negotiable)
The selected candidate will have the opportunity to register for an MPhil through this project.

HOW TO APPLY

Please send your CV/Resume with two non-related references and a cover letter as to why you should be chosen on or before **4th of June** to admin@wnpssl.org

Regards,
Bhagya

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Bhagya Nanayakkara

Office Executive / Research Assistant

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Graham Marshall

Director - Incube Digital Consortium (Pvt) Ltd

Chair - Marine Sub Committee - Wildlife and Nature Protection Society

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Attachments area