

FCC WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

TERMS OF REFERENCE

BACKGROUND:

Foundation Conservation Carpathia (FCC) is a Romanian NGO with the overall goal to develop a world-class wilderness reserve in the Carpathian Fagaras Mountains. The work of FCC is based on five pylons:

- Forest conservation and protection
- Ecosystem restoration
- Wildlife conservation, monitoring, and management
- Community outreach and communication
- Development of conservation enterprises for local communities

Within our wildlife component, FCC obtains hunting concessions to completely protect wildlife in these areas from sport or trophy hunting to ensure long-term favourable population trends and to re-obtain self-sustaining populations that can also act as source populations for neighbouring areas. At the same time, we intend to develop a modern management which is based on conflict mitigation with local communities by establishing prevention measures and a rapid intervention team in case of conflicts.

FCC is going to introduce a long-term monitoring and research scheme, based on non-invasive techniques, such as camera traps and DNA extraction from faeces, urine and hair samples of selected carnivore and herbivore species in an area of minimum 36,000 ha (with the attempt to purchase additional hunting areas). With the results of this research we will try to cause a general re-evaluation of the way wildlife species are reported on a national level.

At the same time, FCC is preparing for the reintroduction of European bison and beaver in the South-eastern Fagaras Mountains starting from late 2018.

In order to further develop the wildlife conservation component, FCC intends to hire a wildlife biologist starting from May 1st, 2018.

PRIMARY ROLE:

- Conduct wildlife research and monitoring activities in the frame of the CARPATHIA programme;

- Coordinate periodic monitoring activities with rangers/game wardens in the hunting concessions acquired by the initiative;
- Provide periodic training in monitoring and basic knowledge transfer to the field personnel (rangers/game wardens/environmental education staff);
- Lead the bison and beaver reintroduction programmes;
- Organise the conflict prevention and resolution programme;
- Support the development of the wildlife related CARPATHIA ecotourism programme (e.g. wildlife watching programmes) and monitor the impact;

SPECIFIC FOCUSES:

- Organise the collection of samples (scats, urine, hair) of large carnivores and selected herbivore species;
- Coordinate and conduct periodic camera trap surveys for estimating population size of lynx, European otter, and possibly other species;
- Organise and conduct large carnivore snow-tracking activities and chamois monitoring;
- Analyse data/assist in data analysis and provide high quality reports following population estimate surveys;
- Prepare and organise the day-by-day activities of the bison and beaver reintroduction programmes;
- Assist the FCC directors in the development of wildlife related funding proposals;
- Review and give technical input during the development of the education programme and production of educational material;
- Participate in film productions and other media work to promote the CARPATHIA initiative, as well as in guidance of special project visitors;
- Any other wildlife conservation related duties assigned by the FCC directors;

APPLICANTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE:

- Degree in Biological Sciences preferably in wildlife biology and conservation;
- A minimum of two years of relevant working experience in the field of wildlife conservation with recognised organisations/institutions;
- Experience in carnivore related monitoring techniques such as snow-tracking, scat identification, and possibly camera trapping;
- Outstanding communication and documentation skills;
- Research aptitude;
- Interest in and some understanding of photography;
- Physical and mental fitness;
- Willingness to work, travel and stay in remote locations;

- Willingness to work long hours, weekends and often after regular programme hours;
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office and ArcGIS;
- Fluency (written and spoken) in both, English and Romanian, language;
- Driver's license B;

APPLICATIONS WITH LETTER OF INTENT AND FULL CV IN ENGLISH TO

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