Opportunity with MCBT & Dakshin Foundation

Position: Research Director, Agumbe Rainforest Research Station

Last date to apply: January 31, 2022. The position will be filled as soon as a suitable candidate is identified; therefore, interested individuals are requested to apply immediately.

Location: The position will be primarily based at the Agumbe Rainforest Research Station (ARRS), and will involve travel to the headquarters (Dakshin Foundation, Bangalore and MCBT).

Duration: Long-term position with a 6 month probationary period.

Project details: The Agumbe Rainforest Research Station (ARRS) is a permanent field station of the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust (MCBT) situated inside the Agumbe Reserved Forest at Agumbe in the central Western Ghats of southern India. ARRS was established by the renowned herpetologist Romulus Whitaker in 2005, with financial support from the late Doris Norden Chattopadhyaya and the Whitley Fund for Nature, with the long term mission to study and conserve rainforests through applied ecological research, outreach programs and partnerships. ARRS currently carries out a range of activities on the king cobra including research and telemetry, as well as rescue and outreach activities. The current scope of the project is to expand significantly, the research, training and outreach activities at ARRS under a new collaborative management framework supported by MCBT and Dakshin Foundation. This will include the design and development of new research projects, academic collaborations and engagements, and facilitation of research by organisations. The new collaborative management is expected to benefit students, scientists, and local community members.

Position details: We invite applications from suitable candidates for the position of Research Director at ARRS. While this is a long-term position, we will initially offer a one-year position to the successful candidate, to be renewed on the basis of performance and mutual fit. The position requires an independent, dynamic, enterprising and organised individual to fulfill the following responsibilities. The Research Director will report to senior management staff at MCBT and Dakshin Foundation.

Chief responsibilities:

a) Oversee the development of the research programme at ARRS. This includes the development of funding proposals, research ideas, planning and management of field research.
b) Oversee, develop and conduct training programmes, field courses and research modules for partner organisations and student groups.

c) Develop facilitation engagements and partnerships with academic, research and educational institutions in India and abroad.

d) Build partnerships with community members, local NGOs and government representatives, identify and develop mutually beneficial collaborations for research and local action.

e) Assist in the development and production of research reports and content including outreach materials and popular articles.

f) Develop fundraising proposals and assist with fundraising and profile-building activities for ARRS.

g) Supervise and mentor researchers or interns as needed.

Candidates must possess the following basic qualifications and skills:

1. A Ph.D. degree in conservation science/environmental science or associated field.
2. Adequate post-doctoral experience (preferably 2 years or more) in fundraising, conducting ecological research, training and project management.
3. Strong interpersonal and communication skills and ability to work with and mentor a team.
4. A basic understanding of issues related to conservation and development, economic inclusion, conservation and environmental governance in India.
5. Ability and commitment to travel and work with rural marginalised communities, remote field conditions and poor connectivity.
6. Along with fluency in English, candidates with a working knowledge of Kannada will be preferred.
7. Ability to independently organise meetings and training programmes, undertake field logistics and coordination.

Remuneration: Starting at ~ INR 7-8 lakhs p.a., salary will be commensurate with qualifications and work experience, in line with our internal policy. Travel to and accommodation in the field will be covered by the project.

How to apply:

Please email your interest in applying for the position to apply.dakshinfoundation@gmail.com with the subject line “Application for position of Research Director, ARRS” and you will be sent an online form to fill in the details necessary to process your application.
About us:

Dakshin Foundation is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation based at Bangalore, India, with field offices and intervention across the coastline of India and in its oceanic islands. Our mission is to inform and advocate conservation and natural resource management, while promoting and supporting sustainable livelihoods, social development and environmental justice. To learn more about our interventions and research projects please take a look at our website (www.dakshin.org).

The Madras Crocodile Bank Trust and Centre for Herpetology (MCBT), established by Zai and Romulus Whitaker is a reptile zoo and herpetology research station located in Vadanemmeli, near Mamallapuram. MCBT focuses on the conservation of nature and natural resources in the broadest sense, with particular focus on herpetofauna and their habitats. Further, MCBT aims to establish breeding programmes for crocodilians and other herpetofauna, and also establish research, educational, dissemination and transfer centres, and other establishments focusing on ecological and environmental issues. More details can be found on our website (www.madrascrocodilebank.org).