



**Position:** Research Fellow

**Number of position:** One

**Project title:** On a war footing: biodiversity monitoring & conservation with the Indian Army

**Project Duration:** 3 years (2022-2025)

**Project funding:** The Habitats Trust

**Project location:** Union Territory of Ladakh, India

**Project background:**

India is one of the 17 megadiverse countries in the world, supporting 7.6% of mammals, 12.6% of birds, 6.2% of reptiles, 4.4% of amphibians and 11.7% of fishes and 6% of flowering plants. While protected areas, such as, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, have been the conventional conservation approach, increasingly a landscape-based participatory approach is being undertaken. This is mainly because wildlife including birds and plants, are not restricted to protected areas, but occur across larger landscapes sharing resources with humans.

India has international land and marine boundaries stretching for about 22,000 km<sup>2</sup> with ten nations. These bordering areas, while are critical for our national security, also happen to be home to some of the most fascinating, rare and globally threatened wildlife, e.g., snow leopard, Tibetan argali, Ladakh urial, Tibetan antelope, black necked crane, brown bear, Great Indian Bustard, vultures, etc. While State/UT's forest / wildlife departments are the main custodians of biodiversity, there is an urgent need to engage with and strengthen the other main stakeholder of our bordering regions, the Indian Army. With the largest standing army in the world, there is a huge opportunity for the Indian Army to contribute towards mitigating the nation's and world's ecological and environmental crises, such as, biodiversity extinction and declines, climate change and emerging threats, such as, increasing populations of feral dogs as a threat to humans and wildlife.

BNHS is partnering with the Indian Army through a long-term capacity building, biodiversity monitoring and conservation programme at the Central and State/UT levels. The main focus will be to support the army to enhance skills for monitoring and conservation of select endangered biodiversity. This will complement ongoing efforts of the Central and State/UT Governments to strengthen and achieve biodiversity conservation along our ecologically fragile international borders.

**Project goal:** Long-term biodiversity monitoring & conservation along India's international borders in partnership with the Indian Army



**Project objectives:**

1. Integrating a module on environment, biodiversity and climate change in the army training memorandum
2. Reviving the eco-cells in each command of Indian Army and Army Headquarters,
3. Conducting regular awareness programmes in priority Indian Army border outposts of Ladakh
4. Monitoring wildlife –
  - (a) Tibetan Antelope
  - (b) Wild Yak
  - (c) Tibetan argali
  - (d) Tibetan gazelle
  - (e) Black-necked Crane
5. Addressing issues related to free-ranging dogs and garbage
6. Addressing issues related to human-brown bear interactions

**Essential qualification:**

Post Graduate Degree in Wildlife Science / Zoology / Life Science with a minimum of 60% marks in M.Sc., OR Ph.D. in Wildlife Science / Zoology / Life Science.

**Desirable Qualification:**

- Post-M.Sc. three - five years of work experience in the field of wildlife ecology and human-wildlife interaction in the Indian Himalayan region.
- Knowledge and applied skill in quantitative ecology (statistical analyses related to distribution modelling, population assessment, etc.), remote sensing and GIS.
- Experience in conducting training, outreach and awareness programs with local community and other government and non-government stakeholders.
- Speaking, reading and writing skills in local languages.
- Publications in peer reviewed journals.

**Remuneration** shall be commensurate with qualification and experience.

**To apply:**

1. **Resume** highlighting educational qualification, work experience, publications, relevant awards / achievements.
2. **Statement of purpose** (SoP, max. 500 words) emphasizing on candidate's relevant skill-set and how skills can be used to implement the project.
3. **Peer-reviewed publications.**
4. **Email** resume, SoP and publications as a single PDF file to [hr@bnhs.org](mailto:hr@bnhs.org) with copy to [a.ghoshal@bnhs.org](mailto:a.ghoshal@bnhs.org), mentioning '*Research Fellow recruitment, BNHS*' as the subject.

**Application deadline** 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022

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