

Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)

Position: 'Programme Leader - Vulture Conservation Programme, BNHS'.

Nature of Employment: On Contractual basis

Essential Qualification:

Post Graduate Degree in Wildlife Science /Zoology/Life Science/ Forestry/ Environmental Science with a minimum of 60% aggregate marks in M.Sc.

Doctoral Degree in Wildlife Science/ Zoology/ Life Sciences from a recognized University.

Desirable Qualification:

Post - M.Sc 10 years / post-PhD three years' work experience in wildlife ecology/ management, research and conservation

Post-doctorate experience in a recognised institution / lab shall be desirable

Prior experience (3-5 years) in leadership position and program management

Experience in working with diverse stakeholders, e.g. Central Government, State/UT Governments, State level line departments, local communities, etc.

Experience in end-to-end handling of research / conservation projects including project proposal writing, fund raising, project implementation, technical and financial reporting

At least three publications in peer reviewed journals

Job Expectations:

The Programme Leader is required to manage, monitor and coordinate all the scientific operations of the Vulture Conservation project. He/She will have to liaise with the centre managers and their staff who run the Vulture Conservation Breeding Centres (VCBC), implement the Vulture Safe Zones (VSZ) and execute the vulture release program.

Vulture Conservation and Breeding Centres

1. Will prepare guidelines for management of Vulture Conservation Breeding Centres located at Pinjore, Rani, Rajabhatkhawa and Bhopal, including its best husbandry and administrative functions. Will monitor the implementation of guidelines.
2. Will take monthly review of centre managers to ensure the compliance of standardised protocols developed over the years to streamline the husbandry practices.
3. Will design the standard guidelines on regular maintenance of aviaries, laboratories and office premises of vulture centres. Will take monthly review to ensure the guidelines are followed by the Centre managers.

4. Set up the task sheet with timelines for the centre managers to identify breeding stock and founder population. Ensure the centre managers take action as per plan for the successful breeding and there is rise in numbers of vultures housed in captivity.
5. Set up a monthly plan for the centre managers to ensure the safety, and maintain the health of vultures in the centre and the cleanliness of VCBC at all times for successful breeding. Take a review of the plan on monthly basis.
6. Consult and guide the HR department of BNHS to ensure availability of experienced, qualified scientific and non-scientific staff for this project.
7. Design the survey to assess the market rates of goat meat in four states and recommend the best rates to procure the meat for the centres. Draft the tendering terms and set up the tendering process for the procurement of meat for the centres.
8. Will liaise with officials of MoEF&CC, State Governments of Haryana, Assam, W. Bengal and M.P. for all matters related to the functioning and timely disbursement of funds for VCBC in respective states. Ensure compliance like submission of UC from BNHS and timely disbursement of fund instalments
9. Prepare APO and implement the same. Conduct regular meetings of Governing Council of Vulture Conservation Breeding Centres and ensure timely action on annual plan.
10. To ensure that safety testing of non-steroid anti-inflammatory drugs on vultures is done at every centre, including the vultures in the wild and every centre sends samples to Veterinary Research Institutes for analysis regularly. Ensure documentation of this information in publications in peer reviewed journal.
11. Design and conduct the training programmes, workshops for technical resources personnel, State Forests Department officials, Central Zoo Authority, Expert Group and scientific staff of the centres.
12. Prepare and submit quarterly report to the Director on the outputs and outcomes of objectives defined in the Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020-2025.
13. Coordinate with the centre managers and prepare annual budget of all VCBC's and VSZ programme
14. Set up a proper accounting system of all expenses in co-ordination with Accounts Department and ensure the submission of expenses along with the bills/vouchers to the Accounts department. Facilitate audit of accounts and timely submission to the funding agencies.

Vulture Safe Zone

15. Prepare a detailed plan of activities like workshops for vets, farma shops etc to implement the Vulture Safe Zone programme in Assam, U.P. & M.P. in co-ordination with Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB), U.K.
16. Ensure that the concerned project staff carry out regular surveys in the field to identify the prevalence of harmful drugs for vultures.
17. Collate the material and share with the Drug Controller General of India for banning of drugs like aceclofenac, nimesulide and ketoprofen which are equally harmful to vultures

as diclofenac. Communicate the same with the State Governments. Design awareness campaigns.

18. Coordinate with VSZ staff in conducting regular awareness programmes for state Chemists and Druggists Association, Drug Controlling authorities, frontline staff of the forest department and students of the veterinary colleges and schools, local panchayats and other stake holders.

Vulture Release Programme

19. Take action as per the Annual Plan of Governing Council of VCBC for the reintroduction of vultures in the wild
20. Design the parameters and collect the data by centre managers in a radius of 100 km from the centre on habitat quality in terms of population of free- ranging birds, food availability for vultures and prevalence of vulture toxic drugs.
21. Ensure that the concerned staff monitor the released vultures with the help of Satellite Transmitter (PTT).
22. Design an evaluation form for the habitat with the help of the Forest Departments to ensure the area is safe for vulture and free of any threats. Conduct the evaluation.
23. Conduct quarterly meetings with Central Zoo Authority and share the protocols, guidelines, good practices for the local zoos who can participate in release program.
24. Develop the programs for reintroduction of captive bred vultures in large protected areas of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh where wild vultures still exists .

General Instructions:

1. Interested candidates can send their application via email with a detailed CV by 15th December 2022 to HR Dept. Bombay Natural History Society, Hornbill House, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Road, Opp. Lion Gate, Mumbai – 400001 Tel. 22821811.

Email: cv.hr@bnhs.org

2. BNHS reserves the right to reject any candidature in view of incomplete information provided by the candidate or for any other reason thereof.