

Job Description

Department: Threatened Species Recovery Programme, Aaranyak

Job Title: Community Coordinator, Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme

Contract: Full Time

Reports to: Project Director, Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme

Location: Bansbari area of Manas National Park

Introduction to Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme

The Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme (PHCP) is a partnership project, implemented by Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Aaranyak and the Forest Department, Government of Assam.

PHCP was founded in 1995 in collaboration with the IUCN/SSC Pig Specialist Group, Assam Forest Department and the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

The goal of the programme is to protect and restore wild populations of the Endangered pygmy hog and its threatened sub-Himalayan grassland habitat, and in doing so protect other grassland-dependent species and the valuable ecosystem services that healthy grasslands provide for local communities.

Major activities under the PHCP include conservation breeding and reintroduction of pygmy hogs, post release monitoring, grassland management and restoration in the release sites, and community engagement to reduce anthropogenic pressures on the grasslands, primarily around Manas National Park (MNP).

Our values

Purposeful	We are clear on why we do what we do, are connected as an organisation , we understand and demonstrate enabling / delivery, we are passionate about what we do and work tirelessly to achieve it.
Accountable	We are accountable for our actions ; we act with integrity and always have the best interests of the PHCP and its partners at heart. We take it upon ourselves to update our knowledge and deliver excellence , and our ethics are of the utmost importance.
Supportive	We develop and encourage our staff, we work as a team , work well with other departments and trust and respect each other. We promote a learning culture , treat people fairly , encourage diversity in the workplace, and value the opinions and views of others.

1. Job Purpose

This role will lead on the Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme's activities working with local communities along the boundary of Manas National Park (MNP) to reduce anthropogenic pressure in the grasslands. We pride ourselves on local understanding, collaboration and

solutions, and the successful candidate will share our commitment to understanding the drivers of anthropogenic pressure in the region and devising locally appropriate solutions to reduce the dependency of the local population on MNP. They will work closely with, PHCP team members, Durrell's Conservation Livelihoods Manager, Conservation Science Manager, other members of the Field Programmes team and Aaranyak's Livelihood Division.

2. Key Responsibilities

- Lead on the development and implementation of strategies for community engagement to reduce anthropogenic pressure on the Sub-Himalayan grasslands through conservation livelihoods, good governance and behaviour change.
- Develop a comprehensive annual workplan and contribute to the development and revision of Durrell's Rewilding Plans (until 2025);
- Lead research on understanding of anthropogenic pressures in MNP, determining their drivers and impacts on biodiversity and human livelihoods.
- Lead in capacity building of Eco Development Committees of selected areas of Manas National Park;
- Line Management of PHCP community team members
- Liaison with Forest Department, other government agencies (Agricultural, Veterinary, Fishery, KVK, RSETI) and community groups and organizations for effective implementation of the livelihood work around fringe villages of Manas National Park.
- Lead the Community team of PHCP and assist the PHCP Programme Director in project management and outreach activities. These also include data management, writing reports and research papers, delivering training activities and preparation of training material.
- Producing workplans, monitoring and evaluating activities to track, adaptively manage and report on the progress and performance of relevant strategies.
- Contribute to the design and preparation of relevant fundraising proposals and associated reports.
- Ensure all activities are carried out in compliance with Durrell and Aaranyak policies, including HR, Health & Safety and finances, and in line with donor funding conditions.
- Management of relevant budgets, including timely financial reporting and adherence to budgets.

This post is based in Bansbari area of MNP. The field station (accommodation and the office) is located near the Bansbari range of the MNP. Although it is a rural area, it is 20km away from the nearest town, Barpeta Road, and is well connected with Guwahati by road. Good mobile network is available at the field station. The post holder will be required to travel to Guwahati (PHCP programme headquarters) for at least one week in each month.

3. Personal Specification:

Knowledge, Skill and Ability

- Post-graduate degree in Sociology, Social Work, Cultural Studies, Geography, Extension Education (Agri. and allied discipline), Developmental Studies and/or related disciplines, or equivalent practical experience.
- Understanding of, and experience in, operationalization of community-based projects.

- Knowledge of environmental issues and how they integrate with livelihoods and rural development issues.
- Qualitative and quantitative analytical skills in a social science framework and an ability to develop new processes and approaches.
- Ability to engage with a wide range of stakeholders including non-governmental organisations, academic, government stakeholders and individuals with various levels of skill.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English and Assamese. Knowledge of Bodo is desirable.
- Excellent report writing skills.
- Experience of living and working in rural areas and in collaboration with local communities.
- Strong administrative skills and an attention to detail.
- Ability to work independently but also an excellent team player.
- Ability to organise public meeting events.
- Experience in the supervision of student projects would be an advantage.
- Strong organisational skills, with an ability to manage competing priorities and adapt to changing circumstances.
- Ability to lead and motivate a team.
- Must be highly computer literate and have experience using remote meeting/ conferencing software.

Behaviours and Values

- Acts with integrity and with the best interests of the employer at all times.
- Passionate about conservation and an understanding of, and commitment to, vision, mission and aims of the PHCP.
- Culturally sensitive.
- Positive and 'can do' attitude conducive to bringing people together and developing that network.
- Ability to work independently but also works collaboratively with colleagues and partners.
- Works proactively and has a determination to reach targets and excel at tasks.