



Job Announcement

Caribbean Conservation Coordinator (Part-Time)

Based in Puerto Rico, the Caribbean Conservation Coordinator will perform community outreach and public engagement activities related to the work of the National Wildlife Refuge Association and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Puerto Rico. This is a new, part-time position, not to exceed 20 hours per week.

The Caribbean Conservation Coordinator will report to the National Wildlife Refuge Association's Southeast Regional Representative, who is located near Atlanta, GA, and will work closely with a primary contact designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service located in Boqueron, PR. The position may be based in a home office or office space can be provided; travel within Puerto Rico will be a required element of the job.

BACKGROUND

The US Caribbean Area is one of the world's centers of biodiversity and endemism (Helmer et al., 2002). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), through the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office and the Caribbean Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex (nine units), has been working with traditional and non-traditional partners to promote habitat enhancement on public and private lands to rebuild endangered wildlife populations. Additionally, the Law Enforcement Division continues to work tirelessly to combat the growing threat of wildlife trafficking.

This project will launch a Caribbean Conservation Initiative that addresses Commonwealth Priorities identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan and supports the Bosque Modelo Initiative, as well as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service priorities identified in Recovery Plans, the At-Risk Species initiative, Comprehensive Conservation Plans for Refuges, and Avian Conservation Planning Priorities for Puerto Rico (PR) and the US Virgin Islands (USVI).

Much of the focus and work of the National Wildlife Refuge Association in the Caribbean will be similar in scope to its "Beyond the Boundaries" programs. Since 2005, the Refuge Association has helped the Service develop collaborative conservation partnerships that reach beyond wildlife refuge boundaries to protect functioning ecosystems and increase the relevance of conservation efforts to surrounding communities. Beyond the Boundaries efforts rely on developing a broad constituency to support the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service, engaging Refuge Friends Groups and other community groups, private landowners (whether farmers, ranchers, residential communities, or corporate entities), state and local governments and agencies, nongovernment organizations, educational institutions, and citizen groups.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assist the Puerto Rican Parrot Interagency Working Group with developing local capacity to support conservation actions (e.g., management, equipment, research, and education/outreach) identified at El Yunque National Forest, Rio Abajo Commonwealth Forest, Maricao Commonwealth Forest and other sites across the island. We anticipate that the majority of this work may be based around Maricao.
- Work closely with FWS designated point of contact to keep current on conservation issues and needs in the Caribbean. The focus areas for this project include, but are not limited to, two main areas: Northern Slopes/Moist Karst of Puerto Rico (i.e., Manati/Toro Negro River Basin, Camuy River, Arecibo River, Limón River, Guajataca River, Añasco River and Culebrinas River) and the Southern Slopes/Karst (i.e., Toa Vaca River, Loco River, Yauco River, Guayanilla River, and Inabon River).
- Maintain communication with Caribbean LCC staff and partner agencies and coordination with FWS programs (Ecological Services and National Wildlife Refuges) on partner initiatives. Work in cooperation with the USFWS Public Affairs Officer on public outreach strategies and efforts.
- Identify partnership and outreach opportunities that will support landscape conservation initiatives. Develop and foster relationships to promote conservation of natural resources in the Caribbean in partnership with the FWS and the LCC.
- Assist with outreach, communication and constituency-building so that there is local support and capacity for agency initiatives.
- Provide periodic updates, reports or brief blog posts to the Refuge Association to help raise the profile of Caribbean conservation issues, needs, opportunities and milestones that will build awareness and support.

KEY COMPETENCIES AND THE IDEAL CANDIDATE PROFILE

The Refuge Association seeks a passionate, experienced team player who is excited by the opportunity to work closely with agency partners to support landscape conservation efforts in the Caribbean. This is a new position and thus this individual is not daunted by

the lean infrastructure and lack of established processes, and rather embraces the opportunity to represent the Refuge Association as a partner in the Caribbean conservation community.

Independent-minded and entrepreneurial, the ideal candidate possesses a flexible attitude and the highest degree of integrity. This individual is self-motivated and driven to get things done. Ideally, candidates will have spent some part of their career working in conservation and is familiar with local conservation, wildlife and land management agencies and non-government groups.

A flexible and collaborative style is critical to success in this position; this individual will show sensitivity and the ability to establish respect, credibility, and trust with individuals and organizations he/she works with.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

The Refuge Association seeks a person with experience working in the Caribbean conservation landscape. The successful candidate will have experience with and is at ease working with senior-level agency partners, such as FWS, the US Forest Service, Puerto Rico DNER, local governments, nongovernment organizations, educational institutions, and citizen groups.

Excellent written, verbal, and listening skills are required. This individual must be bilingual and fluent in Spanish and English.

A Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience is required; an advanced degree is preferred.

Passion and excitement for the mission and work of the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

A background check may be required.

To apply, please submit a letter of interest and a resume or CV to Mark Musaus, Southeast Regional Representative, at mmusaus@refugeassociation.org. Closing date for applications is August 15, 2016.

For more information about the Refuge Association, please visit
www.refugeassociation.org