



Field Officer in Danube Delta Role Profile

Job title	Field Officer
Reporting to	Rewilding Ukraine executive director
Duration	Fixed one-year term, with the possibility of extension
Location	Danube delta region of Ukraine or Tarutino steppe area

Rewilding Ukraine - Context

Rewilding Ukraine is a well-established organisation pursuing rewilding of different landscapes in the Danube Delta region of Ukraine. The initiative has three main geographical areas of intervention: Outer delta and DBR near Vylkove; Upper part of the delta with lakes of Kartal, Kugurlui and Katabuh lakes, as well as Tarutino steppe. There's a wide range of activities in the field in these locations that are implemented in cooperation with main partners including:

- wilder nature as restoration of wetlands, steppes and sand dune areas
- wildlife comeback as reintroduction of species of large and small herbivores, birds of prey,
- nature for people as development of enterprise and ecoparks,
- extensive monitoring activities.

Danube Delta – an ambitious initiative in Europe

One of the least populated areas in Europe, the Danube Delta offers a unique opportunity to restore a whole spectrum of biodiverse habitats – from open estuarine systems, naturally grazed grassland and vast reed beds through to freshwater marshes, coastal lagoons, shallow lakes and riverine forests.

Working with partners, the Rewilding Ukraine team is working to significantly improve the ecological integrity and natural functioning of 40,000 hectares of wetland and terrestrial delta habitat, using rewilding principles at on a landscape scale. Revitalised and self-governing natural processes, particularly flooding and natural grazing, will govern landscape formation, driving other natural processes, wildlife comeback, increased biodiversity and the development of a nature-based economy.

Overall purpose of the job

So far Rewilding Ukraine operates in the fields much relying on capacity of local partners and external experts/consultants. However, the scaling up and growth of activities in the field require a permanent presence and organization's capacity in the Delta region to support the implementation of various activities on wilder nature, wildlife comeback, monitoring and building the local engagement.

Main role and responsibilities

The main role is to support and oversee and implement the fieldwork on wilder nature and wildlife comeback, local communication as well as implementation of ecoparks (wildlife monitoring, species reintroduction, activities related to management of reintroduced animals, and development of infrastructure and management of ecoparks). These activities require knowledge of wildlife, ecology and biology and the ability to organize the field activities and work with experts as well as local stakeholders.

More detailed activities include:

- Support the activities for reintroduction programmes of species including the functioning of the Steppe Wildlife Recovery Center in Tarutino
- Working closely with the Rewilding Officer and a Team Leader (and also, the central and local rewilding team) to define and revise the work plan and timeline for the fieldwork to achieve Rewilding Ukraine's strategy and annual work programme (especially on wild nature and wildlife comeback).
- Support implementing the monitoring framework for the rewilding area (e.g. monitoring of the kulan and deer, steppe wildlife, impact of herbivores on habitat structure) and identifying suitable technical solutions, together with the Rewilding Ukraine team.
- Help to establish coexistence plans and identifying the most suitable technical solutions for the management of human-wildlife conflicts (e.g. currently identifying potential conflict areas and/or identifying the best new innovative solutions/methods for conflict management).
- Supervising and providing quality control on the collection and uploading of field data into the database (on Earth Ranger); editing and supporting preliminary analyses of the field data (e.g. data from GPS /GSM collars, camera traps, third-party observations, etc.) and dedicated studies (e.g. drone data collection).
- Regular reports are expected on monitoring activities such as the population size of reintroduced animals, social structure, home range, conflict hotspots, etc.
- Working closely with partners to support reintroduction and translocations (transportation, acclimatization and release process), including transport staff and veterinarians.
- Working closely with the Team Leader to engage and build relationships with local stakeholders and project partners that are critical to secure local support for rewilding and the implementation of the work plan.
- Support the work (technical aspects) on environmental education and outreach activities, in collaboration with other team members (communication and enterprise officers) and possible partners.

- Supporting the sharing of relevant information for communication and public engagement activities.
- Performing other duties as assigned by the Rewilding Officer and the Team Leader.

Necessary and desired qualifications

- Accreditation in the field of Biology, Ecology, Farming, Forestry or Fishery.
- At least 2 years of working experience in any of the fields above.
- Good knowledge of European species and habitats; prior experience with large grazers would be a plus.
- Knowledge and preferably field experience in wildlife and/or hunting/fishing management or ecological restoration.
- Knowledge of the Danube Delta, its ecosystems and its people, and the main stakeholders of forest, river and wildlife management would be advantageous.
- Personal field passion and experience of nature and a keen interest in wildlife and field ecology/biology.
- Genuine consideration for local people, their concerns and constraints, and interest in achieving sustainable and harmonious coexistence between wildlife and people.
- Ability to write in a clear and concise manner and communicate effectively orally in Ukrainian.
- Knowledge of English at the level of written and oral communication will be an advantage.
- Good team player, a pro-active attitude and personality with an ability to work independently in a multi-cultural environment with sensitivity and respect for team & stakeholder diversity.
- Ability to manage oneself from a home office, good organizational skills and problem-solving abilities.
- Excellent social skills, experience with working in local communities and sensitivity to local social differences.
- Driving license, at least B category.

Remuneration

About 10k Eur per annum gross.

Starting date: August 2023.

Application process

Applications, including your CV and a motivational letter (both in English or Ukrainian), should be submitted by the 10th of July 2023 to Mykhailo Nesterenko at info@rewilding-ukraine.com with the subject line: Field Officer Application. Only selected candidates will be invited for an interview. For further information please contact info@rewilding-ukraine.com.

For more details, please see www.rewilding-danube-delta.com and www.rewildingeurope.com.