



Volunteer Opportunity

Title: Conservation research volunteer

Location: Remote

Hours: Min. 3-4 hours/week, flexible

Dates: April – June 2021

Background

As a result of the economic impacts of COVID-19, lots of smallholders in our local area have had to put forest land up for sale or cut the valuable trees out of it and sell for timber. Buying forest land in order to protect it is very expensive and is not sustainable for the Forest Healing Foundation (FHF). We want to keep these lands in community hands.

We are initiating a research project for the first half of 2021 to study a variety of different solutions to help address this problem. The project goals are as follows:

1. To research available options for alternative financial incentives for landholders to conserve their trees.
2. To develop recommendations for FHF's strategy to address the issues of forest loss in our local area and design trial projects.
3. To raise awareness of different conservation solutions by communicating findings.

Role

This project will be desk-based due to the pandemic and will include online and scientific literature reviews, case study collection from existing projects and calls/interviews with experts and the Forest Healing Foundation team.

Volunteers will work in teams throughout the project to complete tasks. Roles will be flexible and we will look to appoint a team lead for different aspects of the project, e.g. for each research option and for communications. This is a new type of project for the FHF so there is scope to help design how it will work and give feedback.

Requirements

- Current students or those with a university degree in conservation or a relevant field (e.g. environmental science, development).
- Strong research skills, particularly desk-based online research. Should be confident in reading scientific papers and summarising learnings.
- Happy to work in a team and independently.
- Can-do attitude with passion for conservation and enthusiasm for making the world better for both the environment and communities.
- Self-motivated and disciplined to work without in-person supervision.
- Laptop and internet connection (or access to) for online working.

We invite applications from all locations and backgrounds – by bringing together diversity of ideas and experience we can co-create the best solutions! We expect that at least two positions will be filled by Sri Lankan volunteers, as they will bring essential cultural knowledge to the team, however applications are open to volunteers from all countries. We also welcome neurodiverse candidates, please get in touch with us if we can provide support/adjustments during the application process.

Compensation

Whilst we are not able to offer financial compensation, we are happy to provide references and would love to include volunteer profiles on our social media pages. Volunteers will receive a small thank you gift at the end of the project and there may be opportunities for one or more volunteers to stay with us in the jungle to do their work once it is deemed safe given the current pandemic. Volunteer stays include two meals per day and accommodation in a forest cabin.

How to apply

To apply, please submit the following:

1. Your CV;
2. Two paragraphs in an email explaining why you'd like to volunteer and what you will bring to the team.

Please send these to info@foresthealingsrilanka.org by the end of 31/03/2021. We aim to confirm receipt of all applications within 24 hours.

All applicants will be advised on the outcome of their submission by 07/04/2021. Selected applicants will be invited to a short video interview with the team.

If you have any questions on the role, please contact Emma at info@foresthealingsrilanka.org. Thank you for your interest.