



Opening: Conservation Fence Design and Construction Manager

Term: Sept 2018 to Dec 2019, Part-time

Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge is a non-profit organization in the U.S. and Chile with the mission to study and protect imperiled ecosystems by engaging diverse communities in innovative scientific and artistic collaborations. The non-profit organization was established in 2001 and has led over 100 collaborative projects throughout the Pacific with expertise in community-based conservation, habitat restoration, ecosystem research, conservation tool development, and education.

Position Description:

Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge is seeking an individual who will play a leadership role in designing (2018) and constructing (2019) a 900 m cattle and rabbit-proof fence to protect a Pink-footed shearwater colony in Robinson Crusoe Island, Chile. The applicant will join a dedicated team working to protect endangered species through community-based solutions. The applicant will work closely with the Program Manager in Valparaiso. The staff of 5-6 people on the island will support this project by conducting extensive logistics, ensuring good partner relationships, and identifying local contractors. This fence project will be a significant contribution to wildlife conservation because it must overcome challenges shared by many remote locations that include (1) no car or helicopter access (only by foot or donkey), (2) no on-site water source, (3) no electricity, (4) severe seasonal weather conditions (routinely exposed to hurricane force winds), and (5) affordability.

Requirements:

- Demonstrated experience managing cattle and rabbit proof fence projects in remote areas.
- Knowledge of wildlife conservation and threats from introduced species.
- Ability to research and connect with world-wide experts on exclusion fences.
- Good communication skills working in a virtual community via email and skype.
- Team management skills, including the ability to motivate, lead, set objectives and manage performance of people with variable experience.
- Experience overseeing the quality of vendors and subcontractors.
- Fluency in English and Spanish, both written and verbal, is preferred.
- Professional communications with partners, government, and residents.

Responsibilities:

The primary responsibilities of this job are to design and manage the construction of a cattle and rabbit proof fence in a Pink-footed shearwater colony at Robinson Crusoe Island (IRC). This project is on National Park land and activities depends on approval and support from CONAF. This position is responsible for working collaboratively with on-island staff and supervising residents hired to construct the fence. S/he will be responsible for the quality of the fence. Other responsibilities include creating and tracking the construction budget, writing reports and manuals, and being prepared for delays and logistic challenges of working in a remote location.

Specific tasks will include:

1. Create designs, plans and budgets
2. Participate in seeking stake holder input and adapting designs if necessary
3. Deliver a final construction plan with material specifications and budget
4. Select suppliers and secure cost bids
5. Inspect material delivered before shipping to IRC
6. Create a written manual for installation and maintenance
7. Supervise IRC residents hired to construct the fence
8. Closely monitor quality of construction and cleanup

Location:

The preferred location for this position is Santiago or Valparaíso, Chile, to work in person with the Program Managers. This position will require one visit to IRC during the design process and a 3 – 6 week stay on the island during fence construction (depending on weather and other delays). Transportation to the island is by plane for personnel and by boat for supplies.

Salary and Benefits:

The incumbent will be a part-time employee or contractor working 50% time. Compensation for this position is commensurate with experience. Employee benefits include paid holiday/sick/vacation time and disability.

Contact:

Applicants or contractors with expertise in any aspect of this description are encouraged to contact Valentina Colodro, Chile Program Manager, valentina@oikonos.org. To apply, please submit a cover letter with a description of your experience as it relates to the above, resume, and contacts for two professional references via email to Valentina.

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