

Terms of Reference

Internship/ volunteer opportunity at the Grassland Monitoring Project, WWF-India

Understanding the socio-cultural significance and use of floodplain grasslands in and around Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Uttar Pradesh

WWF-India's Terai Arc Landscape Programme requires two interns for a minimum duration of **3 months** between **mid-August 2021 – November 2021** to help plan and conduct interview surveys in village households adjoining the areas of Dudhwa National Park and Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary. The interns will be based out of WWF-India's office situated in Lakhimpur Kheri, stationed at Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Palia-Kalan, Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh. All the field data collection would be done following strict COVID-19 safety protocols.

This is one of the components of a larger project focussing on the Habitat Ecology of the threatened alluvial grasslands and associated ungulates of Himalayan Terai. The central idea is to develop a monitoring protocol to inform the conservation needs of these grasslands involving all stakeholders including Uttar Pradesh Forest Department and local communities.

Eligibility

1. Should be a graduate or postgraduate student in Social Sciences/ Environmental Sciences/ Natural Resource Management/ Agriculture/ Forestry or allied subjects.
2. Should be motivated to contribute and understand different aspects of Human-Wildlife interactions and their resource needs.
3. People with prior experience of data collection in form of interview surveys would be given preference.
4. Should be proficient in spoken and written Hindi and English. Translation skills from Hindi to English would be an added advantage.
5. Should be an active communicator with ability to initiate conversation with people and channelize large group discussions.
6. Should be experienced in using Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Power Point).
7. Should be comfortable working in a team as well as independently.

Remuneration

Commensurate to education and experience, following stipulations of WWF's HR policies. All the field costs including food and lodging will be covered by the organization. The interns/volunteers will be provided a certificate at the end of the internship period by WWF-India.

S.No	Objective	Expected Outcome	Duration
1.	Plan interview surveys and group discussions in villages adjoining PAs by meeting village heads or concerned authorities	Standard protocols/survey tool to understand how communities use grass, where they get their grass resources from and their understanding of how grasslands may be managed to support wildlife and sustain local needs., how people use grasslands, where they extract their grass resources from, what species are preferred, additional information on human wildlife conflict (with herbivores, which use crop fields as an extension of natural grasslands, can also be carried out).	20 days
2.	Conduct interview surveys with help from field team in select villages at different buffer distances from PA edge	Generating information on the above aspects with a specific focus on grassland access, harvest and use of grass and people's understanding of the relevance of grasslands for wildlife. Documenting patterns of crop depredation by ungulates in select areas	2 months (Data analysis and results presented in form of a report submitted to WWF-India and UP Forest Department)
3.	Conduct awareness cum training sessions about grassland and associated wildlife	Awareness posters and pamphlets distributed among local communities about importance of wild animals using grasslands and agricultural fields Trained individuals from villages conducting awareness sessions about importance of grassland wildlife	15-20 days

Contact –

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