



## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:**

## **Expedition Mechanic and Logistics**

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### **Why do we need you?**

At WWT we believe the best way for people to understand and connect to wetlands is to experience them, so we bring awe-inspiring nature up close and let it do the talking. People feel part of something amazing and are motivated to make a difference.

In 2016 WWT will undertake a major, record-breaking expedition that has never been done before – a paramotorist will follow the migration route of the Bewick's Swans, from Arctic Russia to the UK. It involves extreme adventure in challenging conditions, and is an integral part of a major, multinational conservation programme to save this species. The expedition will be supported by a team at HQ and particularly a ground crew and supporting pilots. We are looking to recruit a key member of the ground crew for this expedition – a mechanic that can fix our vehicles (and ideally any other equipment) in the field in challenging conditions and is always pre-empting what could go wrong next, so it doesn't!

The expedition will be made of the core expedition team supported by a team at HQ and particularly a ground crew

The ground crew will comprise a mechanic & logistics person and a media production person. They will operate a support vehicle(s) that will follow the expedition team. The ground crew will organise logistics for the team, solve problems (particularly mechanical but also anything else along the way) and organise and coordinate media from the field.

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**Who will be responsible for your role?** Head of Content and Creative

**Where will you be based?** Planning stages will be based at WWT Slimbridge, training at various locations and expedition will be 3 months from mid-August 2016.

**How much time will it take?** In addition to the 3 month expedition starting in August 2016 there will be regular planning meetings and training dates in preparation which will commence late February 2016.

### **What will you be doing?**

- Researching equipment required for the expedition and potential suppliers
- Be an integral part of the ground crew during the 3 month expedition
- On expedition the role will include navigation, driving, setting tents, cooking, sourcing supplies of food and equipment, helping with other aspects of logistics and other roles as required
- Attending multi-day training in repair and maintenance of specialist equipment and first aid
- Fixing a 2-stroke engine and our ground support vehicle/s, communication equipment, sometimes in challenging conditions

- Leading the planning of UK training events during winter 2015/16, identifying locations and communications needs
- Assisting with the honing of procedures and equipment and developing the expedition team
- Supporting the team in a wide variety of ad hoc tasks as and when they arise

### Who are we looking for?

- Able to operate in remote areas / overseas with minimal support
- Considerable vehicle maintenance experience and skill
- Experience in living / working in remote areas and from a vehicle
- Experience in off road driving and navigation
- Some experience of project management
- Calm and reliable under pressure
- Highly resourceful and practical
- Awareness of challenges when working across cultures
- Very much a team player and prepared to pick up other jobs where needed
- Basic cooking skills

### How will you benefit?

- This is an excellent opportunity to work within on an innovative expedition and high profile media project focussing on one of our major and conservation priorities
- Discount is available in the cafe and shop on the days of volunteering at a WWT centre
- All expenses will be paid for training trips
- As ground crew of the expedition you will travel with all expenses paid through multiple countries, experiencing beautiful places and meeting people of different cultures.
- Appropriate induction to WWT will be provided, as well as some specialist hands-on training for repairing specialist kit

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### General notes:

We regret that we are not in a position to reimburse expenses incurred for travel to the site. Any pre-agreed out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the course of the role will be reimbursed, that will include expedition expenses and those for pre-trip training sessions related to this role.

This position is entirely voluntary and is therefore unpaid. Any offer of a placement is not intended to create a legally binding contract between us and any agreement may be cancelled at any time at the discretion of either party. Neither of us intends any employment relationship to be created either now or at any time in the future.

WWT retains ownership of any data studies you carry out in this role, but wherever possible we will credit you for your work.

### How to Apply:

Please go to [www.wwt.org.uk/FOTS/volunteer](http://www.wwt.org.uk/FOTS/volunteer) to see details of this role and the application form.

Completed applications and a copy of your CV should be returned by email to [volunteer.hq@wwt.org.uk](mailto:volunteer.hq@wwt.org.uk) or posted to VDO, WWT Slimbridge, Slimbridge, Glos. GL2 7BT.

Please email [volunteer.hq@wwt.org.uk](mailto:volunteer.hq@wwt.org.uk) if you have any problems with completing the application form.

**Closing Date:**

Please submit all completed application forms and CVs by **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016**. Successful applicants will be contacted to arrange interviews, these will be held on the week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016.

**Date raised:** November 2015 SH/SD