
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AT THE CAUCASUS WILDLIFE REFUGE

1. **Organization:**

Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC)

2. **Summary:**

Committed to contribute to the expansion of research activities in the first privately managed reserve in Armenia - the Caucasus Wildlife Refuge, FPWC encourages qualified individuals and legal entities for applying to Scientific Survey Initiative aimed at monitoring the biodiversity & ecosystems of the reserve area.

3. **Background:**

The Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) was founded in 2002. The organization works at the crossroads of biodiversity conservation, community development and environmental education. Through a range of environmental projects, FPWC advocates for biodiversity conservation in Armenia, as well as runs the first private reserve in the Southern Caucasus.

4. **Purpose & scope of work**

The main objective of this announcement is to survey and monitor the flora & fauna of the Caucasus Wildlife Refuge in partnership with local & international research organizations, universities, scientific institutions, individuals (MSc & Ph.D students, scholars, post-docs, etc.) and other interested parties.

Motivated and competent professionals, as well as self-starters are welcome to join FPWC's team or work independently on biodiversity conservation issues through scientific monitoring and field surveys.

In collaboration with parties, FPWC might provide the research topics and study area expecting to receive tangible outcome from the research work conducted in a form of scientific publication/article, report or thesis).

5. Eligibility Criteria/ Expected Qualifications

- You have previous coursework/experience in ecology, biology, or environmental studies/science. Publications are an asset.
- You have an accredited degree from your University (BSc, MSc, Ph.D, post-doc, etc.)
- You have met with your Scientific Advisor/Supervisor and have his/her support to submit a program specific application
- You possess Health Insurance and are physically fit to conduct a study at altitudes min. 2000m above sea level, able to withstand harsh weather conditions and work independently.
- You communicate in English (Russian, Armenian) without difficulties.
- You have respect towards Nature, people from different backgrounds and culture.

6. Duration and Dedication

In general, the duration of the survey and the expected outcome is being agreed between FPWC & the Researcher/Entity in advance, however at its most, the Party is expected to deliver the outcome at least within 18 months from the start of the project in a form mutually agreed by Parties beforehand.

7. Location

Caucasus Wildlife Refuge, Ararat region, Armenia

8. Supervision, Tasks and Responsibilities

The Party (researcher) will have the chance to research and monitor the endangered and unique wildlife species at the Caucasus Wildlife Refuge, take part in conservation actions and conduct research for dissertation/thesis/publication under supervision.

FPWC does not take any responsibility and is not liable for any damage caused to equipment/health/people within and beyond the project duration. Parties undertake all risks and responsibilities associated with their coursework during the project. The tasks are set by the Party's supervisor and responsibilities agreed in a written form prior to the start of the project. FPWC is not accountable for the project deliverable/quality, neither the fulfilment of the tasks during the project course.

The Party (researcher) needs to keep informed about the intermediate and final results of the Research Project to its supervisor or local colleagues.

Information should be shared according to confidentiality section (8.1). All the collated data (photos, videos, new findings, scientific data, etc.) belongs to the FPWC (Foundation) and needs to be accredited in terms of use. Both the Collaborator and the Foundation have unrestricted rights to use the data for their internal non-commercial research and education purposes. The both parties agree and acknowledge the importance to publishing articles in appropriate academic journals. The results of Research Project will be jointly published in accordance with

academic standards. The proper acknowledgements should be made for the contributions of each Party to the research results being published.

8.1 Confidentiality

The collated data is the property of FPWC and researcher should ensure that the gathered information and the results won't be improperly divulged, circulated or shared among unauthorized parties.

9. Submission of applications

Applications and inquiries should be submitted to info@fpwc.org mentioning your full name and affiliated university in the subject line of your email. The body text should include the title of the work, expected duration, outcome, expected number of publications and desired scopes of possible partnership with the FPWC. Your applications will be reviewed and feedback provided within 7 working days from the submission.

The application form is available here: <http://www.fpwc.org/announcements/>

10. Amendment, Modification or Variation

This Terms of Reference may be amended, varied or modified in writing after consultation and agreement with the FPWC.