



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India



Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History

(South India Centre of Wildlife Institute of India)

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Advt. No. SACON/RES/RCTMT/ADVT-07/2026

Recruitment of Research Personnel in SACON Projects

Application deadline: **14-08-2026 | 05:00 PM**

Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), South India Centre of Wildlife Institute of India (WII) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, wishes to engage the following research personnel (**Indian Nationals only**) on purely temporary basis. Interested candidates may apply online at <http://www.sacon.in/careers/>. Details of the positions and application procedures are given below.

- Project Title: ASSESSING THE POPULATION STATUS, MOVEMENT ECOLOGY AND GENETIC VULNERABILITY OF ENDEMIC AND ENDANGERED BANASURA LAUGHINGTHRUSH *MONTECINCLA JERDONI* IN CAMEL'S HUMP MOUNTAIN IN THE WESTERN GHATS**
[PI - Dr. S. Babu]

1(a). SENIOR PROJECT ASSOCIATE

- No. of Positions:** ONE (1)
- Duration:** ONE year (likely to be extended)
- Essential Qualifications:** i) Post-Graduate degree (M.Sc.) or its equivalent, with a minimum of 55% marks, in life sciences or environmental sciences (Zoology/ Wildlife Biology/ Wildlife Science/ Forestry/ Conservation Biology/ Biodiversity Studies/ Ecological Sciences/ Environmental Studies or any other allied disciplines) from a recognized university, **AND** ii) **FOUR** years of post-PG research experience in relevant scientific projects and activities;

OR

Doctoral degree (Ph.D.) in any allied disciplines of life sciences or environmental sciences from a recognized university.

- Desirable Qualifications:** i) Prior work experience in the Western Ghats and on endemic birds; ii) hands-on experience with passive acoustic monitoring devices and sound analysis software; iii) experience in animal tracking (VHF/GPS tags), including

attachment techniques and data download/management; iv) proficiency in statistical modelling and spatial analysis in GIS platforms (QGIS, ArcGIS, or GRASS) for habitat mapping and home range estimation; v) capacity to lead a small field team and manage logistics in remote and harsh terrain; and vi) good communication skill.

- **Upper Age Limit as on 14-08-2026**: 40 years
- **Monthly Emoluments**: Rs.57,000 + HRA
- **Description of Work**: Selected person will be expected i) to coordinate the field research and data collection in the high-elevation ranges of the Western Ghats; ii) to safely attach VHF/GPS tags to target bird species using appropriate methods and monitor their movements; iii) to lead a small team of researchers and field assistants in survey execution and logistics management; and iv) to assist the Project Investigators in achieving the project objectives and executing other institutional activities.

1(b). PROJECT ASSOCIATE-II (Molecular Biology)

- **No. of Positions**: ONE (1)
- **Duration**: ONE year (likely to be extended)
- **Essential Qualifications**: i) Post-Graduate degree (M.Sc.) or its equivalent, with a minimum of 55% marks, in life sciences or environmental sciences (Zoology/ Wildlife Biology/ Forestry/ Biodiversity Studies/ Ecological Sciences/ Environmental Studies/ Molecular Biology/ Biotechnology/ Bioinformatics/ Genetics/ Microbiology or any other allied disciplines) from a recognized university, **AND** ii) **TWO** years of post-PG research experience in relevant scientific projects and activities.
- **Desirable Qualifications**: i) Familiarity with various molecular biology techniques, particularly RNA/DNA isolation and NGS library preparation, and developing pipelines for various NGS applications; ii) acquaintance with targeted RT-qPCR and NGS platforms; iii) proficiency in analyzing mid/or whole genome data; iv) prior experience in wildlife population-level studies using molecular techniques; v) strong interpersonal skills; and vi) good written and oral communication skills.
- **Upper Age Limit as on 14-08-2026**: 35 years
- **Monthly Emoluments**: Rs.42,000 + HRA for CSIR-UGC NET (Lectureship)/GATE qualified candidates and Rs. 33,000 + HRA for non-NET/GATE qualified candidates.
- **Description of Work**: Selected person will be expected i) to collect biological samples from birds following standard protocols and ethical guidelines; ii) to conduct field and laboratory tasks related to the project; iii) to analyze genome data and prepare reports; and iv) to assist the Project Investigators in achieving the project objectives and executing other institutional activities.

1(c). PROJECT ASSOCIATE-I

- **No. of Positions:** ONE (1)
- **Duration:** ONE year (likely to be extended)
- **Essential Qualifications:** Post-Graduate degree (M.Sc.) or its equivalent, with a minimum of 55% marks, in life sciences or environmental sciences (Zoology/ Wildlife Biology/ Wildlife Science/ Forestry/ Conservation Biology/ Biodiversity Studies/ Ecological Sciences/ Environmental Studies or any other allied disciplines) from a recognized university.
- **Desirable Qualifications:** i) Research experience in studying avian ecology and conservation; ii) proficiency in bird survey methods and sampling design, and familiarity with ecological concepts related to sky islands of the Western Ghats; iii) willingness to reside in remote locations with challenging conditions, and travel extensively by road; and iv) proficiency in English (speaking, reading, and writing) and Malayalam (speaking).
- **Upper Age Limit as on 14-08-2026:** 35 years
- **Monthly Emoluments:** Rs.37,000 + HRA for CSIR-UGC NET (Lectureship)/GATE qualified candidates and Rs. 30,000 + HRA for non-NET/GATE qualified candidates.
- **Description of Work:** Selected person will be expected i) to conduct intensive field surveys for the Banasura Laughingthrush and other associated birds; ii) to collate and analyse field data; iii) to work closely with the forest department and other local stakeholders, and iv) to assist the Project Investigators in achieving the project objectives and executing other institutional activities.

2. Project Title: COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION PLAN FOR THE ENDEMIC AND TREE CAVITY NESTING BIRDS OF NICOBAR ARCHIPELAGO

[PI - Dr. S. Babu]

2(a). PROJECT ASSOCIATE-I (RS & GIS)

- **No. of Positions:** ONE (1)
- **Duration:** One year (likely to be extended)
- **Essential Qualifications:** Post-Graduate degree or its equivalent with a minimum of 55% marks in Remote Sensing/ Geoinformatics/ Photogrammetry & Cartography/ Ecoinformatics/ Geography or any allied disciplines from a recognized university.
- **Desirable Qualifications:** i) Proficiency in use of RS/GIS software and other geospatial tools; ii) experience in extraction and analysis of LULC, NDVI, NDWI, LST, DEM, and other spatial data using high-resolution satellite imagery; iii) familiarity with application of RS/GIS in studies on wildlife ecology and conservation with prior research experience/internship; and iv) excellent communication and interpersonal skill.
- **Upper Age Limit as on 14-08-2026:** 35 years

- **Monthly Emoluments:** Rs.37,000 + HRA for CSIR-UGC NET (Lectureship)/GATE qualified candidates and Rs. 30,000 + HRA for non-NET/GATE qualified candidates.
- **Description of Work:** Selected person will be expected i) to work with field staff in collection and analysis of spatial data on birds from the Nicobar Islands; ii) to execute all the mapping work and spatial analyses, and contribute to preparation of project reports; and iii) to assist the Project Investigator and senior project staff in achieving project goals and other institutional activities.

3. Project Title: CONSERVATION OF THE CARACAL CARACAL CARACAL IN RAJASTHAN

[PI - Dr. Shomita Mukherjee]

3(a). PROJECT ASSOCIATE-I (Social Component)

- **No. of Positions:** ONE (1)
- **Duration:** One year (likely to be extended)
- **Essential Qualifications:** Post-Graduate degree (M.Sc.) or its equivalent, with a minimum of 55% marks, in life sciences or environmental sciences (Zoology/ Wildlife Biology/ Wildlife Science/ Forestry/ Conservation Biology/ Biodiversity Studies/ Ecological Sciences/ Environmental Studies or any other allied disciplines) from a recognized university.
- **Desirable Qualifications:** i) Experience in conducting socio-economic and ecological surveys, including questionnaire-based interviews; ii) experience in survey design, data analysis, and report writing; iii) proficiency in statistical analysis with a good working knowledge of analytical tools like R and GIS; iv) willingness to work in remote field locations under challenging conditions and travel extensively; and v) proficiency in Hindi with excellent communication and interpersonal skill.
- **Upper Age Limit as on 14-08-2026:** 35 years
- **Monthly Emoluments:** Rs.37,000 + HRA for CSIR-UGC NET (Lectureship)/GATE qualified candidates and Rs. 30,000 + HRA for non-NET/GATE qualified candidates.
- **Description of Work:** Selected person will be expected i) to conduct social surveys to understand local perspectives and generate awareness among community members to aid caracal conservation in the greater landscape; ii) to work closely with the project team, Forest Department and local communities to develop a Caracal Conservation Plan; and iii) to assist the Project Investigators in achieving project goals and other institutional activities.

4. Project Title: CONSERVATION OF THE NICOBAR MEGAPODE

[PI - Dr. Manchi Shirish S.]

4(a). PROJECT ASSOCIATE-I

- **No. of Positions:** ONE (1)
- **Duration:** One year (likely to be extended)
- **Essential Qualifications:** Post-Graduate degree (M.Sc.) or its equivalent, with a minimum of 55% marks, in life sciences or environmental sciences (Zoology/ Wildlife Biology/ Wildlife Science/ Forestry/ Conservation Biology/ Biodiversity Studies/ Ecological Sciences/ Environmental Studies or any other allied disciplines) from a recognized university.
- **Desirable Qualifications:** i) Keen interest in bird research and conservation; ii) skill and experience in bird surveys and field ecology methods; iii) willingness to reside in remote locations with challenging conditions, and travel extensively by both road and sea between the islands; iv) prior exposure to field techniques of bird capture, handling and collection of biological samples for disease screening; v) familiarity with data analysis, including R programming and GIS tools; and vi) proficiency in English and Hindi (speaking, reading, and writing).
- **Upper Age Limit as on 14-08-2026:** 35 years
- **Monthly Emoluments:** Rs.37,000 + HRA for CSIR-UGC NET (Lectureship)/GATE qualified candidates and Rs. 30,000 + HRA for non-NET/GATE qualified candidates.
- **Description of Work:** Selected person will be expected i) to conduct species population surveys and ecological studies in remote areas of Andaman and Nicobar Islands with limited resources and challenging field conditions; ii) to collect and analyze field data and contribute to preparation of reports; iii) to assist with conducting social surveys among local communities to understand their views on species conservation; iv) to work closely with the forest department and local communities to develop sustainable conservation/management plan; and v) to assist the Project Investigator and senior project staff in achieving project goals and other institutional activities.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Interested candidates, who fulfil the required essential qualification(s) may fill in and submit the **Online Application form** available at SACON website (<http://www.sacon.in/careers/>) latest by **5:00 PM on 14th August, 2026**.
2. **The application form should be filled and submitted online ONLY** along with relevant Application Fee receipt, self-attested scanned PDF copies of all supporting documents and testimonials such as copies of certificates, mark lists and testimonials of essential and desirable qualifications, research experience, date of birth, community, extracurricular activities etc. uploaded. **[Please do NOT send hard copies of application forms and attachments]**.
3. An **Application Fee of Rs. 500/-** (Rupees Five Hundred only) for the applicants belonging to **General Category** shall have to be paid through online mode. However, candidates belonging to **SC/ST/OBC/EWS/PwBD** categories are exempted from the said Application Fee, but shall have to pay **Rs.100/-** as '**Application Processing Fee**'. Note that candidates belonging to OBC category should upload valid OBC certificate as endorsed by the Government of India and issued by competent authorities, and should NOT submit other certificates in its place to back their claim.
4. The fees shall be paid to the following bank account through Online/Electronic mode.
 - a) Bank Account Name: **WILDLIFE INSTITUTE OF INDIA**
 - b) Bank Account Number: **5915940382**
 - c) Bank & Branch: **Central Bank of India, Nanjundapuram**
 - d) IFSC Code: **CBIN0282106**
5. We strongly recommend **Online payment** of Application Fees/Application Processing Fees using **Bank Transfer** (through IMPS/NEFT/RTGS) in Web/Mobile Banking Apps or **Bank Transfer** in UPI-based Digital Payment Apps such as Google Pay, PhonePe, Paytm, etc. **Please pay and apply at the earliest to avoid any transaction issues**, as there is a cap on number and volume of online payments in a single day. We normally experience high volume of traffic in our server towards the deadline, potentially causing payment issues online.
6. **Applicants are instructed to attach a copy of the Transaction Receipt** and provide details of transaction in the **Online Application Form**. **Non-payment of Application Fees or failure to attach Transaction Receipt shall lead to rejection of application**. Note that the Application Fees/Application Processing Fees are **NON-REFUNDABLE** under any circumstances.
7. **A candidate can apply for a maximum of TWO advertised positions only**. Candidates applying for more than one position should submit **SEPARATE** sets of applications and supporting documents, along with prescribed Application Fee/Application Processing Fee separately for EACH position.
8. **Only the shortlisted candidates** will be invited for the **Online Interview** through which the final selection of candidates will be made. Details of the Interview, including the exact date, time and online link, will be individually intimated to the shortlisted candidates by email.
9. If selected, all original documents in support of qualifications, age, experience etc. should be produced by the candidate for verification before joining SACON. **The hard copies of the filled-in application form along with self-attested true copies** of all supporting documents should also be submitted at the time of joining.
10. **For any technical issues or queries**, please write to <it.sacon@wii.gov.in> or call landline at 0422-2203114 or mobile number 91593 94160.

GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. Candidates applying for the above positions should possess all the Essential Qualifications, with originals of supporting documents, as on the date of application deadline.
2. The **upper age** limit may be relaxed as per the Government of India norms [up to **5 years** in the case of candidates belonging to **SC/ST** categories, whereas up to **3 years** in the case of **OBC** candidates].
3. Selected candidates will be provided with hostel accommodation at SACON as per availability. Other allowances and benefits to the research personnel will be admissible as per the rules.
4. Canvassing in any form is liable to rejection of the candidature.
5. The Director, WII-SACON reserves the right to reject any application/candidature because of incomplete information provided by the candidate, application without supporting documents, non-payment of prescribed fees, application submitted after the stipulated deadline, or for any other reason(s), thereof.

Nodal Officer, Recruitment and Placement Cell

WII-SACON