Job Description

Department: Field Programmes

Job Title: Lead Technician, Saint Lucia Racer Conservation Programme

Contract: 3-year Fixed Term Contract

Reports to: Caribbean Programme Manager; Head of Herpetology

Location: Saint Lucia

Introduction to Durrell

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust is an international charity working to save species from extinction. Headquartered in Jersey in the Channel Islands, Durrell focuses on the most threatened species in the most threatened places.

Established by author and conservationist, Gerald Durrell, in 1963, Durrell delivers its conservation mission through our three integrated core areas of operation:

- Field Programmes: conservation action where it is needed most.
- Conservation Knowledge: training future conservation practitioners and monitoring and evaluating conservation science, which underpins all Durrell activities.
- Jersey Zoo: a centre of excellence in animal husbandry, research, training and education.

With a track record of more than 60 years, Durrell leads some of the world’s longest running and most successful species and habitat recovery programmes. The quality of our work is equally as important as how we deliver it. Our values, underpin how we approach our work and the work environment we create.
Our Values

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Purposeful</th>
<th>We are clear on why we do what we do, are <strong>connected as an organisation</strong>, we understand and <strong>demonstrate</strong> enabling / delivery, we are <strong>passionate</strong> about what we do and work <strong>tirelessly</strong> to achieve it.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Accountable</td>
<td>We are <strong>accountable for our actions</strong>; we act with <strong>integrity</strong> and always have the <strong>best interests of the Trust</strong> at heart. We take it upon ourselves to update our <strong>knowledge</strong> and <strong>deliver excellence</strong>, and our <strong>ethics</strong> are of the utmost importance.</td>
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<td>Supportive</td>
<td>We <strong>develop</strong> and <strong>encourage</strong> our staff, we work as a <strong>team</strong>, work well with other departments and <strong>trust</strong> and <strong>respect</strong> each other. We promote a <strong>learning culture</strong>, treat people <strong>fairly</strong>, encourage <strong>diversity</strong> in the workplace, and value the opinions and views of others.</td>
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1. **Job Purpose**

Development and management of the Saint Lucia racer breeding facility on Saint Lucia. The Lead Technician will be responsible for the daily animal husbandry and animal welfare of all captive animals held under the Saint Lucia racer breeding programme in Saint Lucia. The Lead Technician will act as Durrell’s main focal point for the Saint Lucia racer husbandry on Saint Lucia and will maintain partnerships with local collaborators especially through on-the-job training of local support and through supporting snake work on offshore islands.

Construction of the racer breeding centre was completed in September 2020. We anticipate a 12-month bedding in period for racer facility whilst concurrently establishing sustainable live food colonies. Our target date for bringing racers into the facility is 2022.

2. **Key Responsibilities**

2.1 **Development and delivery of the Saint Lucia racer breeding programme in Saint Lucia**

- Responsible for the landscaping of the racer breeding facility to prepare it for bringing racers into captivity.

- Establishing, continued development and daily management of the Saint Lucia racer and live food breeding facilities and associated duties under the guidelines of Durrell.
• Responsible for the welfare of all captive animals held under the Saint Lucia racer breeding programme ensuring highest standards of animal husbandry.

• Train and supervise up to five local partner’s staff and volunteers in the daily husbandry of the snakes and associated species.

• Coordinate and supervise training exchanges of technicians between Saint Lucia and Montserrat.

• Provide technical guidance to local partners on monitoring and management options for captive and wild Saint Lucia racers.

2.2 **Support the operational and technical delivery of Durrell’s species conservation activities within Saint Lucia and wider region.**

• Support ecological survey and habitat work on relevant offshore islands and the mainland island site particularly in relation to the racer conservation programme.

• Support the development and delivery of outreach and education work for the Saint Lucia racer and the broader conservation programme.

• Provide technical guidance to local partners on monitoring and management options for the Saint Lucia iguana including a potential head-starting facility and programme.

• Support local development of Durrell’s rewilding plan for Saint Lucia.

• Represent Durrell to partners in Saint Lucia and within the Eastern Caribbean.

2.3 **Support local and regional partners to improve capacity for conservation.**

• Support Caribbean Programme Manager to provide guidance to the Saint Lucia Forestry Department and Saint Lucia National Trust on monitoring and management actions on the ground.
• Work with Durrell Knowledge team to support capacity development initiatives and engagement with Durrell’s training programmes within the region (including the DESMAN training course) if applicable.

2.4 Dimensions

• Role based in Saint Lucia – Saint Lucia racer breeding facility, Union, Saint Lucia.
• Supervision of local technicians/volunteers.
• Use of vehicle in Saint Lucia.

3. Knowledge, Skill and Ability

• Graduate degree or equivalent in biology/conservation related discipline.
• At least ten years practical husbandry experience with a wide variety of applicable snake, lizard, amphibian, and invertebrate species.
• Proven track record with long-term snake husbandry and successful breeding of small food specialists.
• Proven track record with husbandry and long-term breeding of a wide variety of small lizard and amphibian species including their invertebrate food.
• Ecological monitoring and survey skills and experience, particularly for reptiles, highly desirable.
• Good verbal and written English communication skills.
• Ability to live and work in Saint Lucia for the duration of the contract.
• Valid car driving licence.

4. Behaviours and Values

• Passionate about conservation and an understanding of and commitment to Durrell’s vision, mission and aims.
• Acts with integrity and with the best interests of the employer at all times.
• Ability to demonstrate initiative and work well under pressure.
• Respectful of the opinions of others and willingness to collaborate.