

Vulture Conservation Foundation – Job Specification-Description

Job Title: Part-time (50%) bearded vulture captive breeding assistant, Vallcalent, Spain

Overall purpose of the job: To support the VCF bearded vulture captive breeding manager on all tasks

Reporting to: VCF bearded vulture captive breeding manager

Background: The wildlife rehabilitation center Vallcalent is one of the five rehabilitation stations from the Generalitat of Catalonia, located in the outskirts of Lleida, and includes two departments:

1. Wildlife Rehabilitation Department, which includes the Hospital and the rehabilitation facilities
2. Project Department, which includes different captive breeding units: the barn owl, the bearded vulture, and the lesser grey shrike

The bearded vulture unit occupies a 0.5 hectare area, and includes 6 aviaries. Additionally 2 other aviaries inside the Rehab area are destined for the bearded vulture.

The Vallcalent bearded vulture unit is an integral part of the bearded vulture EEP (Endangered Species Programme), managed by the VCF, for conservation purposes – to produce young for reintroduction projects.

Initially the objective of this unit was to create a Pyrenean genetic reserve. Currently it houses 11 birds, some of them coming from the Pyrenees (4 wild but unreleasable birds from the Pyrenees and one bird with 50% Pyrenean ascendancy). Furthermore two birds have ascendancy from Crete and mainland Greece (population which has disappeared). Consequently the Vallcalent bearded vulture unit has a significant genetic diversity, and is important for the bearded vulture reintroduction projects.

Furthermore the Vallcalent bearded vulture unit has the objective to house behaviourally-difficult birds which have not reproduced in other institutions, and try to breed them.

Summarizing, the goals of the bearded vulture captive breeding Unit from Vallcalent are:

- Create a Pyrenean genetic reserve
- Reproduce behaviourally-difficult birds
- Reproduce founder birds
- Use imprinted birds as foster parents
- Adoptions of hatchlings

The co-coordinator of the bearded vulture EEP manages also the Vallcaient bearded vulture unit.

Main duties & responsibilities:

Outside of the breeding season, data management and cleaning and aviary maintenance are the most important tasks. During the breeding season (November-May) those tasks related with bird monitoring, artificial incubation and chick rearing are more relevant.

- General cleaning & maintenance
- Daily food preparation and storage
- Reconstruction of the nests (includes preparation of nest material: e.g. wool wash)
- Management of vegetation cover inside the facilities
- Management of vegetation cover outside the facilities
- Daily bird monitoring, including through video camera system and recordings
- Monitoring evolution of pair bonding and breeding
- Capturing of birds if needed (e.g. by appearing strong fights)
- Collection and storage of all monitoring data
- Organizing transfer of birds including administrative tasks (CITES, Government authorizations, TRACES)
- Monitoring artificial incubation (egg control, thermal shock, adapt incubation parameters in relation egg/embryo evolution, etc.)
- Rearing of chicks
- Assist with the preparation of all the captive breeding technical guidelines and documents
- Assist with the production of annual reports
- Assist with the contact with all the Zoos and centres in the network
- Substitute the captive breeding manager when he is on holiday or travelling

Education - Skills - Experience required:

- ✓ University degree level general education

- ✓ At least 3 years professional experience on captive breeding, or handling of animals
- ✓ Previous experience with vultures preferred
- ✓ Good organizational and planning skills, ability to determine and set work priorities, organise activities and an ability to adhere to deadlines
- ✓ Fluency in Spanish and English
- ✓ Able to travel 1-2 times a year

Job Location: Vallcalent centre, Lleida, Spain

Salary and benefits: 1400-1500€ monthly/Gross. Tax and social contributions should then be discounted. Travel expenses also covered.

Documents requested: CV plus cover letter, to be sent by the 18th April to recruitment@4vultures.org in one single pdf file