

Drone Pilot Assistant with Project Biodiversity 2023

Project Biodiversity is looking for a candidate to join our team as a Drone Pilot Assistant, from June 1st until October 31st, for the 2023 Loggerhead nesting season in Sal Island, Cabo Verde.

Why we need you!

In 2007 it was estimated that the Loggerhead population in Cabo Verde would be extinct by 2015 if immediate actions weren't taken to halt the illegal hunt and trade of turtle meat and human induced threats to the population. For the last 15 years, both international volunteers, assistants and members of the local community have worked tirelessly to ensure protection of the female turtles – by patrolling the beaches nightly throughout the nesting season, educating members of the community about turtle conservation, and working with the government to improve regulations. While the number of turtles killed has drastically reduced, the illegal poaching and trafficking still persists.

In 2023, we aim to further empower the community to act to protect turtles, through direct beach protection, as well as grassroots education and engagement. As crucial part of our team, you will have the opportunity to directly contribute to the conservation of this endangered species, and ultimately help build a more sustainable Cabo Verde.

Loggerhead nesting season runs from June to October, with nests hatching from mid-August to late December. Throughout the season the team of Project Biodiversity is made up of local and international assistants and volunteers. Our work involves patrolling beaches (night and morning) to monitor nesting and deter hunting, collect data, manage hatcheries, run education and outreach activities, and organise beach cleans. Although there is a wide scope of activities within the project, protection of nesting turtles continues to be the main focus and whilst this can be stressful and tiring, it is ultimately highly rewarding.

What does it take to be a Drone Pilot Assistant?

The position of **Drone Pilot Assistant** is open to candidates with a commitment to conservation and proven drone skills. Duties involve night patrols to deter hunters and support foot patrols.

Duties:

- Drone patrols, six nights per week
- Assisting in morning beach checks
- Processing video/photo evidence
- Drone database management
- Maintenance and cleaning of drone equipment

As a member of the camp, you will also be expected to assist in the maintenance of the camp and its facilities, as well as the general day to day running of the camp.

Requirements

- Desire to work in conservation
- Certified Drone pilot or proved experience
- Experience in similar working conditions
- High level of energy and flexibility
- At least 20 years old
- Fluent in English or Portuguese (with understanding of the other)
- Good attention to detail
- Able to work and live with people of different backgrounds and nationalities
- Able to work independently and show initiative

Other useful skills

- Technical background
- Scientific or conservation experience
- Previous volunteering or outdoor living experience

What is provided for?

Project Biodiversity is based in Santa Maria, a popular tourist destination known for its beaches and water-sports. You will be based in a field camp out of town with self-catering accommodation in Santa Maria provided on rest days. Meals are provided for in camp but are not provided on the days off. You will receive €200 per month. See FAQs for camp conditions.

You are not required to pay any fees, but you need to cover flights and insurance personally. In the case of loss or damage of project equipment, related costs will be deduced from the monthly stipend offered.

Sign me up!

To apply, please send your CV to seaturtles@projectbiodiversity.org

The Drone Pilot Assistant position is for the **entire nesting season** from **June 1st** until **October 31st**.
You **must** be available during these dates to apply for the position.