



Job Vacancy

Position:	Head of Conservation and Policy
Reporting to:	Interim Chief Executive Officer
Team:	Approximately 15 staff, including three Assistant Heads of Division
Contract:	Full-time and Permanent

Background:

BirdWatch Ireland is the largest independent conservation organisation in Ireland. Established in 1968 it currently has over 15,000 members and supporters, with an active nationwide network of over 30 branches. The primary objective of BirdWatch Ireland is the protection of wild birds and their habitats in Ireland. BirdWatch Ireland is the trading name of the Irish Wildbird Conservancy, a company limited by guarantee, and has an annual turnover of over €1.7million. It is also a registered charity and a partner of BirdLife International, a partnership of over 100 bird conservation organisations across the globe.

The Job:

The Conservation and Policy Division within the organisation includes a range of conservation projects, reserve management and policy advocacy and development. BirdWatch Ireland is looking for a talented individual with the vision, experience and ability to lead the delivery of the BirdWatch Ireland Strategy “2020 Vision”. As a natural team leader, you will be a focused and skilled communicator - with a broad range of experience in nature conservation and its advocacy. Reporting directly to the Interim CEO, you will have direct responsibility for the overall management and development of conservation projects and policy advocacy within the organisation.

You will be qualified in an area of ecology, zoology or related subject, with a passion for nature conservation. You will have experience in a high-level conservation role, as well as good ornithological knowledge and a sound understanding of Ireland’s priorities in relation to bird conservation. You will also have good experience in project management including budgeting, managing staff and liaising with stakeholders. With the support of three Assistant Heads of Division, you will lead a team of 15 to 20 staff towards fulfilling our Strategy and in developing the strategic direction within the organisation into the future.

You will be a proactive team player who can demonstrate initiative with excellent organisational, team management and communication skills.

Key Responsibilities:

- Ensure that BirdWatch Ireland remains on track in relation to fulfilling the Conservation and Policy aspects of the Strategy.
- Lead on the further development and implementation of the strategic aims and objectives of BirdWatch Ireland to 2020 and beyond.
- Overall responsibility for management of all Conservation & Policy projects as per the organisation’s processes and internal controls, including their introduction, implementation and ongoing development in line with best practice.

Key Skills and Qualifications required:

- Minimum MSc in ecology, zoology or related area, and/or at least 10 years relevant extensive experience.
- Project management experience - ability to plan, organize and lead on multiple projects and on the implementation of plans and processes.
- Strong interpersonal skills and the proven ability to provide leadership to a team and to work in a team environment and to generate enthusiasm, integrity and build consensus with staff.
- Excellent written and oral communication, presentation and negotiation skills. Authorship of scientific papers would be an advantage.
- Fundraising experience with the proven ability to secure funds, source new opportunities and develop and manage relationships with funders and partners.

Remuneration:

Negotiable in the range of €45-50k per annum depending on experience.

How to apply:

Complete the application form available on the BirdWatch Ireland website. Please do not send CVs. Applications should be sent by email to humanresources@birdwatchireland.ie (please put "Head of Conservation & Policy" in the subject box), or by post to:

Head of Human Resources,
BirdWatch Ireland,
Unit 20, Block D,
Bullford Business Campus,
Kilcoole,
Co Wicklow.
A63 RW83

Closing date for applications: 10th July 2017

Interviews are likely to take place within the following 2 weeks, with a view to starting as soon as possible thereafter.

Any further queries regarding this post should be directed to:

Declan O Sullivan, Interim CEO, dosullivan@birdwatchireland.ie