

Position: Conservation Partnership Manager Wild Rivers

1 OBJECTIVE

The object of this role is to lead the operational setup of the Vjosa Wild River National Park and its future expansion to IUCN Category II standards, as well as plan the roll out of similar national parks in the Balkans. You will also be responsible for working closely with key stakeholders, such as representatives acting on behalf of the Holdfast Collective.

2 ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES

Background & context

Patagonia has been involved in the creation of national parks and large scale protection for many years via Tompkins Conservation and its 1% for the planet grant giving and campaign work. Peninsula Mitre in Argentina is a recent example of grassroots campaigning success.

Recently, the Vjosa River in Albania became a national park after 8 years of campaigning and the involvement of Patagonia in a partnership with government and the UN. The work has been intense, with Patagonia playing a very hands-on and leadership role in assisting to drive the program as providing funding through its 1% for the Planet grant giving.

The next stage of work involves supporting the Albanian government in making it a reality on the ground, including assisting in fundraising for the park; hiring experts to develop a management plan; and planning the potential expansion of the park. In addition, there are plans to scale the model of private partnerships for conservation and attract other funders and business involvement.

There is now a need for a consultant who can take over the hands-on and leadership role for the program to ensure the successful launch and operation of the national park..

K

- Ensuring the International Coordinator and experts deliver the agreed outputs and on time, including the Integrated Management Plan, proposed boundaries extensions and the stakeholder consultation
- Engaging senior stakeholders as needed and ensuring the VWRNP steering groups is effectively managed. Prepare presentations as required.
- Lead the fundraising and sustainable finance working groups work with the communications group to build energy and momentum behind the park launch in 2024.
- Work with the Director of NAPA to ensure the park is properly protected during the transition period, operations are set up and that the necessary legal work can be carried out.
- Regularly inform and engage NGO partners to benefit from their extensive experience and to ensure that the program delivers to the IUCN Cat. II standards and best practice.

Analysis, Financing & Fundraising

- Oversee the contract with the IUCN and the relationship with the Holdfast Collective to update on progress so enable the release of funds for 2024 and 2025.
- Forecast the budget requirements for 2024 and 2025. Oversee the allocation of the overall budget.
- Support experts to estimate costs, create budgets and submit applications to philanthropic and ODA funders
- Work, alongside the Patagonia CEO, as needed to support the attraction of funding to the VWRNP financially support the projects

Other

- Work with the NGOs and the Patagonia to identify other candidates for wild river national parks jointly develop a plan as to how to best achieve the objective(s). Set up the new project(s), identifying partners and experts (working with organizations like the IUCN), determine what processes and stakeholder engagement is needed. Capture learnings and best practice.
- Be a key point of contact with the Patagonia team, who can complement and support the work.

Location / Timing

Initially most of the work would be based out of the Balkans. The expectation is that the role will be filled by a consultant who could be based anywhere. There would be required to Albania with some regularity and occasional visits to the Patagonia head office in Amsterdam. Occasional trips to other locations in the Balkans are also likely as the aim is to roll the pilot model of national park development to other rivers in the Balkans.

It is estimated that this role will take a week though there is flexibility on this. This role can be combined with other roles on the project.

