

OPEN VACANCY

Job Title: Programme Expert
Ref: PE
Reporting to: Executive Director
Location: Çanakkale (preferred) or Ankara (acceptable).
Expected start date: 10.02.2025
Period of contract: 12 Months with a probationary period of 2 months. The contract may be renewed after this period.

! Please send your curriculum vitae with a **cover letter** to info@yolda.org.tr quoting '**Ref: PE**' by **13th January 2025**.

Attention! Meeting the 'Requirements & Qualifications' is **mandatory**. Please do not apply if you don't meet the 'Requirements & Qualifications' stated below

Organisation: Yolda Initiative is a nature conservation organisation working at international level to conserve **biodiversity** and tackle **climate change** through scientific research & monitoring, on-the-ground conservation & restoration actions, advocacy, communication, and by working in partnerships. Recognizing that humans, with their cultural diversity, are integral components of ecosystems, Yolda focuses on sustainable land and sea use systems that benefit biodiversity and contribute to addressing the climate crisis, while supporting and collaborating with the local communities applying them. Yolda's work follows the Landscapes and Seascapes approach, encompassing the the diversity of tangible and intangible manifestations of the interaction between humankind and its environment.

Building or joining partnerships at national, regional, and international levels is a key strategy for Yolda to achieve impactful, scalable results, ensure strategic alignment, foster collective learning, and enhance collective responsiveness. Yolda serves as the coordinating organization for the Alliance for Mediterranean Nature and Culture (AMNC), uniting 13 organizations across the Mediterranean. Yolda is also a member of the steering committee and global coordination group for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP2026) Global Coalition. Additionally, Yolda is a member of the International Partnership for Satoyama Initiative (IPSI) and the ICCA Consortium and holds observer status with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Background:

There are still many landscapes and seascapes worldwide where local communities practice sustainable land and sea use systems (agriculture, pastoralism, fisheries, and forestry etc) that contribute to biodiversity conservation, climate action, and the well-being of local communities. Yolda's approach particularly focus on these areas and so aligns with frameworks such as Cultural Landscapes & Seascapes (CLS), Socio-Ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes (SEPLS), Territories of Life (ICCAs), and Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS).

In addressing the ongoing crisis of biodiversity loss and climate change, immediate intervention to create additional momentum is at utmost importance to ensure a transformational impact with the active engagement of all the relevant agents at all levels and set nature on a path of recovery that links sustainable economies, food systems, biological diversity and climate action with an equitable and inclusive conservation approach. Therefore, developing collaborative actions with local communities that apply sustainable land and sea use systems, along with other actors, is an indispensable necessity for achieving the impact at the scale that matters towards supporting the long-term in-situ conservation of biodiversity and improving management, conservation and restoration of areas of high biodiversity importance for Yolda.

As an example of Yolda's approach, following a thorough spatial prioritization across the Aegean Seascapes which brought together ecological, societal, and economic information to ensure a finer scale and up-to-date understanding reflecting the geographically specific variations, Yolda identified Saros Bay in northern Aegean Türkiye as a priority area for biodiversity conservation and sustaining sustainable cultural practices, specifically sustainable small-scale fisheries.

The strategies of Yolda include but not limited to are:

- Building effective and durable partnerships
- Enhancing knowledge
- Implementing on the ground conservation and restoration
- Communication and promotion
- Supporting sustainable land and sea use systems and collaborating with the local communities that apply these systems
- Advocacy

Job Description

Overall Objective:

To contribute to the effective and efficient implementation of Yolda's strategies

Specific duties:

- Support coordination of above-mentioned strategies and implement work packages at national and international levels, with a particular focus on marine and coastal ecosystems.
- Conduct and manage scientific research, monitoring, and on-the-ground conservation and restoration actions, particularly focusing on marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as the land and sea use systems that benefit biodiversity and climate action, both in Türkiye and abroad.
- Communicate and promote Yolda's approach and messages at various levels with a particular focus on marine and coastal ecosystems
- Contribute to sustainability (e.g. economic, financial) of the land and sea use systems that benefit biodiversity and climate action and the communities that apply these systems by developing and implementing specific strategies, mechanisms and tools.
- Accordingly address threats faced by local communities, strengthening their capacity including for knowledge and resource management
- Advocate for policies supporting biodiversity, particularly marine and coastal biodiversity, and sustainable land and sea use systems and the rights of local communities.
- Support development of organizational and strategic frameworks, including those for Yolda's national, regional, and international partnerships.
- Assist coordination and governance mechanisms of Yolda's partnerships
- Capitalise on learnings and advocate at national and international levels within the framework of Yolda's partnerships.

General duties:

- Coordinating projects of different sizes and scales and preparing technical and financial reports.
- Developing project proposals, budgets, reports.
- Supporting fundraising activities of Yolda.
- Supporting financial and administrative work of Yolda.
- Scheduling meetings, writing minutes and agendas and developing & circulating reference materials for preparation of meetings.
- Assist in recruitment of and coordinate consultant(s).
- Support other duties such as logistics, organizing events, (including conferences) and travels.
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- Supporting communication activities of Yolda including but not limited to content development.
- Carrying out other relevant tasks at the request of and in agreement with the line manager.
- Performing other duties as may be assigned from time to time.

Requirements & Qualifications:

- Must be eligible to live and work in Türkiye.
- A university degree in a relevant field (e.g. biology) of expertise (an advanced university degree is preferred)
- Advanced knowledge of biological diversity, particularly of marine and coastal ecosystems, and also of climate change, and sustainability.
- A minimum of 7 years of demonstrated professional experience regarding above-mentioned duties with strong networking & management skills at multiple levels including planning, implementation, reporting, and monitoring.
- Effective diplomacy, negotiation, and institutional representation skills.
- Advanced knowledge of project writing, preparing logical frameworks, reporting, and budgeting.
- Basic knowledge of GIS is preferred.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Excellent fluency in spoken and written English.
- Willingness and availability to frequent travel nationwide and internationally, sometimes at short notice.
- A valid driver's license.
- A commitment to nature conservation; an interest in adapting to varied physical and professional environments; and a desire to work with people with different cultural backgrounds.
- Advanced research and problem-solving skills and ability to respond to shifting needs with flexibility while maintaining a positive approach.
- A collaborative mindset, working effectively with colleagues to achieve organizational goals.
- Ability to manage busy work schedules and flexible working hours.
- Competency with Microsoft Office programs and preferably with online communication/management software as well

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