ZSL

Volunteer Role Description

Volunteer Role:	**Skink Photo Identification**
Department:	Institute of Zoology (IoZ), Science Directorate
Location:	Desk-based at Regent's Park and/or home-based
ZSL Contact/ Supervisor:	Emily Jordan, IoZ PhD student supported by wider IoZ staff
Purpose of role/ project:	Current PhD research at the Institute of Zoology focuses on skink species recovery and planning in New Zealand. For this project, we are using photographic identification of individual skinks to enable us to make estimates about their population. We are using AI software to match images of skinks to known individuals, which requires a human observer to format images and make final decisions on matches. We are in search of volunteers to help process this data, picking up where the AI software reaches its limits.
Commitment of role:	This can be a flexible role, ideally undertaking for one half day per week (weekdays only during office hours) per volunteer. We expect the role to last approximately 3 months, depending on the speed of the AI software and visual identification.
Eligibility to apply to this role:	• You need to have the right permissions to volunteer to apply for this role. ZSL does not sponsor individuals requiring a Visa to be in the UK. Some visas allow someone to volunteer, but others don't. If you have a Visa to be in the UK, then you should ask UK Visas and Immigration if your visa allows you to volunteer. • Volunteers must be aged over 18 years.
Main tasks volunteer will be asked to undertake:	Assisting with the set-up of the AI software to process images and following-up on the photo-identification of skinks, including: • Uploading photographs to the AI software in the correct format. • Undertaking visual identification of individuals skinks from the shortlists provided by the AI software. • Recording your findings. There is the option to also support with data formatting in Excel or through coding in R to create skink encounter histories ready for analysis. **NB. There is no direct contact with animals in this role.**
Qualities, skills, and experience required for this role:	• Enthusiasm and an interest in animals and conservation. • Good computer literacy and ease using different software packages, including Microsoft Excel. • Good attention to detail and the commitment and willingness to undertake repetitive tasks. • Good levels of English to enable clear communication and understanding.

	- Good initiative and a willingness to learn, follow instructions and communicate. - Experience of using R would be an advantage to those interested in supporting data formatting, but it is not essential. - Commitment to attend induction and ongoing training. - Ability to demonstrate ZSL's values – inspiring, innovative, impactful, collaborative, ethical and inclusive.
Volunteers will gain:	- The opportunity to be involved in an international conservation charity. - The opportunity to work with an excellent highly motivated research/fieldwork team. - Experience of using AI software. - Experience in wildlife photo identification processes. - Training and an opportunity to learn new skills. - Support from an experienced research/fieldwork team. - Having their name acknowledged in an academic paper.
Relevant training may include:	- ZSL site induction. - Induction to the role and software to undertake role. - Basic training in R if coding tasks are undertaken. Beyond this, we will offer a regular programme of appropriate refresher training and learning opportunities. There will also be opportunities to attend ZSL updates.
Support and resources provided:	- Centralised ZSL Volunteer Management Team for general enquiries, support and problem-solving. - Named ZSL contact/supervisors from IOZ to provide support and guidance in this role. - Volunteer ID pass. - Regular Staff and Volunteer e-newsletter. - Access to relevant role-related equipment, including on-site computer and desk space. (If chosen to volunteer on this project remotely, then the volunteers may be required to use their own computer if possible) - Access to Volunteer Mess Room on site with complimentary tea and coffee. - Access to discounted Staff and Volunteer catering options. - Opportunities to attend optional ZSL volunteer recognition and thank you activities. - Discounts on ZSL products, experiences, and activities. - Travel expenses to and from our Regent's Park site will be reimbursed up to £15 a day on volunteering and training days.
Workplace Conditions:	- This role is based exclusively indoors. - Please note this role can be flexible and a hybrid option of volunteering on site in the Regent's Park office or remotely is possible.