ABOUT TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Tropical Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) with a Mission to “Conserve and restore South Florida’s ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats.” The organization was founded in 1947 and is known as “South Florida’s Voice of Conservation.” The Mission is facilitated via three strategic pillars: Conservation, Education and Heritage. The protection of birds and their habitats is central to the Mission and encompasses the three pillars. Each pillar is supported by communications, advocacy, events and fundraising. Tropical Audubon’s work is largely focused in Miami-Dade County (MDC.)

As a grassroots organization, communications and engagement with members are key to the delivery of the Institutional Mission. Likewise, as a small NGO, we require team members to be flexible and able to adapt to varied and changing requirements, and to work with colleagues as a team, while focusing on accomplishing agreed upon objectives.

POSITION: Senior Conservation Director (SCD)

POSITION SUMMARY:
The SCD will be responsible for strengthening the Tropical Audubon policy capacity for conservation efforts, and for deepening our engagement with MDC government to enhance Tropical Audubon’s conservation impact. The SCD will also engage with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District to advocate for South Florida’s ecosystems, wildlife and their habitats relevant for MDC. Tropical Audubon has adopted an ambitious five-year strategic framework for 2021-2025, and the SCD will play a critical role in implementing the Conservation Focal Area of the framework.

INTERNAL RELATIONS:
Reports to Executive Director (ED)

Interactions: As a member of a small team, the SCD should have excellent working relationships with other team members, and be able to work collaboratively. The SCD will work closely with the ED and the organization’s Conservation Committee. The SCD will also collaborate with the Tropical Audubon Ambassador Program (TAAP) project manager, who heads up our flagship advocacy education program.

The SCD may be asked by the ED to collaborate with volunteers and Board members on selected projects. The SCD will be a member of and staff liaison to the Conservation Committee, and will also oversee conservation interns and interact with Tropical Audubon members.
EXTERNAL RELATIONS:
Serves as Tropical Audubon’s main point of contact for conservation, along with the ED.
Manages conservation staff, consultants and pro-bono lawyers unless otherwise instructed.
Liaises with National Audubon Society and Audubon Florida, and serves as the main point of contact on conservation issues with these and other potential partner organizations.

RESPONSIBILITIES:
The main responsibilities of the SCD are the following:
- Oversee the implementation of the Conservation Focal Area of the organization’s five-year strategic plan. Coordinate with project leads for effective implementation and monitor progress. Participate in updating the Strategic Plan.
- Lead, in collaboration with the ED, the engagement with MDC government to establish solid relationships with the Board of County Commissioners, their staff and county staff.
- Develop Tropical Audubon’s influence in MDC conservation policy for the organization’s strategic focal areas: Bird Conservation, Everglades Protection and Restoration, Biscayne Bay, Smart Growth and Climate Change.
- Engage with the SFWMD and the USACE on projects relevant to MDC. Actively engage in the planning process for restoration and protection projects related to Everglades, Biscayne Bay and Florida Bay, and advocate for nature-based solutions to these projects when appropriate. These projects include the Biscayne Bay and South Eastern Everglades Restoration (BBSEER), the Southern Everglades Restoration project and the Back Bay Study.
- Participate in periodic coordinating calls with other non-profits on Everglades, Biscayne Bay and Smart Growth issues, and establish strong working relationships with other non-profits on conservation issues. Represent Tropical Audubon in the Everglades Coalition.
- Develop and implement a strategy, in partnership with the ED and the Conservation Committee, to combat threats to move the MDC Urban Development Boundary (UDB).
- Advocate with the MDC Commission and other relevant stakeholders to protect Everglades National Park and Biscayne Bay and their bird habitats by opposing commercial use of Homestead Air Reserve Base (HARB.)
- Oversee, in collaboration with the ED, current conservation lawsuits, and work toward successful outcomes.
- Participate and provide updates to Tropical Audubon’s Conservation Committee and the Board when required.
- Develop strong partnerships with other non-profits and the private sector to implement Tropical Audubon’s conservation agenda through advocacy or project-based outcomes.
- Support the cultivation of educated advocates for MDC ecosystems on priority areas of the organization through the TAAP.
- Leverage Tropical’s communications reach to increase public’s favorable opinion to support the organization’s conservation agenda, with emphasis in water security.
- Leverage Tropical Audubon’s communications platforms, including EveryAction, to engage MDC residents in effective conservation advocacy.
- Assist with grant writing, and manage grants that are conservation focused, including budget management and reporting. Seek private sector support for Conservation.
• Execute all performance management actions for the position and direct reports. (Objective setting, mid-year review and year-end assessment.)
• Attend select Tropical Audubon-hosted events on weekends and evenings on an as-needed basis.
• Manage direct reports and conservation interns.
• Perform any other task required by the ED or Board President.

QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS

• Masters or PhD in environmental policy, environmental management, law or environmental law, or a degree in natural sciences or equivalent professional experience.
• At least 8 years of professional experience in conservation advocacy or political affairs with a proven track record of conservation impact.
• Previous direct report management experience.
• Existing relationship with MDC government desirable.
• Knowledge of South Florida environmental issues, with emphasis on land use/Comprehensive Development Master Plan (CDMP) and UDB, as well as understanding of Everglades restoration and Biscayne Bay is highly desirable.
• Knowledge of bird conservation strategies and best practices is desirable.
• Excellent writing/editing and verbal communications skills in English.
• Self-starter and solutions oriented.
• Excellent people management skills and organizational capabilities.
• Sincere commitment to work collaboratively with all groups, including staff, board members, volunteers, donors, members and other community partners.
• Spanish or Creole language proficiency is desirable.

CONTACT:
Please send your resume and cover letter to careers@tropicalaudubon.org.

The subject line should include the job title.

The Senior Conservation Director position will remain open until a suitable candidate is engaged. We will acknowledge your application upon receipt, and those candidates whose applications move forward will hear back from us again.