



## **Coordinator, Center for Species Survival (CSS) Fireflies (80%)**

### **Walter Zoo, Gossau (Switzerland)**

Start date: By agreement

Contract: 80%

### **About the CSS Fireflies**

The Center for Species Survival (CSS) Fireflies at Walter Zoo is the first IUCN SSC Center globally dedicated to insect conservation. Established in 2025, its mission is to strengthen conservation impact for threatened firefly species in Switzerland, Europe, and worldwide. The CSS Fireflies works in line with the IUCN Species Conservation Cycle—Assess, Plan, Act—through Red List assessments, conservation planning, implementation of in-situ and ex-situ measures, and strong networking across global experts and institutions.

The 5-year goals of the CSS include strengthening partnerships, improving communication and visibility, and advancing conservation planning for IUCN Threatened firefly species, including concrete actions such as habitat restoration and ex-situ breeding.

### **Role Overview**

We are seeking a highly motivated Coordinator for CSS Fireflies who will play a central role in managing, coordinating, and advancing all core activities of the Center. The role combines project management, conservation planning and action coordination, partnership building, fundraising, and scientific support in partnership with the IUCN SSC Fireflies Specialist Group (FSG).

The ideal candidate has a strong background in the natural sciences, experience in project management and familiarity with invertebrate conservation, and experience or interest in IUCN conservation planning and implementation.

This role is pivotal to driving global and regional firefly conservation efforts and to ensuring the CSS functions as an effective hub that connects the public, specialized academic and citizen scientists, stakeholders, funding partners, and conservation action.



## Key Responsibilities

### Project Coordination & Strategic Management

- Coordinate and manage the conservation planning, and implementation activities of the IUCN SSC Fireflies Specialist Group in alignment with the IUCN SSC Species Conservation cycle.
- Coordinate with other CSS Fireflies staff member, students, or project-based collaborators, including task planning, prioritization and supervision.
- Prioritize CSS actions, milestones, and resource allocation across multiple workstreams (conservation planning coordination, networking, communication).
- Ensure the CSS acts as the central hub for national and international firefly conservation partners.
- Manage reporting, monitoring, timelines, and project documentation.

### Conservation Planning & Implementation

- Successfully complete training course(s) offered by the IUCN Conservation Planning Specialist Group
- Coordinate FSG conservation planning projects, including workshop planning and facilitation.
- Organize and moderate planning workshops, stakeholder meetings, and training events.
- Support development and delivery of ex-situ projects such as breeding and potential reintroductions.

### Partnerships & Networking

- Represent CSS Fireflies in international networks, conferences, and working groups, and towards the IUCN and its respective bodies and specialist groups.
- Maintain and expand collaborations with partners such as WWF, ProNatura, universities, landscape professionals and international NGOs.

### Communication & Outreach

- Support the development of educational materials, public engagement activities, and school programmes related to fireflies.
- Ensure visibility of CSS Fireflies across platforms, including Walter Zoo's channels and IUCN SSC networks.
- Communicate scientific information and project impact to diverse audiences.

### Fundraising & Grant Acquisition

- Identify, cultivate, and maintain relationships with donors, foundations, and funding partners.
- Prepare proposals, reports, and funding concepts to secure financial sustainability for CSS Fireflies projects.
- Support revenue generation for conservation programmes, as highlighted in comparable conservation coordinator roles.
- Assist FSG in identifying grant opportunities for firefly conservation



## Required Qualifications

- University degree in biology, ecology, conservation science, environmental science, or a closely related field (Master's degree required).
- Demonstrated experience in project management within conservation, ecology, or a related sector.
- Experience implementing conservation measures, especially in species recovery, habitat management, or light pollution mitigation.
- Background or strong interest in invertebrate conservation
- Strong stakeholder management and coordination skills, including work with diverse partners, communities, or government agencies.
- Excellent written and spoken communication skills in German and English.
- Ability to synthesize scientific information and support data-driven decision-making.
- Experience writing scientific or technical reports, proposals, or assessments.
- High level of self-motivation, organizational skills, and attention to detail.

## What We Offer

- A unique opportunity to shape and advance the world's first insect-focused IUCN Species Survival Center.
- A dynamic and collaborative working environment within Walter Zoo and the international firefly conservation community.
- The chance to work as part of a small, dedicated CSS Fireflies team, alongside an additional staff member who shares responsibility for advancing the Center's mission.
- Close collaboration with national and international conservation experts, networks, and partner organizations.
- The chance to deliver tangible conservation impact regionally and globally.

## How to Apply

Please submit your CV, motivation letter, and references by 7 June 2026 via the QR code.

