



## **Field Researcher for Chimpanzee Survey in Mahale Mountains National Park, Tanzania**

**Date Posted:**  
5 August 2017

### **Position Description:**

We are seeking a field researcher for an extensive survey of chimpanzees (and other biodiversity) in Mahale Mountains National Park (MMNP), Western Tanzania. Home to the eastern subspecies of chimpanzee, *Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*, western Tanzania represents the eastern distribution of chimpanzees across Africa. Located along the shores of Lake Tanganyika, MMNP (with its mountainous landscape of tropical forest and miombo woodland) hosts the greatest number of chimpanzees in a protected area, yet the park has never been systematically surveyed. **It is not known how many chimpanzees inhabit the park. Thus, the primary objectives of this work are to:**

- 1. Census MMNP for chimpanzee density and distribution;**
- 2. Build species distribution models for chimpanzees within the park;**

Additionally, the MMNP is increasingly under threat of isolation, with human settlements and construction of a new road underway along the park's eastern border. Additional objectives are to:

- 3. Identify extra-park corridors for chimpanzees outside MMNP;**
- 4. (With the Frankfurt Zoological Society) Work with strategically located villages to mitigate threats to suitable chimpanzee habitat outside MMNP.**

To address this, we will deploy remote technologies (acoustic sensors, camera traps) and employ field teams to directly survey chimpanzees and other biodiversity for 9-12 months, beginning in Jan 2018. The successful candidate will be paired with a Tanzanian assistant to co-lead survey teams in the field, including administration and management of the work. The researcher will be supported by and work in conjunction with another experienced researcher, who will be based in western Tanzania during the survey.

Given that the survey has multiple elements, the successful candidate will be encouraged to lead a mutually-agreed upon sub-project. While the independent project must be integrated into the survey, we welcome creative and interesting ideas.

**Qualifications:**

Candidates applying for this position should have

- (1) a bachelor's degree in a related field (biology, zoology, ecology, etc.);
- (2) field experience, preferably in an African country;
- (3) experience in biological data collection;
- (4) physical fitness and a demonstrated ability to work long hours in a demanding landscape;
- (5) ability and enthusiasm to live and work in a remote and basic environment with a small team of local staff, and be sensitive to local customs and practices.

**Support provided for internship/volunteer positions (travel, meals, lodging):**

There is no salary for this position.

Support provided for the position includes:

- Return international and domestic airfares and appropriate visa/permits \*\*\*
- In country survey expenses (e.g. tents, food, transport)
- Contribution towards food/accommodation during non-survey periods

\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE: the successful candidate will need to cover airfare and visa/permit costs (~\$2100) **up front**. These costs will be fully reimbursed AFTER the successful completion of 9-months. Additionally, basic health insurance that covers emergency repatriation and liability will be required, but are not covered by the project.

**Term of Appointment:**

A minimum commitment of 9 months (up to 12 depending on survey duration), beginning January 2018.

**Application Deadline:**

Rolling; applications currently being accepted

**Comments:**

To apply for the position, please send a single pdf (with your name in the file name), which includes your CV, a cover letter explaining your previous relevant experience and research interests, and contact details for at least 2 references, to all emails listed below. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to inquire further.

**Contact Information:**

Alex Piel, [A.K.Piel@ljamu.ac.uk](mailto:A.K.Piel@ljamu.ac.uk)  
Adrienne Chitayat, [chitayata@gmail.com](mailto:chitayata@gmail.com)  
Fiona Stewart, [F.A.Stewart@ljamu.ac.uk](mailto:F.A.Stewart@ljamu.ac.uk)