



INTERNATIONAL GORILLA CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

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Announcement

Field Internship for Mountain Gorilla Population Surveys With the International Gorilla Conservation Programme

Background: The International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP) was established in 1991 with the mission “to conserve the critically endangered mountain gorillas and their habitat through partnering with key stakeholders while significantly contributing to sustainable livelihood development.” IGCP works in partnership with the governments of Rwanda, Uganda, and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) through collaboration with the respective Protected Area Authorities including the: Rwanda Development Board (RDB), Ugandan Wildlife Authority (UWA), and the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN).

IGCP is seeking interns for an intensive field survey of the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda in which data and biological samples will be collected on gorillas and other fauna. The objective of the survey is to estimate the population abundance of the mountain gorillas in Bwindi and Sarambwe and to assess other large mammal populations and illegal activities. This internship is a unique opportunity to assist in mountain gorilla conservation efforts while showcasing your skills in field biology, learning from current conservation field staff, and adding valuable experience to your resume.

Position: Field technicians (interns) are needed to conduct surveys to detect and accurately record observations of wildlife tracks, sign, or direct sightings of rainforest wildlife and illegal activities. Of particular importance will be data recorded regarding mountain gorilla nest-sites with careful fecal-sample collection.

Compensation: Interns will receive a modest stipend.

Term of Appointment: Temporary position - approximately Late September to early December 2018, depending on the rate of survey completion and whether you start in the first or second phase of survey teams. Those in the first phase must be available to attend training as early as 24 September 2018. Selected interns are expected to be 100% committed (having no other commitments) during this period.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Attend a week-long training session on survey protocols and fecal-sample collection immediately prior to the start of the first 2-week work cycle

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- Work and live in the forests of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Uganda for 2-week rotations (2-weeks on 2-weeks off) from approximately late September to early December 2018 until the survey is complete (entails camping, sleeping in tents, etc.)
- Work closely with rangers and staff from UWA, RDB, ICCN, and other organizations to carefully collect survey data and biological specimens while in the forest
- Survey work will include: methodically searching for signs of mountain gorillas and other large mammals, including humans, according to established protocols
- Carefully collect gorilla-fecal samples for genetic analysis according to established protocols, ensuring no cross-contamination of samples from different individuals

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree from a reputable university in wildlife, biology, conservation, and/or related field; hands-on experience conducting detail-oriented field research in forested and/or tropical environments
- Graduation from the most recent bachelor's or post-baccalaureate program within the last 2 years.
- Proficient with various forms of data collection and proven ability to learn
- Excellent navigational skills using a map, compass, and GPS
- Willing and able to endure long, arduous days in the field for 14+ days in a row over the course of 3+ months
- Ability to trek 10+ km/day through thick forest, up and down steep slopes, while carrying a backpack in harsh rainy and muddy conditions
- Ability to work well with others, as the member of a team or in a leadership role, as needed
- Ability and flexibility of character to live in isolated conditions and among people of different cultures and languages
- Strong communication skills, including English and/or French proficiency. Kiswahili will be an added advantage
- Sincere interest in the conservation and protection of mountain gorillas
- Strong references regarding data-collection, field, and language skills
- Traveling paperwork for non-Ugandans (Laisser-passer, Passport, ID card and other official traveling documents to enter Uganda multiple times a year)

Preferred Qualifications:

- Ability to identify wildlife tracks preferred
- Previous remote/tropical/international field experience a plus
- Proven ability to maintain a positive attitude under arduous conditions will be favored

Location: The trainings will be based in Ruhija, Uganda and actual field work will take place in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda.

Selection Process: After interviews, a limited number of applicants will be invited to the second step in the selection process, which is to attend the required training. Those who

attend the training will be eligible for a daily stipend during training. Based on their performance in training, a final selection will be made for field interns and reserve interns. Only interns that make final selection will be eligible for the IGCP Intern Stipend.

How to Apply: Please send the following information **in a single email** to IGCP HR Designate (hr@igcp.org) with copy to Jena Hickey (jenahickey@igcp.org) and Charles Kayijamahe (ckayijamahe@igcp.org) with the subject line: **IGCP Census Internship**.

- A one-page cover letter explaining your interest in this position, with specific regard to how it relates to your career goals
- A professional CV or resume, including your telephone and email contact information
- A copy of your university degree or diploma and academic transcripts
- Three (3) professional letters of reference from former professors and/or employers working in the biological sciences or conservation fields, including their contact phone numbers

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Suitable candidates will be contacted for more information and interviews.

For Additional Information: Please email Jena Hickey jenahickey@igcp.org and Charles Kayijamahe at ckayijamahe@igcp.org. Phone calls will not be accepted.

***** Application Deadline: 10 September 2018 *****