Announcement
Field-Research Internship for Mountain Gorilla Census 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 Virunga Massif 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 the Virunga Massif and assess aspects of other large mammal populations. 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-research technicians (interns) are needed to conduct surveys to detect and accurately record observations of wildlife tracks, sign, or direct sightings of rainforest wildlife. 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 mid-March to mid-June 2015, depending on the rate of survey completion and whether you start in the first or second cycle of survey teams. Those in the first cycle must be available to attend training as early as 9 March 2015. Selected interns are expected to be 100% committed (having no other commitments) during this period.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Attend the training session on survey protocols and fecal sample collection immediately prior to the start of the first 2-week work cycle
- Work and live in the forests of Volcano NP, Virunga NP, and Mgahinga NP for 2-week cycles (2-weeks on 2-weeks off) from approximately mid-March to mid-June 2015 until the survey is complete
- Work closely with rangers and staff from RDB, UWA, 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 hands-on experience conducting detail-oriented field research in forested and/or tropical environments

- Proficient with various forms of data collection & 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 at 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 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 to live in isolated conditions and among people of different cultures and languages
- Strong communication skills, including English and/or French proficiency
- Sincere interest in the conservation and protection of mountain gorillas
- Strong references regarding data-collection, field, and language skills

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 out of Musanze in the Northern Province of Rwanda, and the actual work will take place in Virunga National Park, DRC, Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda, and Mgahinga 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 $12/day during training. Based on their performance in training, a final selection will be made for field interns and reserve interns. Only these 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 Brian Lee (pcv@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 transcripts and proof of attendance
- Three (3) professional letters of reference from a former professor and/or employer 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 Brian Lee at pcv@igcp.org. Phone calls will not be accepted.

*** Application Deadline: 11 February 2015 ***