



Dr. Roman M. Wittig

Directeur de Recherche CNRS – Director of TCP
rwittig@isc.cnrs.fr +33.4.3791.1256



Lyon, le 02.02.2024

Volunteer Research Assistant for the Taï Chimpanzee Project (TCP) in Côte d'Ivoire

We are looking for research assistants to conduct observations and data collection of the **wild chimpanzees in the Taï National Park, Côte d'Ivoire**. TCP is a long-term research project conducting research on many aspects of chimpanzee biology and conservation (www.taichimpproject.org).

The research assistant will be trained at the **Institute for Cognitive Sciences (ISC) in Lyon, France**, on the data collection methods needed for the research with the chimpanzees. After the initial training of one week, the research assistant will be moving to Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa. The RA will be responsible to collect behavioral data on habituated chimpanzees, following the chimpanzees from nest to nest and conducting focal animal sampling. The research assistant will also collect fecal and urine samples, demographic and food information and potentially other data needed for specific projects (e.g. audio or video recordings). The RA is locally supervised by the TCP project manager and remotely by a team of experts.

The research assistant should have a **Master** in Biology, Psychology or Anthropology with a strong interest in behavioural ecology / animal behavior. Field experience and knowledge of behavioural data collection will be of advantage.

Living conditions are very basic. Internet connection is not reliably present. Living under remote and tropical conditions, living and working together with the same people whether one likes them or not, requires **stress resilience**, excellent **social skills**, and professionalism in the work. Working with the chimpanzees is also physically demanding, so excellent physical condition is conditional. The research assistant needs to speak **English AND French**, and needs to be able to work independently.

We offer an initial training of about 1 week (depending on existing knowledge and experience) in Lyon. Afterwards we expect a tenure of **12 months** in the Taï National Park. The research assistant receives free accommodation and a compensation of **500 €** per months for living expenses, insurances, etc. After the successful tenure we reimburse the international flights from Lyon to Abidjan and back as well as visa costs (to a max of **1000 €**).

This project is a cooperation of the Institute for Cognitive Sciences (CNRS UMR 5229) in Lyon (F), the Helmholtz Institute for One Health in Greifswald (D) and the Evolution of Brain Connectivity Project at the Max Planck Institute EVA in Leipzig (D).



Institut des Sciences Cognitives Marc Jeannerod

UMR 5229 CNRS – Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1
67 Boulevard Pinel, 69675 Bron cedex, France





Dr. Roman M. Wittig

Directeur de Recherche CNRS – Director of TCP

rwittig@isc.cnrs.fr +33.4.3791.1256



Please apply by sending a motivation letter, a CV (including your experience with behavioural data collection), and two references to taichimpanzeeproject@gmail.com

Start: As soon as possible, preferable **mid March 2024**. We will start to evaluate the applications after Feb 11 until the position is filled.



Institut des Sciences Cognitives *Marc Jeannerod*

UMR 5229 CNRS – Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1
67 Boulevard Pinel, 69675 Bron cedex, France

