



Dr. Roman M. Wittig

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Volunteer Research Assistant for the Taï Chimpanzee Project (TCP)

We are looking for a research assistant 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 for one of the habituated groups of chimpanzees, following the chimpanzees from nest to nest and conducting focal animal sampling on the behavior observed. 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 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).



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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. We will start to evaluate the applications after Jan 15 until the position is filled.



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