



VETERINARY POSITIONS WITH WILD CHIMPANZEES

WITH or WITHOUT PhD option:

We are seeking a **project veterinarian** (VET) to come work with us at the **Taï Chimpanzee Project** (TCP, www.taichimpproject.org) in Côte d'Ivoire. TCP is a long-term field site located in the Taï National Park (TNP, Côte d'Ivoire) dedicated to research on the life-history, behavior, cognition, and health of wild chimpanzees as well as the protection of chimpanzees and sympatric wildlife. The VET should have a strong interest in animal pathology and wildlife health, to continue with the TCP long-term health monitoring. We offer:

Veterinary position (2 years fix term) at the Taï Chimpanzee Project in Ivory Coast with an option to collect data for a PhD in the field of disease ecology.

The veterinary position is part of a larger interdisciplinary Max-Planck project investigating the **Evolution of Brain Connectivity (EBC)** in hominoids. EBC seeks further understanding of the brains of chimpanzees and other non-human primates, especially the communication, tool use and social cognition pathways. Using the comparative approach and our understanding of chimpanzee and monkey behavior, results will assist our understanding of the evolution of structures and functions of the human brain.

Responsibilities:

- **Necropsies** of deceased primates (mostly apes) including **brain extraction**, fixation, storage and shipment to Germany.
- **Health surveillance** on primates and other mammals, collection of fecal and urine samples for pathogen analysis for our long-term health monitoring program.
- **Focal following** of habituated chimpanzees including the collection of behavioural data.
- Being part of the **management team** responsible for the running of the field site (including responsibility for health and hygiene rules, organization of health monitor, lab organization, staff management, building a team with the camp manager, etc.).

- Running the **field laboratory** in the TNP conducting PCR tests for respiratory pathogens and others.

Qualifications and Requirements

The field work requires good physical condition, resilience against stress, the ability to work independently, ability to work in a team and some management work. **Good oral French and English language skills** are required. A veterinary degree or a degree in animal pathology is conditional.

The living conditions in the field site are very basic and phone or internet connection is unreliable. Our camps are located in the remote Taï Forest, a National Park which hosts an incredible biodiversity of wildlife (e.g., leopards, elephants, pigmy hippos, pangolins, and multiple primate species) and therefore a **respectful behavior** towards nature and the staff is expected. That includes a respectful attitude towards local traditions and culture, open communication among staff members, and avoidance of excessive drinking behavior or loud music.

Preparation training in the protocols of the brain project and necropsy procedures will be provided in Germany and in the field.

Salary and Funding

- Tai veterinary position (year 1 +2): between 1500 and 1700 € (depending on experience)
- With PhD (year 3 + 4): PhD funding

Start and Term of Appointments

- As soon as possible

Comments

Applications including a cover letter, stating research experience and interest, detailed curriculum vitae, and the names and e-mail addresses of three referees should be sent electronically to taichimpproject@eva.mpg.de. Please add “TCP VET APPLICATION 2024” in the subject line. Applications will be reviewed starting March 1 and will continue until position is filled.

Contact Information

Roman Wittig (wittig@eva.mpg.de)

