

Field Officer

Tacugama Background

Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary (TCS) was founded in 1995 by Mr. Bala Amarasekaran together with the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL), whom allotted 40 hectares of land to be used inside the recently upgraded Western Area Peninsula National Park (WAPNP). As of 2019, the sanctuary cares for 90 chimpanzees and unfortunately, each year more orphan chimpanzees continue to arrive at TCS. TCS confiscates and cares for chimpanzees that have been orphaned due to the illegal bush-meat and pet trade or human-wildlife conflict. TCS also works towards achieving chimpanzee conservation for wild chimpanzees in Sierra Leone and other areas of their habitat.

Everything the Sanctuary does starts with the chimps and transitions into wildlife conservation, research, environmental protection, advocacy, law enforcement, community preservation, livelihoods and education development initiatives. TCS also actively raises local and international awareness to promote change and address dire issues before it's too late. As a result, TCS has emerged as a globally recognized conservation model.

Tacugama Community Outreach Programme

The community outreach arm of TCS, Tacugama Community Outreach Programme (TCOP), works in over 40 rural communities in four districts of Sierra Leone (Koinadugu, Falaba, Moyamba and Pujehun) as well as in Freetown and at the sanctuary. Using a multifaceted approach, TCOP incorporates conservation research, sustainable livelihoods implementation, environmental education, and ecotourism. Tacugama's goal is to sensitize people to the need for a respectful coexistence with critically endangered western chimpanzees and other wildlife, encourage responsible alternative livelihoods for communities, and promote the sustainable use of natural resources throughout Sierra Leone.

Job Summary

The Field Officer will work on a team of coordinators within Tacugama's Community Outreach Programme implementing field activities across Sierra Leone. Fieldwork includes biomonitoring research, community engagement, sustainable livelihoods program implementation, and environmental education. The position will be based in Freetown with up to 50% time spent at TCOP field sites.

Responsibilities

- Work together with TCOP staff to design, plan and implement various community based outreach activities.
- Facilitate community engagement activities and carry out research assignments as directed.
- Prepare and maintain documents in line with approved project guidelines and implement and maintain all administrative processes.
- Maintain healthy relationships with involved communities and partner representatives.
- Produce regular project reports as requested by the line manager.
- Assist with TCOP events and sensitization campaigns as needed.

- Monitor and report any challenges and/or gaps identified to inform adjustments to plans and implementation schedules.
- Represent TCOP in network meetings, public forums, presentations, trainings, etc.
- Travel within Sierra Leone as required.

Education and Experience

- Bachelor's degree required. Master's degree preferred.
- 2-4 years of work experience in field research or project coordination.
- Good computer skills.
- Excellent planning and reporting skills with strong attention to detail.
- Works well within a team.
- Additional education may substitute for some experience.
- Knowledge of ArcGIS Software, DNR Garmin, GPS, camera traps and other research tools will be an added advantage.

The ideal candidate must work well in a fast-paced, flexible environment as well as provide a high level of cooperation with both stakeholders and external communities.

Terms of Contract

This is a full-time, six (6) day a week position. One year contract with possibility of extension.

To apply for this position please send up-to-date CV and cover letter to cm@tacugama.sl.

Please note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted.