

TCS is looking for Conservation Interns!

Location: Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Sierra Leone, West Africa

Position: Outreach Internship

Minimum Stay Required: 3 months. However, its perfect for someone looking to stay up to 6-months;

Experience: Experience working with wildlife, rural communities and/or schools. Experience with wildlife research, social research and project management is a plus. The position is also suitable for interns looking to complete their own BSc or MSc project.

Background

Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary (TCS) was established in 1995 by Mr. Bala Amarasekaran. The initial (and still crucial) goal of the sanctuary was to rescue and protect western chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*) recently declared as Critically Endangered, meaning the species is extremely close to extinction. Since its establishment TCS has rescued hundreds of chimpanzees and currently hosts a resident population of 108 individuals.

Despite one priority focus of TCS being the care of the resident chimpanzees, in 2011 TCS established its own outreach department to begin addressing the cause leading to the high number of orphans at the sanctuary. Now, another one of TCS' major and most critical objectives is the development of this department. The outreach program is responsible for conducting biodiversity and social research, as well as raising awareness and sensitizing the local people, stakeholders, government officials and others, through media engagement and environmental education.

Example Outreach Projects

- Loma Mountains National Park - The park with the highest density of western chimpanzees anywhere in West Africa! The project boasts a system of 21 eco-guards who patrol the park for signs of wildlife and human activity. Data is transferred and analysed back to the Tacugama HQ. Livelihood support is provided to 21 communities in the form of agricultural assistance, promotion of school education, tree planting, with new initiatives coming soon including women empowerment and water security.
- Outamba Kilimi National Park - a recent collaboration with WCF to co-manage both the Sierra Leonean and Guinean side of the protected areas. Monitoring and wildlife research, socio-economic studies, development of educational programs and livelihood support for local communities all factor into this project.
- Roots & Shoots - started by Jane Goodall in Tanzania, TCS has an established Roots & Shoots program currently working with young football teams to help their players become more geared towards protecting their environments.
- National Animal Campaign - a nationwide, multiyear campaign including social research (interviews and focus group discussions on 'perceptions towards chimpanzees'), social media engagement and event planning - featuring a special 'Chimp Week' during 2022.

With 10 different outreach projects, all with a variety of components, TCS is looking for interns to help with our conservation efforts!

Example Intern Activities

- Planning and implementing educational activities for schools
- Engaging with the Roots & Shoots youths
- Conducting socio-economic research (e.g. Interviews, focus groups, surveys)
- Conducting wildlife research (e.g. camera traps, transect walks)
- Data analysis
- Assist in the coordination and implementation of community events
- Assist in the coordination and implementation of stakeholder engagements
- Capacity building for park rangers and Tacugama staff
- Learn more about the wildlife of Sierra Leone, particularly the western chimpanzee

Why Volunteer with Us

- Gain hands-on experience working in West Africa
- Visit and work in remote communities and national parks off the beaten track
- Experience the jungle life alongside a dynamic international and national team
- Broaden your horizons and harness new skills in Wildlife and Community-Based Conservation

A position as an intern in the outreach team would involve living at the sanctuary or staying at one of the project locations, depending on the intern's interest.

For more information please visit the TCS website: www.tacugama.com or contact us at info@tacugama.com.

Take a look at a recent volunteer testimonial from TCS' outreach department [HERE](#).

