

Position

Field research coordinator

Organization

The Jane Goodall Institute Spain in Senegal (www.janegoodallsenegal.org)

Study Area

Following Dr. Jane Goodall's scientific work and humanitarian vision, since 2009 the Jane Goodall Institute Spain (JGI Spain) has carried out conservation and research programmes of chimpanzees in southeastern Senegal, as well as sustainable development and environmental education projects with the local human population. The overall aim of the JGI Spain in this area is the conservation of the western chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes verus*), a Critically Endangered subspecies with no more than 500 individuals inhabiting Senegal. Their main threats in this area are deforestation and habitat fragmentation. At the same time, the JGI Spain carries out agroforestry and sustainable development projects to improve the livelihoods of the local human population and to assist them in the management of natural resources

The main study site is located within the Dindefelo Community Nature Reserve (DCNR) in the south-east of Senegal, bordering Guinea. The reserve was created in 2010 with the assistance of the JGI Spain, and it is run by the local Management Committee and it is an important habitat for these Critically Endangered chimpanzees, among other wildlife including six primate species. The JGI Dindefelo Biological Station is located in the DCNR. This area and other two in the neighbouring regions of Dimboli and Fongolimbi make up the current JGI study area in Senegal.

Position description

The successful candidate will be responsible for coordinating and supervising all research activities conducted across the Jane Goodall Institute Spain study sites in southeastern Senegal. The position combines field team management, project coordination, logistics, administration, and data management to ensure the successful implementation of long-term research and conservation program.

The successful candidate will supervise local field staff, research assistants, volunteers, students, and visiting researchers, while working closely with the JGIS Research Directors. The Field research coordinator will ensure that all research projects are implemented according to established protocols, maintain high standards of data quality, facilitate scientific output, and contribute to translating research findings into conservation actions.

Responsibilities*Research coordination*

- Coordinate and supervise all field-based research activities following the strategic priorities, protocols and timelines established by the Research Directors.
- Supervise data collection carried out by field teams and ensure compliance with established protocols.
- Oversee data download, curation, and database management.

- Ensure that all research data are properly archived, backed up and documented.
- Prepare comprehensive reports and contribute to donor reports when required.
- Ensure that research activities comply with ethical standards, institutional protocols and permit requirements.
- Maintain daily communication with the Research Director in Spain regarding project progress.

Team management

- Organize and chair monthly research team meetings.
- Supervise the daily work of research assistants and local field assistants.
- Recruit new local research staff when needed.
- Organize onboarding, training and mentoring of new staff members, volunteers, and students.
- Foster a positive, collaborative and inclusive working environment.

Logistics and field operations

- Coordinate logistics for research activities, including fieldwork schedules, transport, equipment and supplies.
- Support volunteers and students going through residence procedures in Kedougou, Senegal.
- Coordinate the reception and logistics of visiting researchers, collaborators, institutional partners and other official visitors.
- Coordinate sample management, including obtaining export and transit permits for biological samples sent to external collaborators.
- Ensure research equipment is properly maintained and available for field activities.
- Ensure that the Biological Station is maintained and functional, following basic standards.

Administration and financial management

- Withdraw cash from the JGI bank account in Kedougou when required.
- Manage the main cash box and checkbook, and make payments/money discharges when needed at the Dindefelo Biological Station.
- Maintain accurate financial records related to research activities and report expenditures to the administration.

Requirements

The successful candidate must:

Hold a Master's degree in biology, primatology, evolutionary anthropology, wildlife conservation, or related fields.

Have at least two years of field work experience in remote areas, preferably in Africa.

Have good knowledge of technologies (software and applications) such as ArcGIS Survey 123.

Have previous experience with camera trapping.

Have good knowledge of satellite image analysis with GIS.

Have very good language skills in French and English (oral and written). Willingness to learn the local language (Pulaar) is a plus.

Be healthy and fit, both physically and mentally. Being in top physical condition is required for hiking in difficult and steep terrain, over long distances, in harsh weather conditions (extreme heat or rain).

Have excellent organizational skills.

Be analytical and able to meet deadlines.

Have the ability to work under stressful and harsh conditions.

Have strong social skills, a sense of leadership and a strong motivation to take on responsibility and represent the organisation when needed.

Have the ability to work in multicultural environments. Be respectful and sensitive to cultural differences, especially in the context of rural Muslim traditional villages.

Have a positive attitude and be able to deal with stress.

Salary and funding:

Monthly salary to be negotiated according to the profile and experience of the candidate.

Basic lodging and local food will be provided. The chosen candidate will be based in the village of Dindefelo (1,500 inhabitants), which is the main village in the Commune de Dindefelo, and will be mainly based at the JGI Biological Station in Dindefelo. This station is equipped with electricity generated by solar panels, kitchen with fridge, filtered water, lab, garden and tree nurseries, workspace, resting areas and toilet (no-running water). The village has a health post, small shops and local restaurants, as well as lodges for tourists who come to see the highest waterfall in Senegal. The closest larger city is Kedougou (a 40-min drive), which hosts supermarkets, hotels, and hospitals.

Possibility for flight ticket reimbursement after completion of 12 months in the field.

Visa renewal included.

Term of Appointment

One-year duration (initial three-month trial period) renewable upon satisfactory performance and continued funding. The position is available immediately, and the successful candidate is expected to start as soon as possible.

How to apply

Please send a CV and a motivation letter. Please include the name and email address of three referees. Please send your application to Laia Dotras (laia.dotras@janegoodall.es)