



MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT

Max Planck Institute
for Evolutionary Anthropology
Department of Primatology



PHD POSITION & CAMP MANAGER

TOPIC: STABLE SOCIAL BONDS IN CHIMPANZEES OF THE TAÏ NATIONAL PARK, CÔTE D'IVOIRE

We are offering a **PhD position** working on questions of sociality in wild chimpanzees. In addition the PhD candidate will be responsible for the **management of the Taï Chimpanzee Project** (50% of working time). The position will start on **May 1, 2016**, (or a.s.a.p. afterwards) and will require to stay several years at the **Taï Chimpanzee Project, Cote d'Ivoire**.

Our general interest is to understand the effects of sociality on fitness in chimpanzees. We are looking at proximate mechanisms and at ultimate effects of stable and enduring social relationships within several communities of chimpanzees.

Qualification and requirements

MSc (or comparable degree) in Biology, Evolutionary Anthropology or Evolutionary Psychology. Good knowledge in evolutionary biology, animal behavior and ecology are crucial for a successful application, as well as extensive experience in managing a field site. Previous observations and detailed behavioural data collection on wild mammals are of advantage. The PhD candidate will need to work independently in a remote and physically demanding tropical forest habitat. Good social skills are important to work and live amongst a group of international colleagues with different cultural backgrounds.

The successful candidate is fluent in French and English and has some management experience. Previous experience with field work will be beneficial to the application.

Salary / funding

The PhD candidate will be supported by a MPI EVA contract of employment for doctoral students. In addition the successful candidate will write a research proposal to apply for grant money.

Start and term of appointment

Starting May 2016, or as soon as possible afterwards, the successful applicant will be located for several years in the Tai National Park. Tenure of the position is three years (+ one possible year extension).

Comments

Applications include a cover letter stating research experience, field experience and experience of managing field sites, a detailed curriculum vitae, a short research proposal in the realm of chimpanzee sociality and the names and e-mail addresses of three referees. The application documents should be sent electronically to taichimpproject@eva.mpg.de. The evaluation of applications will start on February 19, 2016, and applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Contact information

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