

Kordofan Giraffe Project Internship – Zakouma National Park, Chad

Position is for 6 months 1st Jan – 30th June 2020.

The Kordofan Giraffe Project is a ground-breaking census of Kordofan giraffe in Zakouma National Park, The Republic of Chad; a great opportunity to gain valuable experience to graduates trying to break into field research and conservation.

On an English language project, based in French speaking Chad, with Arabic speaking workers we are seeking a multi-lingual (French and English essential; Arabic advantageous but not essential) assistant to help in the collection and organisation of the giraffe data, to produce educational literature to deliver to local persons of all ages, helping out with translation wherever needed.

You will learn about giraffe ecology as well as general African wildlife, and environmental and ecological theory, gps tracking, camera-trapping, data collection and organisation, gain valuable experience living and working in central Africa, meeting conservationists from across Africa and Europe, and will receive references for future employment opportunities at the end of the field season.

The field season is 6 months and will run from 1st January 2020 until the 30th of June 2020; dates can be discussed further at interview stage to work reasonably around flights, etc. After 3 months you are welcome to take a week's holiday (either at home or in the capital city of N'djamena; this can be helpful to re-charge after 3 months in the field, but is optional and at your own cost.

What the role involves:

- Driving survey routes throughout Zakouma NP.
- Using binoculars to identify giraffe sex, scars, and vegetation.
- Writing survey notes onto survey sheet as directed.
- Typing survey notes into excel spreadsheet.
- Downloading photographs and organising into group folders.
- Creating giraffe ID sheets.
- Checking database for giraffe ID's.
- Helping to organise the equipment each day for the next day's survey.
- Creating educational materials for all ages in English and French.
- Contributing to short blog posts of each fortnight on the project.
- Any other tasks related to the project the lead researcher requires.

An average Day on the project:

6:30 – 14:00: In the field, driving survey routes, taking photographs, taking notes, checking camera traps, carcass sites etc.

Lunch on return to base.

After lunch office time to download all days photographs, organise and complete excel spread sheet, organise equipment for next day etc. This can go quite late, depending on how many giraffe we have seen that day, and we'll try to keep up to date with all data.

The project works on a 15 day rotation, spending 10 days in the field/office followed by 5 days in the office and having leisure time. There are opportunities for you to join other vehicles to visit the markets of Am Timan and Kesh-Kasher on days off to buy fresh food and trinkets, but be aware the project site is remote and so we often have to provide our own entertainment with movies,

books, a drink around the camp fire, travel games, evening game drives etc. It can be an odd mix of isolation and living in close proximity to others, so an easy going/fun attitude mixed with a good work ethic is essential.

Some days you will be asked to drive and lead the days survey route, managing the other staff (armed guard and student), while the lead researcher deals with office work back at base; other days you will be asked to stay at the office to complete work; it will be an even mix of hard work to getting great wildlife encounters!

Suitable Persons who should apply:

- Higher education background.
- Background in science or wildlife studies.
- Full driving license is essential.
- A passion for wildlife and wanting to learn from the experience.
- Preferably French as a first language, with a high level of conversational English, Fully literate in English and French, any Arabic would be advantageous.
- Fully computer trained to use Word and Excel.
- Prepared to live in basic conditions at Zakouma NP for up to 6 months (There is little or no phone and internet signal, but it will be possible for you to email home at least once a week to check in). Accommodation will be in a tent but with access to flushing toilet and washing facilities and basic kitchen.
- People skills, trustworthy, hard working with attention to detail essential.
- Ability to work alone and manage other staff with confidence and fairness but also be happy to work under and take direction from lead researcher.

Tented accommodation will be provided, other costs you will incur yourself will include;

- Flights; international and internal,
- Food,
- Insurance (essential, with re-patriation),
- Visa
- Medical vaccinations (Yellow Fever essential to enter country), and medication (anti-malaria essential)
- Hotel costs in the capital city Ndjamena (couple of days on arrival and departure).
- Any personal equipment / snacks you want to bring.
- Suitable clothing and footwear (for field work in hot and humid weather as well as respectful of Muslim traditions).

Deadline for applications is 20th September 2019.

A skype interview will be arranged for potential candidates the first week in October 2019.

For more information or to apply please send an email to 83drhoades@gmail.com to express your interest and to discuss the position.

To apply email your CV, certificates and 2 references (written statements from professional referees, with contact email and phone number, indicating if they speak / read French or English).

