

INTERN ADVERT

Revised 10/11/08

Position Description:

Dr. Shirley Strum and the Uaso Ngiro Baboon Project (UNBP) continue a long-term study of wild olive baboons that began in 1972. In addition to research on socioecology, UNBP does community based conservation and applied conservation research. For a background to the "Pumphouse Gang" baboons see **Almost Human** (Strum, 2001/1987, University of Chicago Press) or a variety of nature documentaries including "Baboon Tales" (Discovery), "Among the Baboons" (National Geographic Explorer), "History of the Pumphouse Gang" (Survival).

UNBP is looking for a volunteer field assistant to be part of the team of Kenyans and two other student interns. The Project is located on the Laikipia Plateau of Kenya, a high altitude arid savanna (1,940m/5,800 ft) with a view of Mt. Kenya. The baboons share the area with a full complement of wildlife including elephants, giraffe, zebra, lion, leopard etc and with Masai pastoralists and their livestock. The terrain is rough and while average temperatures are mild, it can reach 40C in the dry season. The research camp has permanent comfortable buildings but is "in the bush" and is relatively isolated.

Volunteer tasks include collecting data on behavior and ecology, helping with data management, data entry, part-time involvement in our conservation projects and educational outreach to the local community. Interns have the opportunity to do their own research project after collecting 6 months of Project data. Free time for traveling through Kenya can be arranged. A three month provisional period with a 1 year commitment to the internship is required.

This is an excellent opportunity to gain a broad range of research and conservation skills as preparation for further education or conservation activities. A successful intern has the opportunity to return to the same troop for their own future research projects. Baboons are fascinating primates. These baboons are easily visible and live in an idyllic location.

Qualifications/Experience:

- At least a Bachelors degree in a related discipline and some field experience are required
- Previous experience living or working in a developing country is useful
- A strong commitment to research and/or conservation
- English speaking
- Computer literate
- Ability to work at all levels as part of a team
- Be in good physical and mental health
- Emotionally mature
- Sociable
- Have a sense of humor
- Have a positive attitude toward the challenges of this work
- Know how to drive a car (and learn to drive a motorcycle)

Salary/Funding:

The Project provides free housing and free transport to the baboons by motorcycle or car. The Project covers research fees to the Government of Kenya. The intern must arrange flights, and be able to cover the costs of food, personal supplies, entertainment etc for the tenure of the internship. Previous volunteers have managed on \$200/month although there have been recent price increases in Kenya. If the intern performs well, the Project will provide letters of recommendation to for applications to funding agencies for intern support.

Term of Appointment

Priority is for a start date of September 2009 but later starting dates will be considered. The position is ongoing providing a systematic overlap of 3-6 months between successive intern teams composed of 2-3 individuals.

Application Deadline:

Until the position has been filled. We welcome applications for dates after September 2009.

Comments:

Please apply via e-mail to baboon@acc.or.ke. You should include a letter explaining why you are interested and suitable for the position, a CV and a personal statement describing yourself. If you make the short-list you will also have to provide three letters of reference (2 academic/field and 1 personal), photo and additional information as needed.

Contact Information:

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