

Volunteering for **RESEARCH** at the Jane Goodall Institute in Senegal

On-site volunteering with JGI in Senegal is a unique opportunity for learning, training through fieldwork and living new cultural and academic experiences, while helping in the conservation of the chimpanzees and the improvement of local people's living conditions. Be aware that living conditions in the region where the Institute's programs take place are extreme and basic, and daily life can sometimes become challenging.

The main long-term objective of the *Jane Goodall Institute Spain in Senegal and Guinea Chimpanzees Conservation and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources program* is the recovery of the Western Chimpanzee population (*Pan troglodytes verus*) in Senegal and the north of Guinea, based on the [Red List 2016](#) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) where this subspecies is critically endangered.

Habitat loss and fragmentation and the annual depletion of food due to human activities are currently the main threats to the chimpanzees' demography and genetic diversity. JGI Spain has been carrying research, conservation, education and ecotourism development activities since 2009 in the current Dindéfelo Community Nature Reserve (RNCD), and in the north of Guinea. Since then, research has been focused on the biology, ethology and ecology of the chimpanzee, as well as on the possible conflicts that the local population may have with them, in order to apply the results to their conservation, the main objective of the work of the Jane Goodall Institute in Senegal. As a result, the JGI team has worked successfully as technical assistants in the creation of the RNCD in 2010 in collaboration with local authorities. The main objective of the Research Department is to get to know the structures of the existing groups of chimpanzees in the area, the frequency at which they interact with each other and the corridors that they use for interaction. This data is of high importance given that this region is the northernmost limit of the chimpanzee subspecies *Pan troglodytes verus*' habitat. The data gathered allows us to work with the RNCD to establish which zones have the highest importance for conservation and implementation of strategies that assure survival of this subspecies.

Job description

We are looking for volunteers to work in the Research Department of the JGI in Senegal. They will carry out work as field/research assistants to gather data while following groups of chimpanzees, to organize and help to analyze such data, in order to continue the research on the ecology and ethology of the Western Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes verus*).

The study is carried out in the RNCD, in South East Senegal, and surrounding areas.

Degrees/Experience

- Masters in primatology, Bachelors in Biology, Microbiology, Psychology or other disciplines related to primatology. Specific postgraduate training is preferable.
- Field experience or interest in applied conservation research.

Requirements

- Good level of spoken French.
- Willingness to learn the local language (Pular).

- Ability to adapt to basic living conditions and extreme climate.
- Capability to work independently and proactively but also be a part of an international team.
- Be emotionally mature, friendly, energetic, positive and very patient.
- Cultural sensitivity, ability to build and maintain good relationships with local staff (preferably, prior experience working in a foreign environment)

Funding

JGI Spain is a small self-funded national office, mainly managed by volunteers. The volunteer runs all expenses: flights, internal transport, insurance, accommodation and food. The volunteers stay with host families, who receive a small fee from the volunteers in exchange for lodging and meals (lunch and dinner) according to local prices. This helps to boost the local economy and encourages integration. The average monthly expenses are estimated at around 100€, including room and board, drinks and other personal costs.

Term of Position

A minimum commitment of 9 months is required for the Research program. Those who can engage for a longer period will be given preference. Immediate incorporation.

Contact: If interested, send your CV and a cover letter to info@janegoodall.es specifying the post you are applying for in the subject. If recruitment process and interviews are passed, candidates will be given the forms to fill out, regarding personal and medical information, recommendations, JGI norms, Volunteering agreement, etc. For more information on the programs in Senegal and Guinea, check www.janegoodallsenegal.org