



## **Effects of the types of food items and food presentation on the behaviour of fishing cat, *Prionailurus viverrinus* Bennett, 1833 (Carnivora: Felidae) in a confined environment: implication for conservation breeding.**

- About the Project** : The project is aimed to provide an insight into Fishing Cats' behavior such as daily activity patterns, usage of available space as well as other array of behaviors. All these may prove to be long-lasting and beneficial and expected to provide a useful theoretical framework for environmental enrichment. Acquired information could contribute toward better management of the captive animal during stressful events. On the other hand, conservation breeding programs may offer the feasible alternative to avoid species extinction in near future and will also be helpful to maintain gene pool.
- Funding Agency** : West Bengal Zoo Authority
- Position:** : Research Assistant
- Job Description:** : The Research Assistant's primary responsibility and deliverables will be to conduct field observation (ecology and behaviour of the captive population), data entry & analysis (using statistical tools), and take the lead in writing reports and peer reviewed papers for this project.
- Location** : This is a full-time position and will be primarily based at the Ecology and Vector Biology Research Unit, Department of Zoology for UG and PG studies, Serampore College, Serampore, Hooghly.  
For research he/she has to travel regularly to the zoological gardens in West Bengal where captive population of fishing cats are available as well as to their natural habitats.
- Essential Qualifications** : M.Sc. in Zoology/ Wildlife/ Life Sciences (with at least 55% marks) with specialization in Ecology/ Wildlife and Conservation Biology/Animal Behaviour. Final Semester students are also encouraged to apply. However, for them, during joining, if selected, they should have their final marksheets.

**Desirable Qualifications & Work Experience** : 1. Experience to work in the field of ecology and animal behavior both field based and experimental.  
2. Knowledge in ecology/wildlife related software/MS-Office/SPSS.  
3. Should have prior experience in handling digital equipments like trap cameras etc.  
4. Excellent communication, interpersonal skills, ability and comfortable with working in teams.  
5. Proficiency in English and Bengali (writing and speaking).  
6. Interest and knowledge in nature and wildlife conservation in the Indian context.  
7. Be self-motivated and able to work with minimal supervision while out in the field. Have patience and agreeing to stay back till late hours.  
8. Be hardworking, reliable, and committed to follow the guidelines set by the P.I.

**Remuneration/ Fellowship** : As per the W.B.Z.A. rules.  
Project related travel and other costs will be reimbursed (as per entitlement).

**Term of Appointment:** : Initially for one year. Can be extended upto three years, subject to performance review.  
This is a contractual post and employment terminates with the completion of the project.  
Selected candidate has to join the position as soon as possible (preferably from October, 2021).

**To apply** : Please send across an updated CV (FILE NAME: your name\_cv.pdf) mentioning the names of THREE referees who are well acquainted with the candidate along with a cover letter addressing to "The Principal and CEO, Serampore College, Serampore, Hooghly-712201"- to the following email address – **projectwbza2021@gmail.com** with the subject - "Application: Research Assistant (Fishing Cat Conservation Breeding project)".

The cover letter should include your motivation for applying for this position. Please describe relevant experience and any other information that will demonstrate your ability to fit in this role.

**After initial screening, only the shortlisted candidates will be called for a final personal interview.**

Date and Time of the final interview shall be notified to the respective candidates through their mentioned email address in their CV.

No T.A./D.A. will be paid for appearing on the date of interview.

**Application Deadline** : The complete e-application should reach to the mail address mentioned above on or before **September 12, 2021 (5:00 P.M.)**.

**For Project Related Further Information** : Dr. Soumyajit Banerjee  
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