



Assessment of current conservation prospects of two endangered pangolin species in West Bengal and preparation of future conservation plan in the context of illegal trade.

About the Project : The Indian subcontinent is inhabited by two of the four species of the Indo-Malayan region *i.e.* Indian Pangolin and Chinese Pangolin. Because of their solitary and nocturnal habits, both of them are poorly known species. Little effort has been devoted to understanding their biology, ecology and behavior, perhaps due to their nocturnal and secretive habits. Available published information on the pangolins available in India and West Bengal, is primarily from natural history observations, rescue reports, reports of illegal trade and captive studies. Due to burgeoning population pressure, quite a number of mammal species have either become extinct from the state or lost large part of their erstwhile range and restricted to fragmented habitats with small threatened populations. Under the circumstances, the project is aimed at periodical evaluation of their status, which will serve as an indicator to measure the habitat and habitant conditions in the state and prepare the management prescriptions or action plans to sustain the existing population in future. The captive breeding of Indian Pangolins is also the need of the hour and can positively contribute towards its conservation. To meet the conservation goals, sensitization of general people and students will be done during the project tenure.

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), assessment of present status of these animals in Gangetic plains and Peninsular Bengal, compilation of ecological history and GIS mapping of past and present distribution, generate awareness among locals, 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 Garden, Alipore, Kolkata and Surulia Zoo, Purulia where captive population of Pangolins are available. For studying wild population and awareness campaign visit to the Gangetic plains and Peninsular Bengal is also to be made.

Essential Qualifications : M.Sc. in Zoology/ Wildlife/ Life Sciences (with at least 55% marks) with specialization in Ecology/ Wildlife and Conservation Biology. 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 basic idea of GIS mapping and hands-on experience for setting up trap cameras.
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(Pangolin 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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