



Effects of density and limnological parameters on the life history traits of freshwater soft-shelled turtle at Garchumuk Mini Zoo: Implications for Management.

About the Project : *Nilssonina gangetica* (Cuvier, 1825), commonly known as the Indian Softshell Turtle or the Ganges Softshell Turtle, with its prominent, tube-like snout and incredibly flattened shell, is a very peculiar-looking freshwater reptile. This large softshell inhabits deep rivers, streams, and large canals, lakes and ponds with mud and sand bottoms. It seems to prefer turbid water. The ponds or reservoirs (natural or artificial) act as the suitable biotope for the turtles to breed. For the fresh water turtles, density of individuals, environmental heterogeneity, aquatic vegetation, nature of substrate, water depth and other limnological parameters are extremely important. The present project is aimed to address such correlation based on field observations on *Nilssonina gangetica*.

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), impact assessment of various environmental factors on turtles, testing limnological parameters, 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 Garchumuk Deer Park (Mini Zoo), Howrah, West Bengal where captive population of this turtles is available.

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 prior experience in handling limnological parameters testing kit.
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(Freshwater Turtle 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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