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Conservation Research Assistant (Madagascar based)

Position Overview

As a Conservation Research Assistant (RA) with SEED, you will play a crucial role in supporting our conservation research efforts in the unique ecosystems of southeastern Madagascar. Working from our base in Sainte Luce, you will be responsible for overseeing the management and support of the volunteers and take part in a variety of research tasks and data collection across our conservation projects. You will work closely with and report to the Senior Research Assistants to ensure the smooth running of field operations and contribute to the success of conservation projects.

Location:	Fort Dauphin, Anosy Region, Madagascar
Timeframe:	12 months
Terms and conditions:	Voluntary post, 800,000 Ar per month to support with accommodation costs (field-based food/transport provided) with a £650 contribution to insurance

Key Duties and Responsibilities:

1. **Data Collection & Research**
    - Support the organisation and execution of the research schedule.
    - Lead data collection efforts in the field, ensuring high-quality and accurate data.
    - Make sure data is well organised, backed up, clean and accessible.
    - Assist in setting clear research objectives and ensuring they are consistently met.
    - Support research initiatives focused on lemurs, reptiles, amphibians, flora and emerging projects, including setting up transects and quadrats.
    - Assist with qualitative research, including conducting community surveys and ensuring clear communication during meetings.
    - Support the development and application of research methodologies and protocols.
2. **Volunteer Management & Support**
    - Coordinate the logistics and fieldwork for short term international volunteers.
    - Provide training and supervision on field research techniques, including data collection, species identification and research methodologies.
    - Offer regular feedback to volunteers and staff to ensure the continual development of skills.
    - Provide pastoral care and support for volunteers in the field, ensuring their well-being and managing any issues that arise.
    - Provide guidance to volunteers on health and safety, camp etiquette and cultural norms, ensuring good relations between volunteers and both national and international staff.
3. **Field Operations & Logistics**
    - Assist in managing the logistics of fieldwork, including equipment and resource coordination.

- Ensure all research and fieldwork adheres to SEED's protocols, including health and safety guidelines.
- Support in managing the research camp to ensure it is well-organised and functioning smoothly.

4. **Communication and dissemination of conservation programme**
   - Facilitate communication between the research team, SEED staff and local guides.
   - Build and maintain positive relationships with local guides, volunteers and community members.
   - Provide accurate and engaging content about SEED's research for our website and social media platforms, including photographs.
5. **Policy & Compliance**
   - Ensure compliance with SEED's policies, including safeguarding, anti-corruption and whistleblowing procedures.
   - Participate in ongoing training to promote adherence to SEED's health, safety and ethical standards.
6. **Additional Tasks**
   - Assist with other tasks as requested by the Director of Programmes and Operations, Conservation Research Coordinator, or Senior Research Assistant within the scope of this role.

Personal specification:

- Have a bachelor's degree in a conservation related field, and at least one year's practical experience in field-based research
- Previous experience with data collection and cleaning
- Knowledge of primatology, herpetology, ornithology, and/or botany is desirable
- Previous experience of collecting data using GPS devices and mobile data collection apps such as KOBO, Epicollect, or ODK
- Experience of working with volunteers or providing pastoral care
- Hold a current First Aid certificate
- Demonstrate an understanding of and commitment to SEED Madagascar's ethos and approach and be a good ambassador for SEED Madagascar at all times
- Have passion, curiosity and motivation for the job and the ability to enthuse others
- Have the ability and desire to work with teams from different economic and cultural backgrounds and across multiple language barriers
- Have the ability and desire to build capacity and share skills across cultures
- Demonstrate proven ability to recognise and appropriately deal with challenging situations
- Demonstrate an awareness of and comfort with increased social and professional responsibility, working at all times with cultural sensitivity and respect
- Demonstrate the ability, social skills and confidence to give clear guidance and support to other members of the team in respect of the philosophy and procedures of SEED Madagascar in order to protect both their safety and the reputation of the NGO
- Experience of volunteering programmes or the ability to manage and support volunteers
- Be punctual and be able to work to tight deadlines in an organised manner and to a high standard

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- Be organised, thorough, and capable of handling the logistics and high volume of data from multiple projects at once
- Have a flexible and patient attitude
- Have excellent problem-solving skills
- Be able to work both independently and as part of a team.

About the organisation

SEED Madagascar is a British Charity working in partnership with communities in the southeast of Madagascar. We integrate high-quality community health, sustainable livelihoods, education infrastructure and conservation programmes to support long term, sustainable change while adding to international best practice through research and publication.

More information on the work of SEED can be found at www.madagascar.co.uk

Application procedure

Interested applicants should send a CV and covering letter in English outlining why they wish to take up this position and how their skills and experience match the requirements in the job description criteria to SEED Madagascar Director of Programmes and Operations, Lisa Bass by email on lisa@seedmadagascar.org.

Please note: AI generated cover letters and recruitment exercises will not be processed.

Application Deadline: Monday 23rd February 2026 at 23:59 GMT. Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis throughout this period.

Candidates will complete an exercise, long-listed applicants will have an initial informal interview with Madagascar based staff and short-listed applicants will then be offered an interview with the London team.

***Please note that the expected in-country start date for this position will be the end of March 2026.**

SEED Madagascar actively encourages equality, diversity, and inclusion in the workplace and aims to create a working environment free of bullying, harassment, victimisation, and unlawful discrimination, where individual differences and the contributions of all staff are recognised and valued.

We value concise and focused applications. To help us review all submissions efficiently, please limit your **CV to a maximum of four pages**. Unfortunately, longer CVs cannot be considered.