

Tiger Restoration & Conservation Job Vacancy in Kanchanaburi



The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) was founded in 1826 'to achieve and promote the worldwide conservation of animals and their habitats'. It is a learned society with a practical mandate. In the UK, ZSL runs London and Whipsnade Zoos as well as the Institute of Zoology (IoZ). Working closely with IoZ's conservation research programme, the conservation department of ZSL undertakes applied research, field conservation, outreach education and policy guidance in over 50 countries around the world. In Asia, ZSL supports work in Mongolia, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Philippines, China and Thailand. ZSL works with local people, government agencies and conservation specialists, using research as a tool for improving nature conservation.

Since 2006, ZSL has been working in partnership with the Elephant Conservation Network (ECN) to carry out work in Thailand. This small, dynamic NGO is based in Kanchanaburi and has long focused on helping to conserve wild elephants and, in particular, turning human-elephant conflict into human elephant co-existence through research, raising awareness, changing attitudes and facilitating conservation action with forest rangers, villagers, and local leaders in the Salakpra Conservation Landscape other protected areas in Kanchanaburi province that lie within the southern part of the Western Forest Conservation Complex (WEFCOM).

In 2014, ECN will become ZSL-Thailand to facilitate long-term sustainability and professional development. It will carry on using a collaborative and participatory approach, working closely with forest rangers, villagers and local leaders as well as with government officials, NGOs and the private sector. It will also continue to facilitate and enable local action so that, in future, project outcomes will be sustained by local participants. Thus all projects involve practical training and capacity building, and we encourage team members to develop their professional skills.

The Job

We are looking for an energetic and resourceful Thai graduate with a keen interest in people and wildlife to become the leader of our tiger restoration project. This person will be based in Kanchanaburi as a member of our committed, hard-working team of, at present, twelve people.

The project

This project began in March 2013 and, for the last year, has been collecting baseline data on tigers and other large carnivores and their prey in two key areas of the Salakpra Wildlife Sanctuary. The project is expected to continue through 2015 and will extend northwards into the eastern part of Srinakarin National Park and other areas that link Salakpra to the Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary. Data from these studies will be combined with data from other projects in the same area to help improve the conservation integrity and law enforcement of Salakpra Conservation Landscape and establish the Srisawat Reserve Forest as a vital habitat corridor for the dispersal of tigers from Huai Kha Khaeng.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Liaise with project advisors and counterparts to ensure that the survey plan and field methods are compatible with work being done in the Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Prepare a survey implementation plan with relevant protected area participants and project counterparts to determine the presence/absence of tigers and tiger prey in the target areas.
- Work with the chiefs of target protected areas to identify appropriate rangers to participate in both survey training courses and field work;

- Help develop the capacity of all project team members to undertake tiger/prey surveys, including participants from the protected areas;
- Organise training courses as required in relevant field methods, and in the ecology of tigers and other large carnivores, including differences in diet, behaviour, tracks and signs.
- Work with project participants from the target protected areas to plan and implement camera trap and field surveys to map the distribution and density of large carnivores and their prey as well as other wildlife;
- Maintain all project field equipment and make sure that camera traps are fully operational;
- Provide technical and logistical support to the relevant PA staff to log and analyze all data from camera-traps and foot surveys on a monthly basis;
- Provide feedback on project findings at protected area monthly management meetings and strengthen working relationships with relevant government personnel and counterparts.
- Prepare reports on project progress/results, integrated with other project findings as relevant, for donors and for wider dissemination at meetings, seminars or conferences in Thailand and abroad, including posters, PowerPoint presentations, and peer-reviewed publication.
- Help develop project plans and funding proposals for future tiger research in target areas;
- Liaise with other organizations nationally and internationally to support tiger research, attend meetings, workshops etc. and speak on behalf of ZSL-Thailand when required.

Qualifications

- ◆ Master's degree or higher
- ◆ Competent in basic computer skills
- ◆ Effective communicator with an ability to inspire others
- ◆ Some English (speaking, writing, and reading) highly desirable
- ◆ Genuine interest in doing field work to further nature conservation
- ◆ Proven ability to work with people from different backgrounds / levels of society
- ◆ Experience in leading field teams, recording, logging and analysing data, drafting reports
- ◆ Healthy, diligent, patient, optimistic, self-motivated, confident and outgoing
- ◆ Valid driving license and several years of driving experience
- ◆ Happy to be based in Kanchanaburi province

The initial contract will run until 31 December 2014 but thereafter will be renewable on an annual basis. The salary range is 20,000-35,000 baht/month depending on the recruit's qualifications and experience. Additional benefits will include medical insurance, and other benefits required by Thai law and, in accordance with ZSL-Thailand's capacity-building objective, the successful candidate will also have ample opportunity to further his/her personal development and leadership skills while also working on an interesting and rewarding project.

Please send a CV to Mr. Steve Paglia (Steve.Paglia@zsl.org) with a cover letter explaining why you are interested in this job, and what experience you have that you think will help you do the job well. If you have any queries about this, please call 034 624684 or 092 390 8632 for more details. Interviews will be held around the last week of February. Applicants will be contacted to arrange an interview date/time.