

Volunteer Position at the Sakaerat Tortoise Telemetry Project

The Sakaerat Tortoise Telemetry Project is looking for 1 person with experience and passion to be part of a radio-telemetry study on the endangered Elongated Tortoise (*Indotestudo elongata*). The study is investigating the tortoises' selection preferences of the mixed habitats of northeastern Thailand. This endangered yet little known species is a medium sized, omnivorous tortoise with 10 animals to be radio tracked from the base of the Sakaerat Environmental Research Station. The work will be physically demanding and in harsh conditions but a great learning opportunity for field experience, study design and learning about the plethora of other research projects and species on offer at the research station.



Responsibilities:

- Radio tracking up to 10 adult Elongated Tortoises 3 times per week.
- Conducting surveys for new animals and habitat assessments.
- Manually loading data into spreadsheets along with use of digital data recording devices.
- Processing (recording biometric information) of individuals that are discovered and brought to the research base.
- Must be able to work **alone in the field** and autonomously at times.
- Communicate with the team managers regularly about the study animals.
- Learning and enjoying the experience of being around a Thai tropical forest with a variety of animal and plant species and research teams studying them.

Requirements:

Essential:

- BSc/BA degree in biology or related field.
- Experience living in a tropical environment and around personnel of different cultures/languages.
- Interest in wildlife conservation and field work.
- Ability to walk 10km per day in 35 degrees Celsius.
- Evidence of organisation in field preparation and data collection.
- Ability to self-regulate work hours to ensure that data is collected effectively and consistently.

- **Provide your own flights, travel/health insurance and visa costs.**

Preferred:

- >1 year experience working in conservation/wildlife field work.
- Experience living in Thailand.
- Multi-lingual and able to live and communicate with a variety of cultures. Plus points for Thai.
- Desire to work with tortoises and/or turtles.
- Experience with radio-telemetry.
- Understanding of scientific procedure, protocols and statistics.
- Working knowledge of program R, GIS software and/or modelling.
- Unique attributes that make you interesting, fun, and likeable.
- Willing to drive a small motorbike.

What YOU get in return:

- Living and food covered completely.
- Training in radio tracking and all the elements of radio-telemetry.
- Ability to conduct your own project and gather your own data for publications.
- Minimum 1 day off per week.
- 1 week holiday (for 3-4 month stay), 2 weeks off holiday (for 4-6 month stay).

Ultimately the applicant will have an arduous but sometimes boring job to do. Radio tracking is not easy but not that difficult either, although it is important to get the job done right as often as possible. The management are easy going and want the *work* to be seen as an *equal priority* as the *happiness and welfare* of the applicant. This is an opportunity for a determined, passionate and dedicated person to gain valuable field experience, learn from experienced researchers and have a great time in a tropical forest in the heart of Thailand. Work days are flexible with time off each week for rest and time for holiday during the stay.

*If interested, please send a cover letter and CV to **ward.behaviour.research@gmail.com**.*