



Helping People. Saving Gorillas.

JOB ADVERTISEMENT

Who we are:

The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund is proud to manage one of the most comprehensive and enduring datasets on any animal species. Recently, the Fossey Fund has expanded its research to include additional gorilla groups in Volcanoes National Park, aligning with our strategic goal of achieving 100% research coverage within the next five (5) years. These data are essential for advancing scientific knowledge of gorillas and informing conservation strategies for this endangered species.

To support this effort, we are seeking highly collaborative individuals with experience in conservation to join our team as **a Research Assistant**. This position will be based at the Ellen DeGeneres Campus located in Kinigi Sector – Musanze District/ Northern Province.

Position Title: Research Assistant

Job Purpose:

To assist in the collection, analysis, and management of data related to gorilla behavior, ecology, health, and conservation within the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund's Gorilla Program. The role supports the long-term monitoring and scientific understanding of gorilla populations, contributing to their protection and the advancement of conservation science.

Main Duties/Responsibilities:

- Collect demographic and behavioral long-term data and supervise data collection done by field teams - Reports of Trackers and Data technicians.
- Participate in photogrammetry training and assist in image/data collection, measurements, and reporting as needed.
- Participate in field data collection for 3-4 days a week and 1-2 days in the office.
- Responsible for the entry of all behavioral data collected by himself.
- Participating as a research team member of DFGF, in the entry and management of all research data including reports of Tr I would like to share my finalized exam questionnaire for [Course Name/Module] via this channel. Please confirm if this is an acceptable method for submission. Ackers, Data Technicians, Anti-poaching data as well as GPS and Cyber Tracker databases.
- Take photos and manage the database of all pictures taken in DFGF.

- Participate in the preparation of the monthly report, making tables and maps using long-term records.
- Participate in monthly meetings of the research teams.
- Prepare weekly activities reports.
- Participate in educational activities carried out by DFGF in Rwanda.
- Participate in the scientific publications of DFGF magazine as well as other relevant scientific journals.
- Participate in the regional conferences and represent the DFGF - Karisoke Research Centre in governmental and non-governmental institutions' meetings.
- Perform other tasks requested by the employer.

Education and Professional Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Primatology, Biology, Zoology, Anthropology, Wildlife Conservation, or a related field.
- A master's degree (preferred) in a relevant discipline with a focus on primate research or conservation biology.
- Formal training in animal behavior, wildlife monitoring, ethology, or primate ecology (advantageous).

Work Experience:

- Minimum 1–2 years of experience in primate research, wildlife fieldwork, or behavioral ecology.
- Prior experience working with habituated great apes (e.g., gorillas, chimpanzees) is highly desirable.
- Experience with data collection, video/audio recording, behavioral observation, and habitat assessment techniques.
- Fieldwork experience in tropical or montane forest ecosystems is an advantage

Skills, Knowledge, and Abilities:

Technical Skills

- Proficiency in behavioral data collection methods (e.g., focal animal sampling, scan sampling).
- Skilled in the use of GPS, binoculars, rangefinders, and data logging devices.
- Familiarity with data analysis software such as R, Excel, or behavioral coding tools like BORIS.
- Understanding of gorilla health indicators and basic principles of non-invasive health monitoring.

Knowledge

- Strong foundation in primate behavior, ecology, and social structure, especially for mountain gorillas.
- Knowledge of gorilla conservation challenges, threats (e.g., poaching, habitat loss), and protection strategies.

- Understanding of longitudinal research and the importance of consistency in behavioral studies.

Soft Skills

- Excellent attention to detail, observation skills, and ability to record data accurately.
- Strong interpersonal and teamwork skills, with the ability to collaborate with local trackers, scientists, and conservation staff.
- High degrees of patience, resilience, and discipline, especially when observing animals for extended periods in field conditions.

Other Abilities

- Physically capable of hiking long distances, often in steep and rugged terrain, and working in challenging environmental conditions.
- Fluent in English; French or Kinyarwanda is a strong asset.
- Deep commitment to conservation ethics, animal welfare, and the values of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund.
- Willingness to live and work in remote field stations for extended periods.

Application Process:

All candidates interested in this opportunity are invited to submit the following documents:

- A cover letter setting out briefly the candidate's motivation and suitability for the position, not more than 1 page,
- An Updated CV.
- The name, position, and contact number for **three references**, preferably one of them being your current Employer/Direct Supervisor.
- A copy of education and training certificates/diplomas/degrees
- A copy of relevant work certificates.
- A Copy of your national ID

The interested candidates are required to submit their application via the **Apply** button by **Friday, September 26, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.**

Only short-listed candidates shall be contacted.

Felix NDAGIJIMANA
Country Director - Rwanda Programs