

Field volunteer needed to work on
Meerkats or Slender mongoose
(at Kalahari Meerkat Project), South Africa



Begin: immediately, or whenever possible
(for 6 to 12 months)

We are looking for two volunteers interested in working as field assistant for a minimum of 6 months on a project on meerkats, and a project on slender mongoose, investigating aspects of communication and cognition. You will be based at the Kalahari Meerkat Project (run by Cambridge University UK and Zurich University Switzerland), located on a game reserve (Kuruman River Reserve) in the South African Kalahari close to the Botswana border. Your main work will be to collect the basic data (behavioural, spatial, faeces, etc...), perform experiments, and progress or maintain habituation of the partly habituated groups of meerkats or slender mongoose.

Biology/zoology/veterinary students with a BSc/ Vordiplom or equivalent are preferred as candidates. Applicants must have an interest in working in the field and show a high patience with the animals. Tasks involved include radio-tracking the groups, do habituation work at their sleeping burrow as well as following them during foraging, behavioural observations, if possible to weigh them, GPS recordings, and perform experiments such as playbacks. You will need an international driver's license.

Volunteers are paid a monthly allowance to cover their food, and accommodation will be provided for free. Flight to South Africa (and home) will have to be organized by the applicant, but we will pay the inland traveling (bus from Johannesburg to Kuruman or Upington return, and the pickup from Kuruman or Upington to the study site) as well as 400 US\$ towards the international flight.

If you are interested in this position, please send a CV and a short letter stating your motivation to apply, and two names acting as referees to:

marta.manser@ieu.uzh.ch

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More information on the Kalahari Meerkat Project at: <http://www.zoo.cam.ac.uk/zoostaff/larg/pages/index.htm>