



Field assistant, Lake Tanganyika, Zambia, Autumn 2019

We are looking for a highly motivated field assistant to join the field team of the University of Bern in autumn 2019 to help with data collection on a project about social behaviour in cooperatively breeding cichlid fish *Neolamprologus pulcher*. The project is part of the PhD project of Maria Reyes Contreras, who will supervise the field assistant. Fieldwork is done by SCUBA diving at Lake Tanganyika in Zambia, and includes daily behavioural observation of individually marked fish, catching and taking underwater size measurements and ecological data.

The project takes place at the southern shore of Lake Tanganyika in Zambia, and is based at the Tanganyika Scientific Lodge in Kasakalawe Bay near the small town Mpulungu. Accommodation at the field site is remote and very basic, but beautifully located at the Lakeshore. The duration of the fieldwork is 3 months, starting from the end of August 2019.

The scientific work and diving are physical demanding, but this project provides the unique opportunity to gain insight into social behaviour in natural groups and observe incredible fish biodiversity in one of the Great African Lakes. All expenses for travel, accommodation and medical precaution are covered, but no salary can be paid.

We expect you to perform on average two dives a day, where you conduct behavioural observations and tests underwater, and catch, measure, tag and transport fish underwater. On land, we expect you to help with preparation of experiments and with storage of samples, and to join in the daily maintenance of the diving equipment and compressor.

Requirements:

- SCUBA diving certificate (PADI Open water Diver or equivalent)
- Diving experience and roughly 10 additional dives, the last one no longer than one year ago.
- People have to bring their own basic diving equipment (mask, snorkel, fins, boots, wetsuit, 7mm + 5 mm is recommended) and their own diving computer. We provide air tanks and regulators.
- Fluently English speaking

We expect the following skills and mindset:

- Being enthusiastic and curious about fish behaviour
- Being self-sufficient and communicative, and able to work independently
- The ability to live in an isolated area with basic facilities (no running water, electric light or fridge) with very limited access to electricity (solar panel) and with limited internet access

If you are interested to join us as field assistant in 2019 please send:

- A brief description about your motivation to join and why you feel you qualify
- Your CV

To: Maria Reyes Contreras, maria.reyes-contreras@iee.unibe.ch

Webpage: <http://behav.zoology.unibe.ch/index.php?p=221>

Phone (office): +41 (0) 31 631 91 54