

NOTICE FOR ENGAGEMENT OF A PROJECT RESEARCH ASSISTANT

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TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT OF PROJECT RESEARCH ASSISTANT

A. Background

The Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling formerly known as Himalayan Zoological Park was established on 14th August 1958. It is located at an altitude of 7000ft IN Darjeeling district of West Bengal. Smt. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, in 1975, dedicated the Himalayan Zoological Park in memory of late Smt. Padmaja Naidu, Ex-Governor of West Bengal and the park was renamed as Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park.

This is the only specialized zoo in the country and is internationally recognized for its conservation breeding programmes of Snow leopard, Red panda and other highly endangered species of eastern Himalaya. The zoo is currently involved in several Conservation breeding projects for the species such as the Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*), Snow Leopard (*Uncia uncia*), Himalayan wolf (*Canis lupus himalayensis*) etc. Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park at present is housing four hundred and twenty three (423) animals of forty nine (49) species which includes twenty two (22) species of mammals, seven (7) species of reptiles, ten (10) species of pheasants, nine (9) species of birds and one (1) amphibian.

The Darjeeling Zoo, maintains three centres exclusively for conservation breeding programmes which are off display. The park has taken up a research project titled **“Analysis of Scat/ Dung/Pellets/Excreta of Various Animals and Birds in Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling; CBC, Dowhill; And CBC, Topkeydara for Presence of Various Parasites”**. The research project is being funded by West Bengal Zoo Authority and aims to catalogue the type of parasites affecting its animals, with respect to the feed and fodder provided and seasonal variations.

Parasitic load of animals and birds is one of the main areas of concern with regard to their health status. Examination of scat/dung/pellets/excreta for presence of parasitic load and identification of worms, ova, cysts; presence of mucous, occult blood in scat/

dung/pellets/excreta as well the colour, consistency and colour intensity of the faecal samples give a fair idea about the health status of animals and birds.

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park have in place a protocol for examination of scat/dung/pellets/excreta (faecal) sample of all mammals and birds in its captivity In the process of doing so, the Park is in possession of good number of reports which indicate presence of different types of parasites; some of which are commonly found and some are rarely found, along with seasonal variations. Moreover, the physical appearance of the faeces and microscopic analysis gives a fair idea regarding digestibility of the food and fodder and also helps in determining the necessary measures to keep animals healthy.

B. Objective:

Through this project, on the basis of reports of examinations (pre and post deworming), the Park intends to determine the occurrence of types of parasites, ova and cysts; seasonal prevalence of parasites, ova and cyst; types of de-wormers used in animals and birds species-wise, in its captivity. The park will also catalogue photographic depiction of parasites, ova and cysts (as seen through microscope in 10x, 20x, 40x and 100x), as well as keeping a record of colour, colour intensity and consistency of faeces of all captives in consistency with medical ZIMS.

The purpose of engagement of a Project Research Assistant is to carry out the project titled **“Analysis of Scat/ Dung/Pellets/Excreta of Various Animals And Birds in Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling; CBC, Dowhill; And CBC, Topkeydara For Presence of Various Parasites”** funded by West Bengal Zoo Authority, under the supervision of The Director, PNHZ Park and Veterinary Officer, PNHZ Park. The Project research Assistant is being engaged for the smooth execution of the research project and will be required to conduct and participate in the various exercises, analysis etc. for the above project.

C. Scope of work for the Project Research Assistant

1. Reviewing the available literature by referring articles from journals or conferences, books published in scientific series & articles referred to in other articles. Prepare the notes and synopsis of the background studies and the updated progress in various parts of the world related to the current research.
2. Collect the samples of Scat/ Dung/Pellets/Excreta of Various Animals and Birds in Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling; CBC, Dowhill; and CBC,

Topkeydara, under the guidance of Research Investigators and assist them in this regard. To document the sample collection and prepare necessary reports.

3. Analyse the collected faecal samples from captive animals and birds by sedimentation/floatation techniques, direct microscopy method and evaluation of the colour, consistency and presence of occult blood under the guidance of Research Investigators and assist them in this regard. To document the analysis of the faecal samples and prepare necessary reports.
4. Prepare project reports, presentations and catalogue photograph of parasites, ova and cysts as seen through the microscope under the guidance of Research Investigators and assist them in this regard.
5. Maintaining all project related files, registers and other related documents as guided by the Research investigators.
6. Visit to different zoos and other areas as directed by the Research investigators.
7. Assist in the capacity building of zoo staff. Explain and sensitize the zoo keepers and animal supervisors regarding the research, its objectives and also enhance their capacity for sample collection, data recording and documentation.
8. Any other duties as assigned by the Director, PNHZ Park.

D. Other details

9. **Duration:** Project duration is nine (9) months. The appointee will be engaged on probation for one (1) month, the engagement may be extended for a further period maximum up to another eight (8) months. The Park may not extend the engagement after probation period of a month, without assigning any reason. The engagement may be continued for a period maximum up to eight (8) months after the probation period, in case the Park & West Bengal Zoo Authority decide to continue with the engagement.
1. **Working hours:** 6 days a week from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm with half an hour break for lunch. The candidate may be required on off days and beyond duty hours on the discretion of The Director, PNHZ Park.
2. **Remuneration: Rs 15,000/- p.m.** Remuneration is all inclusive of House Rent Allowance and other benefits. Expenses for travel, food and lodging will be paid by Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park as per the discretion of the Director for project related travels.
3. The Park is under no obligation to continue the engagement and may discontinue the engagement with 15 days' notice without assigning any reason for discontinuation.

4. The Project Research Assistant will not use any data related to and collected for the study for commercial purposes. All scientific papers and reports will be owned by Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park and the Park should be acknowledged in any publications/ presentation/ research articles made regarding the study.
5. The Project Research Assistant will not disclose any information related to the Park to outside personnel. The engagement is subject to the conditions specified in the agreement to be signed by the selected candidate.

E. Eligibility

1. **Educational qualification:** The applicant must have M.Sc in Life Sciences/ Zoology/Microbiology with minimum 60% marks or equivalent CGPA from a recognized University/ (attach a copy of the scorecard).
2. **Experience:** Candidates having exposure to parasitological studies are encouraged to apply. Freshers may also apply.
3. Be proficient in English communication skills for report writing, presentations etc.
4. Be proficient in computer skills like Microsoft Office.

F. Selection

The selection of the applicant will be based on the qualification, academic performance, experience, exposure and merit of the applicant. The shortlisted candidates will be interviewed on the above criteria and the best suited candidate will be engaged.

G. General Instructions:

1. Interested candidates may send their CV along with signed photocopies of candidate's professional certificates to the following email address latest by 18.07.2019 (5pm).
Email: pnhzp@yahoo.com
2. Only shortlisted candidates will be communicated to appear in the interview and no other communications in this regard will be entertained.
3. No TA/DA will be paid for appearing in the interview.