
Community Liaison Manager for Okomu National Park

Okomu National Park (ONP) is located in Edo State, Nigeria and harbours a huge diversity of wildlife, but is threatened by illegal logging, farm encroachment, and hunting for bush meat. Africa Nature Investors (ANI) Foundation is a Nigerian NGO established to demonstrate that private sector investment can make the protection of nature profitable. Okomu is our second project after establishing a successful conservation project in Gashaka Gumti National Park. We have signed an agreement with the National Park Service (Pks) establishing a Private-Public Partnership (PPP) co-management model. A key activity is building mutually beneficial partnerships with local communities and investing in their development. Communities are essential partners in the protection of the park but for them to be incentivized to do this, the park must provide jobs and development opportunities. We are looking for a Community Liaison Manager to build relationships with all the villages in and around the park.

SPECIFICATIONS

Qualifications:

- At least a bachelor's degree in a relevant subject (e.g. Sociology, Social studies, Anthropology, community development, public health, education, Natural Resource Management or related subjects)

Skills and experience:

- At least 3 years hands-on working experience in community engagement or community development project implementation and the use of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, including active listening and public speaking.
- Experience in agronomy and agro-forestry
- Fluent in spoken/written English & speaking Edo, Ijaw, is essential.
- Hard working and physically fit.
- Ability to use a computer (word and excel)

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Will be expected to do multi-day trekking up and camping in community enclaves with limited access to electricity and communication network.
- Will be living in shared accommodation at the project base and hence spouse and family will not be able to join the employee on a permanent basis. Because of the location of the Park and the type of work, will be expected to work for several weeks before taking leave or rest days.
- Manage a community engagement team and conduct regular visits to park communities, holding regular meetings to build trust and develop understanding and “buy-in” of the project.
- Develop culturally appropriate information, environmental education programme.
- Manage consultants to collect social baseline data using participatory methodologies.
- Establish and build capacity of community groups to implement sustainable development projects related to livelihoods, economic empowerment, and education.
- Establish and manage a community information gathering and intelligence network.
- Implement a community redress grievance mechanism, listening and responding to local concerns.
- Management and accountability of project activities and expenses
- Any other duties as required from time to time.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: This is a two-year posting in Nigeria with options for renewal. You will be based in ANI Arakhuan Outpost Okomu National Park, Edo State. You will receive a competitive salary, pension and other insurances including health insurance.

CONTACT DETAILS: Please send a CV & covering letter to Peter Abanyam, Okomu Project Manager, pa@ani-nigeria.org. Application deadline: 20th September 2024.