



**Title:**

Biological Field Assistant, The Mamoni Valley Jaguar Project (MVJP)

**Organization:**

Kaminando-Habitat Connectivity Initiative

**Location:**

Mamoni Valley Preserve, Panama

**Overview:**

Kaminando is offering a unique, self-funded volunteer/intern opportunity to work in the tropical montane cloud forest of Panama. Gain invaluable conservation research experience, while setting up camera traps to study the iconic jaguar (*Panthera onca*). The elusive jaguar is a difficult species to see and therefore, to study. This experience will provide our biological volunteers the opportunity to contribute directly, to the long-term conservation of this threatened big cat. You will be trained to handle and set camera traps in the field, while working alongside your local guides from the Mamoni Valley community. This is an excellent chance to gain exposure to the cloud forest, a non-invasive method of researching big cats using camera-traps and enjoy some cultural immersion.

**Study Area:**

This project will be conducted in the moist tropical forests of the Mamoni Valley Preserve, Guna Yala Comarca and Chagres National Park in the Republic of Panama. The study area encompasses ~280km<sup>2</sup> and is located within the narrowest section of Central Panama. It is part of the largest remaining stretch of contiguous rainforest in the Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena eco-region, one of the top ecological hotspots on Earth.

**Project:**

The Mamoni Valley Jaguar Project (MVJP) goal is to gather scientific information on the jaguar, by collecting photographic imagery, using a network of camera traps set throughout the study area. The project aims to elucidate population status, habitat use, distribution, and prey availability. As part of our long-term monitoring program, other felids such as puma, ocelot, margay, jaguarundi and their prey, are the focus of our study.

**Position (volunteer/intern):**

Kaminando and The MVJP is seeking to fill (2-4) temporary, seasonal positions for the 2018 field season. **This position (not to exceed 15 days) will begin on November 24<sup>th</sup> 2018.** The incumbent will serve as a member of the MVJP Monitoring Program Team. Candidates will be trained and oriented to the study area and project, prior to checking cameras in the field. Interested candidates with experience conducting intensive field work will be considered. Work requires the ability to hike for long hours (6-10) and up to 10 kilometers in the cloud forest, often in adverse conditions. Candidates must be physically fit and able to bush camp for 2-3 days at a time, with limited supplies. Candidates will be working alongside the principal researchers and

local guides.

**APPLICATION:**

Knowledge of Spanish is useful.

**Cost:** \$1000 plus one camera donation towards the project

**Includes:**

Accommodation at Centro Mamoni

Local transportation

3 meals a day

Orientation

Training

Support

**Not Included:**

Flights, insurance, personal expenses, hotels

**To Apply:**

Please e-mail the following:

(1) A cover letter of application (150 words) to include field experience and goals to participate in the program.

(2) Resume

(3) Name and daytime phone number of two references, including one current or former supervisor

to: [kaminando.kcraighead@gmail.com](mailto:kaminando.kcraighead@gmail.com)

**For more information please contact:**

Milton Yacelga

Co-founder/President Kaminando-Habitat Connectivity Initiative

[myacelga@kaminando.org](mailto:myacelga@kaminando.org)

Kimberly Craighead

Co-founder/Vice-President Kaminando-Habitat Connectivity Initiative

[kcraighead@kaminando.org](mailto:kcraighead@kaminando.org)

[kaminando.org](http://kaminando.org)

