

South America Research and Advocacy Officer / Assistant

London / Hybrid

£27,000-£35,000 depending on experience & job level

Are you fiercely dedicated to Indigenous peoples' rights, a fluent Spanish speaker, and ready to put your networking, analytical, and strategic skills to use as part of a dynamic international campaign team? Survival International is offering a rare opportunity to join our Research and Advocacy Department, working primarily on our campaigns for the rights of uncontacted Indigenous peoples in Spanish-speaking South America.

Survival is a small and passionately committed Indigenous rights campaigning organisation, regularly taking on powerful targets and winning. Funded entirely by our supporters, we have the agility and independence to work on the campaigns that really matter for the peoples we work with, rather than those preferred by funders. We work very closely with Indigenous peoples and individuals around the world, and all our campaigns are rooted in these relationships.

In this role, which can be at either Officer or Assistant level depending on experience, you will be building relationships with Indigenous people on the frontline, and working closely with campaigning colleagues across Survival's offices internationally, collaboratively building strategies to hold those in power to account and ensure that justice is done.

Your work will combat the violent colonialism and land theft that is threatening Indigenous peoples worldwide – one of the most urgent crises of our time. You will help ensure that Indigenous peoples' voices are heard, and support their fight for their rights, their self-determination, their land and their survival.

Responsibilities

We are open to recruiting this role at Officer level, with greater autonomy, or Assistant level, working with our Senior Research Officer and with the chance to grow into a more senior role. The role can encompass the following responsibilities, although an appointee at Assistant level would not take on all tasks immediately, and some only in a supportive role:

- Develop and lead implementation of effective campaign strategies, identifying the best targets and approaches to win lasting change.
- Liaise with and build solid relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations.
- Research and document violations of Indigenous and tribal peoples' rights, with a particular focus on uncontacted Indigenous peoples in South America.
- Investigate the role of governments, corporations, international bodies and others in human rights violations and land theft.
- Working with colleagues, come up with creative tactics to advance our campaign aims.
- Plan and undertake occasional research trips to Indigenous communities, interviewing people and gathering information and testimonies in written and audiovisual form.
- Arrange international visits of Indigenous representatives for lobbying, media or public campaigning purposes.
- Lobby governments, companies, international bodies and other targets or potential allies.

- Act as an expert resource for the media, and give interviews for both print and broadcast.
- Write or contribute to articles, reports or other materials for campaigning and advocacy.
- Represent Survival at conferences and webinars.
- Help organize demonstrations, vigils, public meetings and webinars.
- Update our contact database as relevant, and keep clear records of research findings, advocacy actions, and other relevant information.
- Carry out administrative or other tasks as needed.
- Remain faithful to Survival's cause and key messages.

Skills, attributes and experience

In general, we are less interested in formal qualifications than in your potential, desire to learn, and enthusiasm for the role. To succeed in this job at either level, you will need the following:

- A strong commitment to Survival's vision and mission, with a deep understanding of Indigenous rights issues, and passion for righting the wrongs we tackle.
- Fluency in written and spoken Spanish (preferably Latin American Spanish) and English.
- Cross-cultural sensitivity and the ability to relate to and engage with a wide range of people and backgrounds.
- Excellent communications skills, with the proven ability to present complex information and articulate key messages simply and compellingly.
- Willingness and ability to travel to remote areas with minimal infrastructure in conditions of uncertainty.
- The ability to write clearly and concisely, particularly in Spanish.
- Strong team-working skills, while also having the self-motivation and organisational skills to work independently as needed, prioritising and managing your workload.
- Competence in using a variety of IT packages and platforms.

Candidates should already have the right to work in the UK or be a current or recent holder of a UK student or graduate visa.

To succeed at Officer level, you will need:

- Three to five years of experience in planning and implementing effective campaign strategies.
- A solid grounding in policy, lobbying or campaign communications for an organization working on human rights or social justice issues.
- Experience working in Latin America or on Latin American issues.

The following would make you a stronger candidate:

- First-hand experience of working with Indigenous peoples and organizations.
- Fluency or competency in other Survival working languages, especially Portuguese.
- Skills and experience in photography or videography.
- Experience of giving media interviews and public speaking.
- A full, clean driving licence.

Why join Survival International?

- You'll be at the heart of a passionately committed global team that refuses to accept the status quo and believes in the power of grassroots movements to drive real change.
- We don't take a penny of government or big corporate funding—our independence comes from our broad community of small-scale donors, making us agile, bold, and uncompromising in pursuit of our goals.
- As part of a small and flexible team, you will have the chance to develop your role, increase your skills and grow professionally.
- Reflecting our commitment to staff wellbeing, we offer generous annual leave, an enhanced pension scheme, a cycle to work scheme and parental leave that goes beyond statutory requirements.

This role is more than a job. It's a chance to stand up, speak out, and help build a better world.

Location: Hybrid, based out of Survival's London office

Hours: Monday to Friday, 10am – 6pm

Salary: Assistant from £27,000 to £29,500, dependent on experience
Officer from £28,700 to £35,000, dependent on experience

Applications: Accepted on a rolling basis until 4 January 2026, interviews in January 2026

Survival is committed to building a diverse and inclusive workplace and actively welcomes applications from candidates of all backgrounds. We will not discriminate on the basis of any aspect of your identity.

How to apply:

To apply for this job, please submit:

- A cover letter (1-2 pages) explaining why you are a good fit for this role.
- Your CV (max 2 pages)
- The application form

All documents should be named as "[Your name] Research and Advocacy Officer/Assistant Application [item]", where the item is "letter", "application" or "cv". Your email title should make clear if you are applying for the Assistant or Officer position.

Please submit to recruit@survivalinternational.org as soon as possible. Applications will be assessed on a rolling basis until 4 January 2026, with interviews to be held in January 2026.