

Carnivore Research Malawi
Research Assistant Application
Lilongwe, Malawi



Conservation Research Africa (CRA) is a charity organisation registered in England and Wales that conducts and supports applied research to inform conservation and wildlife management in Africa. Based in Malawi, CRA's flagship project is **Carnivore Research Malawi (CRM)**, formerly Wild Dog Conservation Malawi, which conducts applied research, conservation, and human-wildlife conflict mitigation to conserve carnivores in Malawi. Find out more about our work on our website www.carnivoreresearchmalawi.org.

As a research assistant, you will be conducting field research related to our **Urban Hyena Project** which conducts research on the spotted hyena clan living in and around Lilongwe. You will also be part of any other ongoing and upcoming projects during your time with CRM.

The post offers an excellent opportunity for career development for a researcher who is interested in applied conservation biology, carnivores, and human-wildlife conflict.

Duties: including but not limited to

- Camera trap surveys
- Immobilisation of carnivores for collaring, snare removal and/or sample collection
- Handling and preparation of bait
- Radio tracking
- Clan habituation
- Den checks
- Creating and maintaining a complete and coherent database using Earth Ranger (ER)
- Maintain accurate records of work and data entry
- Scat analysis
- Helping with managing volunteers and volunteers' schedule
- Supervising local students during industrial attachment
- Contribution to project meetings

- Maintaining equipment
- Conducting on-site interviews as part of the human-wildlife conflict protocol
- Community engagement
- Producing project reports, projects proposal, newsletter, etc. as required
- Assistance with grant writing
- Maintenance of website and social media channels

We are looking for someone with:

- **Maturity:** a mature mental attitude is essential to prevent unnecessary conflicts in the workspace. You also are the representative of CRM in the field and must lead by example.
- **Organisational skills:** we are looking for someone who is highly organised and practical, with an eye for details.
- **Supervision skills:** must have excellent interpersonal and management skills. You will need to be able to inspire and motivate others.
- **Flexibility:** being flexible in the hours worked to fluctuating demand.
- **Adaptability:** being able to live and work with people from different backgrounds and willingness to get your hands dirty.
- **Good physical condition:** being able to work and hike in hot weather conditions.

Requirements:

Essential

- Minimum of BSc in biology, ecology, zoology, conservation, or related field
- Passion for conservation and wildlife
- Team-work oriented
- Ability to work independently under minimal supervision
- Excellent English written and oral communication skills
- Experience of data collection and analysis
- Clean driving license
- Confident communicator who is able to relate well to people from diverse background

- MS Office especially Excel
- Flexible, willing to work at night

Desirable

- MSc in biology, ecology, zoology, conservation, or related field
- Experience of field research with carnivores, preferably in Africa
- Experience of ArcGIS mapping, digitising and home range analysis
- Good understanding of current concepts in African conservation as well as issues in environmental science, policy, and management
- 4x4 off road driving experience
- FGASA or equivalent qualifications

Position information:

Duration: this is an 8-month position with a possibility of extension to 1 year. Exact start dates to be determined with the applicant.

Location: this position is based in our office in Lilongwe, at Barefoot Lodge & Safaris. The house is equipped with a gas stove, flushing toilet and a shower. You will have a partitioned room in a communal space equipped with a bed, some shelving and a solar lamp as Malawi has fluctuating power access. You will be sharing the house with up to 3 other staff members.

Costs: CRM will cover accommodation, all work-related travel including airport transfers. You will be provided with a food allowance covering 3 meals per day. You will also receive a sim card upon arrival with a data plan of 27.5GB per month. You will be required to cover your own flights, all related visas costs (prior to arrival if applicable and extension), vaccination, and insurance costs. Any personal expenses or additional trips will not be covered by CRM.

Application process:

To apply, complete the digital application form. You can find it [here](#) or on the website in the vacancies page. If you have any questions, feel free to send an email to operations@conservationresearchafrica.org.