



CARNIVORE RESEARCH MALAWI

Research Assistant

Job Application Pack



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A Project of Conservation Research Africa



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 known as 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](#). CRM works in collaboration with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Malawi (DNPW) and conducts three core activities:

1. **Applied research for wildlife conservation management:** by establishing long-term carnivore monitoring and ecology projects to assess species status, threats and provide conservation recommendations; as well as a number of smaller student projects to facilitate and inform long-term conservation management of carnivore populations and their habitats. Project results are used to update IUCN species status reports and assist DNPW in long-term population monitoring and protected area management.
2. **Education and awareness** of the ecological role of carnivores, human wildlife conflict mitigation, biodiversity and related issues through comprehensive community based education programmes.
3. **Capacity building:** to increase project effectiveness and long-term success by building capacity in ecological research, biodiversity monitoring and management for DNPW, students from the Lilongwe University of Natural Resources through training courses, attachment programmes and postgraduate research projects at MSc and PhD level.



Duties

Currently, CRM has two main research priorities: assessing the urban ecology of spotted hyaena and a behaviour study that compares the boldness of spotted hyaena in rural and urban areas of Malawi.

You will also be part of any other ongoing and upcoming projects during your time with CRM. You will be based in the city of Lilongwe with regular and extended visits to the fly camp in Kasungu National Park (KNP), depending on accessibility.

Some of the activities you will be actively involved in:

- Radio tracking spotted hyaena at night
- Immobilisation of carnivores for collaring, snare removal and sample collection
- Conducting camera trap surveys
- Conducting behavioural observations of hyaena
- Collecting faecal samples and conducting diet analysis
- Creating and maintaining a complete and coherent database
- Conducting den checks
- Cleaning and maintaining equipment and inventory
- Developing awareness and education materials about carnivores and the project
- Assisting the outreach team in responding to community calls to our Wildlife Assistance Helpline, to assist communities experiencing human carnivore conflict
- Producing project reports, grant proposals, newsletters, etc.
- Maintaining website and social media channels
- Supervising local students during industrial attachments
- Leading and managing small teams of volunteers and students



Person Specification & Contract Conditions

Requirements

- Minimum of BSc, in ecology, conservation or similar field
- Excellent team-work skills, written and oral communication skills in English
- Clean driving license
- Passion for conservation and wildlife
- Computer literacy especially MS Office Excel
- Positive mental attitude, resilient, ability to muck in and get on with it
- Hard work ethic, flexible and conscientious approach
- Good physical condition to be able work and hike in hot weather conditions
- Be willing to work late hours

Desirable

- MSc in biology, ecology, zoology, conservation, or related field
- At least 6 months experience of field research
- Experience of field research with carnivores preferably in Africa
- A good understanding of current concepts in African conservation as well as issues in environmental science, policy and management
- 4x4 off road driving experience
- Experience of ArcGIS/QGIS mapping, digitizing and home range analysis

Timing: This is an 8-month position with a possibility of extension. Position to start in August 2023, exact dates to be discussed with applicants.

Location: This position is based in our urban camp in Lilongwe. The camp is equipped with a gas stove, flushing toilet and a shower. This is a shared living arrangement where you will be sharing accommodation with other members of the CRA team and volunteers.

Conditions: This is an unpaid role. CRM will cover accommodation, all work-related travel including airport transfers, and provide ingredients for 3 basic meals a day which are cooked communally on a shared rotation basis. The use of a shared vehicle for non-work, local use within Lilongwe is permitted subject to availability. In addition to office wifi, CRM will provide a local sim card and a reasonable amount of cellular data to cover work related activities. You will be required to cover your own flights, all visa related costs (prior to arrival if applicable and extension), vaccination, and insurance costs. Any personal expenses or additional trips will not be covered by CRM.

Explore Malawi

While you are with CRM you will have time off to venture further afield to explore Malawi. Malawi is an amazing country; known as the "Warm heart of Africa" it is culturally and ecologically diverse with plenty to see from mountain

rainforests to the lake of stars, you won't be disappointed.



A trip to Malawi would not be complete without snorkelling in the crystal clear waters of Lake Malawi, infamous for hundreds of endemic cichlid species. Relax on the beach or kayak out for a stay on one of the remote islands in Lake Malawi National Park. A visit to Nyika plateau when the orchids are in bloom or down to

Mount Mulanje at 3000m high with its endemic upland rainforests are also a must.

How to apply?

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 please send an email to paula@carnivoreresearchmalawi.org and operations@conservationresearchafrica.org.