



Carnivore Research Malawi

Spotted Hyaena Research Assistant Required

Based in Liwonde National Park

Conservation Research Africa (CRAs) is a charity in England and Wales that conducts and supports applied research to inform conservation and wildlife management in Africa. Based in Malawi, CRAs flagship project is **Carnivore Research Malawi** (formerly Wild Dog Conservation Malawi) which conducts **applied research, conservation and education** to conserve carnivores in Malawi. Find out more about our work here: www.carnivoresearchmalawi.org.

We are conducting behavioural ecology field research to assess the ecology of spotted hyaena population in Liwonde National Park, to inform conservation management. (www.carnivoresearchmalawi.org). We are currently recruiting for a Research Assistant for our spotted hyaena research project based in our research camp in Liwonde National Park.

Duties:

- Radio tracking spotted hyaena in Liwonde National Park at night
- Conducting camera trap surveys
- Conducting behavioural observations and habituation of hyaena
- Collecting faecal samples for diet analysis
- Creating and maintaining a photographic database of hyaena using MS Access
- Creating and updating ArcGIS habitat and sightings maps
- Vegetation surveys
- Large mammal prey transect surveys
- Organising work schedules and maintaining equipment
- Maintain project budgets and spending records

- Manage volunteers and volunteer schedules
- Attend and contribute to project meetings if required
- Be flexible in the hours worked to fluctuating demand
- Work closely and co-operatively with other team members, and network internationally representing the project with organisations such as IUCN etc.
- Fulfil all administrative requirements on time and accurately
- Maintain accurate records of work activities and data entry in a Microsoft Access database
- Produce project reports, newsletters, bulletins etc as required

Person Specification Summary:

- We are looking for someone with:
- **Maturity:** We are looking for someone with a mature mental attitude to be the representative of CRM in the field, and lead by example.
- **Inspirational Leadership skills:** You will need to be a great leader, able to inspire and motivate the team.
- **Organisational skills:** We are looking for someone who is highly organised and practical, with an eye for detail.
- **Management skills:** you must have excellent interpersonal and management skills.
- **Maturity** is a must, as well as the ability to work maintain the motivation and research output despite the many daily challenges of working in Malawi.
- The position is field based and will require field work at night and in the day. Therefore you will need to be willing to be based in remote environments at rustic field camps. The post offers an excellent opportunity for career development for a researcher with research skills who is interested in applied conservation biology, carnivores and human-wildlife conflict.

Requirements

Essential:

- Minimum of BSc, in ecology, conservation or similar field
- Experience of working and living in remote environments, preferably in Africa
- Excellent team-work skills, written and oral communication skills
- Clean driving license
- Proven experience in leading a team with minimum supervision including personnel management skills
- A confident communicator who is able to relate well to people from diverse backgrounds
- Passion for conservation and wildlife
- Computer literacy: MS Office, including Access; Photoshop, ArcGIS
- Positive mental attitude, resilient, ability to muck in and get on with it
- Hard work ethic, flexible and conscientious approach
- Be willing to track and observe hyaenas at night
- 4x4 off road driving experience
- Ability to work independently under minimal supervision
- Experience of data collection and analysis under minimal supervision

Desirable

- 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
- Experience of ArcGIS mapping, digitising and home range analysis
- MSc or PhD in ecology, zoology, biology

- FAGASA equivalent qualifications

Contract conditions

Timing: This is an 8 month position commencing from March 2016 with a possibility of extension to 1 year.

Location: You will be based in our research camp in Liwonde National Park



(www.carnivoreresearchmalawi.org/liwonde.html). The CRM research camp is located at Mvuu camp, a Central African Wilderness Safaris Lodge on the banks of the mighty Shire river (<http://cawsmw.com/index.php/lodges/mvuu-camp/>) in Liwonde National Park.

The park harbours an abundant wildlife population including elephant, reedbuck, waterbuck and sable, hippo, buffalo, zebra, roan, eland and black rhino. Living in camp you will be on permanent safari, with regular visits to camp by elephants, hippos, warthogs and monkey.



Your accommodation will consist of a tent in the wildlife with a bed and access to flushing toilets and hot showers. You may be sharing your tent with other staff (dependent upon volunteer numbers at this time). There is power, and limited cell network and wifi.

Costs: CRM will cover accommodation and all work related travel including airport transfers. You will be required to cover your own flights, visas, and insurance and vaccination costs.

Application process

To apply please send a completed application form (www.carnivoreresearchmalawi.org/vacancies.html) and covering letter (outlining why you think you would be suitable for the post) and a CV is you wish to Dr Emma Stone on emma@conservationresearchafrica.org.