



Research Internship Opportunities

Mpala Research Centre, Laikipia

About Mpala

In the heart of Laikipia County, where golden savannah stretches to the horizon and the calls of over 550 bird species fill the air, lies Mpala, a living laboratory unlike any other. Here, scientists, students, and conservationists from around the world work side by side, tackling urgent global challenges, from protecting endangered species to understanding climate change, from studying human-wildlife coexistence to advancing public health.

At Mpala, research is not confined to books or screens, it is lived, breathed, and experienced in the wild. For those ready to immerse themselves in science at its source, Mpala is more than a workplace, it's a place where your work becomes part of the story of conservation.

About the Project:

Mpala is part of an exciting international project developing a non-invasive early-warning system for crop-raiding elephants using in-house vibration (seismic) sensors.

This multidisciplinary initiative brings together ecology, engineering, data science, and conservation practice to analyze ground vibrations created by elephant movement, identify behavior patterns linked to crop-raiding, and transmit real-time alerts to nearby communities.

The project is funded under the UK-led "Asili" programme by the University of Exeter and delivered in collaboration with:

- University of Nairobi (Chiromo Campus)
- Center for Ecosystem Restoration Kenya (Limuru)
- Earth Rover Program (UK/global)
- Lion Landscapes (UK/East Africa)

This work builds on many years of elephant seismology research at Mpala and is now moving into an exciting prototype phase with strong potential for real community impact.

About The Role

We are offering two (2) internship positions for individuals eager to gain hands-on experience in field research and conservation technology.

Interns will:

- Support deployment and maintenance of seismic sensors in the field

- Assist in field data collection alongside researchers and rangers
- Support data cleaning, organization, and basic analysis
- Contribute to ongoing research activities and team coordination
- Gain exposure to wildlife research, engineering applications, and conservation science

Qualifications

- Degree or ongoing studies in Ecology, Wildlife, Environmental Science, or related field
- Strong interest in field research and conservation
- Willingness to work in remote field conditions
- Basic data handling skills (training provided)
- Teamwork, adaptability, and eagerness to

What We offer

- Practical, hands-on training in your chosen field
- Mentorship from experienced professionals
- Exposure to a vibrant conservation and research environment
- A supportive and collaborative learning atmosphere

How to Apply

Send in your application to jobs@mpala.org with a single PDF document containing, a brief introduction of yourself and your CV. Application Deadline 24th April 2026