



Research Job Opportunities

Engineer/Physicist

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 analyse ground vibrations created by elephant movement, identify behaviour 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 looking to hire an Engineer/Physicist for a contractual period of up to two (2) years. With a start date in May 2026. The project includes regular collaboration meetings, Kenya-based workshops, and a

one-month visit to Exeter within the first six months

You will:

- Develop real-time data transfer systems from vibration sensors to the cloud
- Build and implement on-sensor edge computing capability for early warning alerts
- Work with conservation scientists to interpret elephant movement and behavioural signals
- Support integration of field data into usable alert systems for communities
- Collaborate with international engineering and research partners

Qualifications

- MSc or PhD in Engineering, Physics, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, or related field
- Experience in sensor systems, embedded systems, or IoT technologies
- Strong proficiency in Python and data processing
- Experience with real-time data systems or cloud integration
- Knowledge of signal processing or time-series data is an advantage
- Experience in field-based or applied research projects preferred

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