



Research Job Opportunities

Wildlife Conservation Scientist/ Ecologist

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 seeking a conservation scientist, ecologist, or wildlife management graduate with strong field experience and interest in behavioral ecology and data-driven conservation.

You will:

- Work closely with rangers and elephant experts to deploy seismic sensors in the field
- Collect and manage vibrational time-series data from elephant movement
- Analyze behavioural patterns using statistical and machine learning approaches
- Translate field observations into insights that guide system development
- Contribute to the design of the early-warning model

Qualifications

- MSc or higher in Ecology, Wildlife Management, Conservation Biology, or related field
- Experience in wildlife field research and data collection
- Strong skills in data analysis (R or Python preferred)
- Experience with large mammals or savannah ecosystems is an advantage
- Familiarity with ecological monitoring or field sensors is desirable
- Ability to work in remote field conditions

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