



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and  
Environmental Studies



SAVE THE ELEPHANTS



Master's Degree Studentships (Two Grants), 2024,  
Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental  
Studies, University of Nairobi

funded by:  
The Wyss Academy for Nature (Hub East Africa), and  
Save the Elephants.

Wildlife Dispersal Areas and Migratory Corridors  
in a Pastoralist Landscape: Interactions between  
Wildlife, Humans and Livestock.

## Introduction

The [Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies](#) (WMI) at the [University of Nairobi](#) (UoN), The [Wyss Academy for Nature](#) (Hub East Africa), and [Save the Elephants](#) hereby invite applications for TWO Master's degree scholarships based at the WMI. The scholarships are funded by the Wyss Academy for Nature (Hub East Africa) and Save the Elephants.

## Research Focus

These MSc studentships will explore how wildlife, humans and livestock interact in their use of the landscape in Laikipia, Isiolo, and Samburu counties, particularly with respect to currently designated wildlife dispersal areas and migratory corridors. The Wildlife Corridors and Migratory Routes Initiative is one of Kenya's Vision 2030 [Flagship Projects for the Environment](#), and is now being consolidated through stakeholder consultations prior to final implementation.

Each student will be required to work on one of the following two research projects:

1. Understanding the daily usage of designated Wildlife Dispersal Areas and Migratory Corridors by differing species of wildlife, livestock, and humans over time and by season.
2. Review of existing literature on socioeconomic impacts of wildlife corridors (or lack thereof) elsewhere in the world. Focus here may include cost implications, and application to the northern Kenya context.

Data collection will include questionnaires, examination of Conservancy records where applicable, as well as considerable field work and extensive literature search. Experimental manipulations should also be considered (for instance, if lions or elephants are known to regularly use a particular part of a corridor, what happens if that area is used for cattle grazing, OR in the case of socio-economic benefits of corridors, what would be the socio-economic implications of retrofitting wildlife crossing structures where they are found to be necessary?). An ability to identify local plants and animals would be helpful, as would a basic understanding of statistics. Previous use of RS/GIS packages would be beneficial.

## Eligibility Criteria

All applicants must have a Bachelor of Science degree (with First- or Upper Second-class honors) in the Natural or Environmental Sciences, or Geography, and preferably two years' experience in a research / ecological monitoring or conservation-related field

Interested candidates are requested to write a letter of application that includes:

1. A detailed and up to date curriculum vitae;
2. The preferred project to undertake between the above listed—alongside their motivation and skill-sets—with particular reference to:
  - Their interest in conservation and wildlife, and longer-term career ambitions (150 words max);

- Technical skills and interests;
  - Experience (if any) in conducting field work; and
  - Registration to any professional organization.
3. The names and contact details of two referees, one of whom must be familiar with their academic ability.

In the application include:

1. Certified academic transcripts
2. Certified degree certificate

*NOTE: Those with degree certificates from universities outside Kenya will need to have these certified by the Commission for University Education.*

## **Additional Requirements**

1. Must have excellent interpersonal skills, as research activities will involve community and multi-stakeholder engagement;
2. Must have excellent written and oral communication skills;
3. Must have the ability to work well as part of a group, and independently;
4. Willingness to undertake research in remote areas;
5. Willingness to participate in activities of the WMI, the Wyss Academy, and Save the Elephants;
6. Ability to be a full-time student for the duration of the scholarship.
7. *\*Registered or continuing MSc students at University of Nairobi will have an added advantage*

## **How to Apply**

Please send your applications to [wmi@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:wmi@uonbi.ac.ke) and copy in [hub.eaf@wyssacademy.org](mailto:hub.eaf@wyssacademy.org).

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to receiving your application (motivation letter, CV, employment and education references) via the online portal by the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024.

Hard copy applications will not be considered. Interviews will be held in person or online for short listed candidates. Incomplete applications will not be considered. For enquiries, please contact Director, Wyss Academy, East Africa Hub at <[hub.eaf@wyssacademy.org](mailto:hub.eaf@wyssacademy.org)> with a copy to [wmi@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:wmi@uonbi.ac.ke)

Commencement dates of the Postdoc will be 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024