

Master thesis idea

Time series analyses of poaching trends in the Mara, Kenya

Illegal hunting of wildlife for bushmeat and ivory is a major threat to conservation of wildlife and the integrity of protected areas in east Africa. However, recent research based on anti-poaching patrol records has provided essential insights into how patrol efforts can be optimised spatially and temporally for enhanced protection of wildlife populations in protected areas. This project takes departure in monthly records of snare removal and arrest of poachers covering 15 years from conservancies in the Mara region of Kenya. The work will involve 1 or more months of fieldwork in Kenya collating the data and conducting interviews with patrol staff, plus data analysis and write-up for publication. The candidate should have experience with quantitative data analysis (preferably time series analysis).

Logistical support will be provided by the EU funded AfricanBioServices project (<http://africanbioservices.eu/>) but application for external funding to cover fieldwork expenses (travel etc.) is required.

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