

# Graduate Research Assistant - Biodiversity Conservation & Human-Wildlife Dynamics

The Biodiversity Informatics and Social Networks Lab (BISON) at Carleton University, Ottawa is seeking a highly motivated master's student to join our team working on biodiversity conservation initiatives in Uganda's Kibale National Park. This research assistantship provides an opportunity to develop expertise in geospatial analysis, spatial software development, and human dimensions of conservation.

**Project Overview:** This position will contribute to an interdisciplinary project modeling the complex interplay between human communities and wildlife around Kibale National Park. Key goals include spatial analysis of human-animal conflicts, assessing impacts of conservation efforts on local populations, and developing open-source tools to support data-driven wildlife management strategies. The successful candidate will be advised by Dr. Dipto Sarkar and work closely with collaborators in Uganda.

## **Responsibilities:**

- Acquire, process and analyze spatial data on human settlements, animal movements, crop-raiding incidents and other human-wildlife interactions
- Develop models and visualizations to understand patterns and hotspots of human-animal conflict
- Build web-based applications and tools to support conservation decision-making
- Conduct fieldwork in Uganda to collect data and work with local partners
- Opportunity to take courses aligned with research interests

## **Qualifications:**

- Bachelor's degree in Geography, Environmental Science, Computer Science, Ecology or related field
- Demonstrated skills in GIS, spatial analysis, and data management
- Experience with programming/scripting languages (e.g. Python, R, JavaScript)
- Knowledge of principles in conservation biology, human-environment dynamics
- Ability to work in interdisciplinary teams
- Strong quantitative and analytical abilities
- Excellent written/verbal communication skills
- Field research experience in developing regions desired

This two-year master's position is funded and includes a competitive stipend, scholarships, and research/travel funds. Preferred start date is Fall 2024. Applications from underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged.

In addition to applying to the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University please send you CV, statement of interest, transcripts and three references to: [dipto.sarkar@carleton.ca](mailto:dipto.sarkar@carleton.ca). Deadline for application: **30 April 2024**.