



Carnivores, Livelihoods and Landscapes

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Student/internship – Tourism and Predator Behavior study – Kenya May – August 2026

Degree Level: Undergraduate or Masters

Duration: 4 months (4-week preparation (May), 8-week field internship (June and July) and 4-week data processing and analysis (August))

Status: Full-time (20–40 hrs/week)

Location: Fieldwork in Samburu National Reserve – Preparation and analysis location flexible

Supervisors: Mary Wykstra, Executive Director and Basil Lewela, Senior Scientist in consultation with Dr Jennie Willis and Annie Wallin (Colorado State University) and Brooke Squires (RAW Africa Ecotours).

About Action for Cheetahs in Kenya (ACK) and CaLL

Carnivores, Livelihoods and Landscapes (CaLL) is an independent, non-profit predator-focused conservation organisation registered in 2009. CaLL works in affiliation with the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) (Namibia), the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), and the Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI). CaLL's mission is to link Kenya's carnivore programmes under an integrated organisation through which conservation efforts can be strengthened to assure carnivore survival, particularly in human-influenced ecosystems.

Action for Cheetahs in Kenya (ACK) is a flagship project within CaLL. Founded in 2001, ACK is a community-based research programme dedicated to the conservation of cheetahs in Kenya through research, awareness, and community participation. Formerly, ACK projects fell under the umbrella of CCF from 2001 – 2008. We work with national and international partners to address threats, secure important habitats, monitor cheetah populations, and generate knowledge about cheetahs and their ecosystems. Field operations include monitoring and community development in the Meibae Community Conservancy (Samburu County) and implementation of a National Cheetah Survey.

For more information, visit www.actionforcheetahs.org

ACK aims to promote the conservation of cheetahs in Kenya through research, awareness and community participation. ACK works closely with local wildlife authorities and land holders to develop policies and programmes which support wildlife conservation and human livelihoods for the long-term development of sustainable human and wildlife zones.



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Position Overview

As an intern embedded within ACK's research programme, ACK is seeking a motivated researcher join our team and help translate field data into actionable conservation insights. This is an opportunity to work at the forefront of cheetah conservation, contributing directly to management decisions that shape the future of Kenya's cheetah populations. You will conduct field observations related to tourism and carnivore behavior. This internship will include one month preparation, eight weeks of field observations and four weeks of data processing.

This position offers hands-on experience across the full research pipeline: from study design and field implementation to data processing. You will work collaboratively with a multi-institutional team of researchers, wildlife managers, and conservation practitioners, gaining skills in project implementation, and translating science into conservation management proposals.

Funding & Support: This position **does not** include a tuition scholarship. ACK and RAW will provide transport (to and from study site), accommodation, food allowance, and field supplies. Mentorship in proposal writing, budgeting, and fundraising will be provided.

University Enrollment: Students currently enrolled in a study programme are expected to work with their existing university supervisors in collaboration with ACK. Students not yet enrolled or recently graduated will be considered for this internship.

Key Research Agenda

This position centers on **tourism and carnivore behavior**, with opportunities to integrate findings across behavioral, spatial, and human dimensions. Focus areas include:

- **Observation of Tourist Behavior:** A Colorado State University student will collect data on the vehicle and human behaviors at carnivore sightings
- **Observation of Predator Behavior:** Observe predator behaviors for leopard, lion and cheetah in and outside of the presence of tourist vehicles
- **Analysis of Observational Data:** Work with CSU student, advisors and consultants to analyze the data for written reports and publications

Research priorities will be refined collaboratively with academic supervisors and ACK partners to align with conservation needs, student and the intern's skills. Weekly meetings in May will refine the methodology and logistics of the project.

**Please note that this is a summarised version of a more detailed job description to be shared with shortlisted candidates.*



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Qualifications & Experience

Applicants:

- An undergraduate or Master's degree in biology, ecology, or related field is preferred
- Demonstrated independent research capacity (e.g., thesis, peer-reviewed publication, or equivalent research output)
- Basic understanding of carnivore behaviors is required
- Field readiness for intensive field work and camping in with basic living conditions
- Strong organization, communication, and collaborative skills
- Commitment to community-based conservation in Kenya

Additional Desirable Skills

- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Logistics and operational management experience

How to Apply

Submit the following as a single PDF to info@actionforcheetahs.org with the subject line:

“ACK Internship Application, 2026 – [Your Name]”

Applications will close on **12 April 2026**.

Required application materials:

- Statement of interest (1 page maximum): outline your research background, relevant skills/academic experience, and motivation for applying to this position
- CV (3 pages maximum)
- Academic transcripts (unofficial accepted)
- Two letters of recommendation — to be emailed separately by referees to the same address

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted by 20 April 2026 with interviews to follow.

**Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.*