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RESEARCH ASSISTANT - ECOLOGICAL MONITORING AT SERA RHINO SANCTUARY

Sera Wildlife Community is a non-profit community conservancy under the Northern Rangelands Trust the umbrella organization that supports 43-member Community Conservancies across northern and coastal Kenya with fundraising, technical support, governance advice and training, and security. Its mission is to develop resilient community conservancies that transform lives, secure peace, and conserve natural resources. It is a non-governmental organization headquartered in Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Meru County. More information can be found at www.nrt-kenya.org.

This immediate available position is within the Sera Wildlife Conservancy and will focus on implementing ecological monitoring as per the 2020 - 2029 Sera Rhino Sanctuary Management plan.

Purpose of the position:

Reporting to the Conservancy Manager and the Sanctuary Manager with a close working relationship with the NRT team, the Research assistant will be responsible for all ecological monitoring in Sera Wildlife Conservancy with specially focus on the ring-fenced rhino sanctuary.

This position will work closely with the Sera Conservancy Manager and Senior Research and Monitoring Coordinator (NRT HQ).

Key responsibilities.

- Supporting rhino monitoring team by ensuring all rhinos are positively identified by updating Master ID file, data entry and maintenance of KIFARU database, and producing monthly rhino monitoring reports.
- Monitoring Grevy's Zebra and reticulated giraffe population status and profiling individual animal through stripe patterns with effective use of HotSpotter.
- Supporting the Conservancy warden by assisting in data entry and maintenance of Wildlife Conservancy Management Monitoring System (WCoMMS) and producing regular reports with spatial analysis to Sera management.
- Seasonal monitoring of habitat to quantify available biomass and rangeland health. Supporting the rangelands team in ground truthing - NDVI done by remote sensing.
- Participating in biodiversity assessment for various taxa under carbon trade program.
- Taking charge of habitat restoration/ rehabilitation and monitor successes/ challenges of various prescribed restoration/ rehabilitation projects.
- Participating in seasonal aerial and ground census for large mammals.
- Monitoring and tracking trends on wildlife mortality.
- Monitoring and tracking movement of wildlife in and out of the sanctuary with specific focus on large predators especially lions and wild dogs.
- Monitoring impact of elephants on rhino habitat especially plant damages at watering holes.

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- Monitoring and reporting on daily weather forecasts from the various weather stations.
- Monitoring and reporting status of translocated wildlife (post-translocation monitoring) including tracking using radio telemetry.
- Participating in periodic ecological assessments conducted by NRT and partners.
- Developing and delivering conservation education on Sera Rhino Sanctuary.
- Working with visiting scientist to Sera on various research projects.
- Maintenance of all ecological monitoring equipment and ensuring all equipment are functional or replaced when needed.
- Performing any other duties which may be assigned to you by your immediate supervisor.

Qualifications: Education/Knowledge/Technical Skills and Experience

- A minimum of a Diploma in Conservation, Natural Resource Management or Community Development.
- A minimum of three (3) years' relevant experience.
- Demonstrated ability to think creatively and solve problems effectively.
- A strong drive for results with demonstrated ability to work both independently and as a member of team.
- In depth knowledge and demonstrated commitment to natural resource management & community development.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively in remote areas and in cross-cultural situations.
- Computer literacy in micro soft office, word, excel, power point and Emails .

If your profile matches the above job specifications, please send your application including a detailed CV highlighting relevant experience, a daytime telephone contact, email address, and the names of three professional referees to reach us by close of business on **Wednesday, 8th June 2022** addressed to: sera@nrt-kenya.org copying (cc) recruit@nrt-kenya.org

***Qualified applicants drawn from the membership of Sera community will have a distinct advantage.
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.***