



Internship report

Name of Intern: Emily Madsen

Institution: Zoological Society of London & Royal Veterinary College

Degree: Diploma/Bachelor/Masters/Other

Year: 1st/2nd/ 3rd/4th

Name of degree/course: Wild Animal Biology

This internship started on (date) 13/06/17 **and was completed on (date)** 2/08/17

at (location) Tony Lapham Predator Hub

Supervisor (MCP/MLP staff) Femke Broekhuis

Pre-internship (this should be filled in on the first day of the internship)

Why did you want to intern with the Mara Cheetah/Lion Project?

Since a young age I have been interested in big cats and as I have progressed through my education I have become focused on wanting to work in large carnivore in-situ conservation. The opportunity to work with a research focused in-situ conservation program such as the Mara Cheetah Project would be an amazing opportunity to further develop my understanding on what it takes to run a successful program. Learning from such well respected researchers would be invaluable as I continue my career in wildlife research and conservation.

What would you like to learn from your experience with the project?

Whilst working with the project I aim to conduct the analysis for my research on the distributions of wildlife outside of the protected areas in the Maasai Mara and to write a publication worthy report for later submission. This will help me to gain skills in data analysis and scientific writing which will be important for continuing my career. As well as conducting this research project for my master's degree I would also like to gain a broader understanding of the research conducted by the field teams for both cheetah and lion. I would also like to learn about the community work that the projects are involved in.

A. Post-internship (this should be filled in on the last day of the internship)

What activities did you do during your internship?

Whilst at the Tony Lapham Predator Hub I succeeded in completing my research project and writing my thesis for my master's degree for which I was awarded a merit and had the second highest score for my report in my year. For my project I was using the 2015 interview survey data and as the same survey was being repeated whilst I was with the team I was able to join Michael when he went out to meet the interviewers and collect the data. This gave me more context as I was able to see the areas that I was then talking about in my report and improved my ability to explain my results in my oral defense of my project. I also took part in the data collection in the field regularly undertaken by the team and observed the work of each member of the team on a day to day basis. Toward the end of my project I presented my results to a number of stakeholders and representatives in the Mara including KWS and MMWCA.

What did you learn during your internship?

During my internship I greatly improved on my data analysis and writing skills. I also improved on my verbal communication skills through my presentation and this also helped to improve my confidence when presenting which will be very important in my future career as effective communication of research findings is key to conservation. My understanding of the requirements to efficiently collect data for the long term study of wildlife has greatly improved. I also improved my general African wildlife knowledge and can now easily identify the majority of mammal species located in the Mara. My understanding of the ecology of lion and cheetah (as well as a number of other species) has improved. All of these factors have meant that my experiences with the Mara Cheetah Project were invaluable and will be key to my ongoing career working in conservation.

Which team members did you interact with?

Whilst at the Tony Lapham Predator Hub I mostly interacted with Femke as my supervisor and then Michael when we went out collecting the survey data. I did however spend time with all the members of the team both in the office and in the field.

Comments

I found all the members of the team to be extremely welcoming and helpful. I also found Femke and Nic to be excellent mentors able to provide me with invaluable advice as I continue my career and education. I felt that I was welcomed not only as a student but also as a friend by the whole team.

Intern

Name: Emily Madsen

Signature: 

Date: 07/10/2017

Project Personnel

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____