Partner Organization Project Proposal
Conservation Leadership through Learning - Colorado State University

Thank you for your interest in CLTL. We are excited to work with you to develop Final Project opportunities for our students. Please read through our Project Partner webpage, and then fill out this project interest form to let us know about your project ideas.

Organization Information
Organization Name: Round River Conservation Studies
Primary Contact: Doug Milek
Office Phone Number: Alternate Phone Number:
Primary Contact Email:

Project Information
Students will participate in coursework at CSU from August 2016 to May 2017. In-situ work will commence June 2017 and be completed by October 1, with all deliverables completed by December 1, 2017.

☑️ Please check this box to acknowledge these dates.

Brief Project Description:
Wildlife monitoring in the Kunene Region of northwest Namibia is primarily accomplished through a region-wide annual game count each June jointly conducted by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), regional Conservancies and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). For the last ten years, Conservancy, MET and WWF staff have jointly carried out these game counts.

To complement and supplement the information on wildlife populations in the Kunene region, Round River Conservation Studies works with MET and 5 Kunene Conservancies to complete additional wildlife surveys in October-November and March-April of each year. The data collection protocols allow for both distance sampling and strip count analyses. Conservancy staff and Game Guards are trained in all survey methods and are present on all surveys to enhance and expand their skills and experiences. Game guards are increasingly able to also participate and assist with data processing and management as we continue to provide training in technologies including computer and spreadsheet software use.

In addition to this sampling, interviews were conducted with local communities gaining information on waterhole locations. These locations were later ground-truthed, and assessments made on their use for wildlife and livestock. There is a need to revisit this effort and again document presence of waterholes, and how they are being utilized by wildlife, people, and livestock.

Below are the project criteria. Please check each criterion the project would likely meet.

☑️ Community-based: on-the-ground work at a community/regional level, including interactions with and/or exposure to local decision-makers and/or stakeholders
☑️ Multi-disciplinary: analysis and investigation of a conservation issue through multiple lenses (e.g., ecological, economic, social, political)
☑️ Cross-cultural: opportunities for students to interact with individuals and/or in a culture vastly different than their own
☑️ Networking: opportunities for students to interact with other conservation professionals

Final projects should provide opportunities for students to apply knowledge from their CLTL coursework. Please check the topics the proposed project would address:

☑️ Biodiversity ☑️ Systems thinking
☑️ Governance/Decision-making ☑️ Policy
☑️ Facilitation ☑️ Ecosystem services
☑️ Spatial analysis ☑️ Collaborative conservation
☑️ Social science research methods ☑️ Ecological research methods
☑️ Multi-level views of conservation ☑️ Outreach
Students are required to provide their project partner with a professional-level deliverable (e.g., management plan, technical report, communication materials, set of policy briefs, series of podcasts, etc.). Please provide a brief description of potential deliverables for your project:

The wildlife surveys require working closely with local partners, providing data to the larger database, analysis, and contribution to the annual report.

The waterhole surveys would require reporting on the presence and utilization of water.

Please describe the project team, including who the student(s) would likely work with at the project site or if it would be mostly independent:

CLTL students would work closely with RRCS field researchers and undergraduate students, game guards from Conservancies and Save the Rhino Trust. Waterhole surveys would also involve interviews in local communities with tribal leaders.

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**Project Details**

**Project location (city, state/province, country):** Kunene Region, Namibia

**Desired Number of Students:** Min 1 Max 4

Please indicate in-kind support, if any, the student would receive (check all that apply):

- [ ] Room and board during fieldwork
- [x] Translators
- [ ] Travel to/from U.S. to project location
- [ ] Additional support

Please describe:

Translators are necessary within certain more rural areas where tribal languages are spoken. Round River operates an undergraduate student program that will be conducting similar surveys and personnel may be shared.

**Preferred/Required skills and experience of the student(s):**

**Language proficiency:**
- [ ] Preferred
- [x] Required
- Specify language:

**Technical skills:**
- [x] Preferred
- [ ] Required

Please specify: Familiarity with ecological data collection and ecological processes.

**Prior experience in country/region:**
- [ ] Preferred
- [x] Required

Please describe the connectivity at project site (e.g., internet access, mobile phone coverage):

Cellular coverage is increasing throughout the region, and there is often coverage even in rural areas. Internet is available in most towns and cities. Satellite phones are used if desired for emergencies.

**Additional Comments:**

Performing research in Namibia may require a permit through the Ministry of Home Affairs and associated fee.

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Thank you for proposing a CLTL Final Project. We will contact you with any further questions about the proposed projects. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at Terra.Smith@colostate.edu. We look forward to working with you.