

**OWINO OTIENO RAYMOND**  
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### Summary of qualifications

- Over 5 years of experience in ecological research, conservation, and geospatial analysis across multiple field-based projects.
- Proven track record in project coordination and management within conservation and research programs.
- Strong quantitative and qualitative research skills, including data analysis using R/RStudio, ArcGIS Pro, and QGIS.
- Experience in grant writing, project reporting, and stakeholder communication.

### Personal profile

I am an early-career wildlife biologist specializing in medium sized and large mammal ecology and conservation in East Africa. My research focuses on improving methodological rigor in wildlife studies, including evaluating sampling biases in photographic mark–recapture surveys of giraffes and elephants.

I have also conducted research on foraging ecology and human–wildlife conflict involving the endangered reticulated giraffe in Garissa, Kenya, an ecologically significant yet under-studied region along the Kenya–Somalia border within the Horn of Africa biodiversity hotspot.

### EDUCATION

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**PhD in Natural Resources (Wildlife Conservation & Management)** – Ongoing  
The University of Arizona — Tucson, Arizona.

**Master of Science (Biology of Conservation)** 2020 – 2023  
The University of Nairobi — Nairobi, Kenya.  
Thesis: *The influence of invasive species on diet selection by the reticulated giraffe along the Kenya-Somali border.*

**Bachelor of Science (Wildlife Management)** 2013 – 2017  
Maasai Mara University — Narok, Kenya.  
Project: *Assessing the impact of planned grazing on rangeland use by wildlife in the Mara triangle.*

### PROFESSIONAL TRAINING (5)

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**Tropical Biology Association (2022)** — Field Course in Tropical Ecology & Conservation

- Covered ecology concepts, conservation biology, experimental design, and sampling methods.

**Conservation Leadership Programme (2021)** — Conservation Management & Leadership Skills

- Training in leadership, project planning, behavior change, communications, fundraising, and gender in conservation.

**Training Center for Communication, Nairobi, Kenya (2021)** — Scientific Communication & Publishing

- Focused on manuscript writing, research proposal development, and data management/analysis.

**University of Wyoming (2019)** — Field Ecology Course, Mpala Research Centre, Nanyuki

- Lead instructor: Dr. Jacob Goheen.

**Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) (2016)** — Geospatial Database Development & Remote Sensing

- ArcGIS, digital image processing, and GPS applications.

### **RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS (Total \$34,110)**

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2026 – University of Arizona: Anonymous donor	– \$4500
2026 – University of Arizona: Graduate and Professional Student Council awards	– \$3015
2026 – American Society of Mammalogists: Honoraria and Travel Awards	– \$1000
2025 – University of Arizona: Rafe Sagarin Travel Award	– \$1500
2025 – University of Arizona: Centennial Award	– \$500
2025 – Joint annual meeting Arizona and New Mexico: Best Student Presentation	– \$250
2024 – University of Arizona: Carson Scholars Graduate Program	– \$5000
2024 – American Society of Mammalogists: Honoraria and Travel Awards	– \$600
2022 – American Society of Mammalogists: African Research Fellowship	– \$1500
2022 – Conservation Leadership Programme: Travel grant	– \$1250
2021 – Society for Conservation Biology: Diet selection by the reticulated giraffe	– \$1000
2021 – Conservation Leadership Programme: Reducing human-giraffe conflict	– \$14,995

### **MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION / REVIEW (3)**

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**Owino, R. O.,** Hawkins, I., Noordermeer, I., Mercer, M. R., Stanton, L. A., Goheen, J. R., & Alston, J. M.

Human shields alter antipredator behavior in Guenther’s dik-dik (*Madoqua guentheri*).

Submitted to *journal of mammalogy*. Preprint: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.09.07.674752>

**Owino, R. O.,** Golding, J., Sangale, E. L., Ali, A. H., & Alston, J. M.

Crop raiding as an emerging threat to giraffes: Drivers and perceived effectiveness of countermeasures. Preprint: <https://doi.org/10.64898/2026.05.01.722334>

**Owino, R. O.,** & Alston, J. M.

The influence of invasive species on diet selection by the reticulated giraffe along the Kenya–Somalia border. In preparation for submission to *Journal of Mammalogy*.

### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (3)**

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1. **Principle investigator:** [Reducing human-giraffe conflict along the Kenya-Somalia border - 2021](#)

- Designed and conducted farmer surveys to assess (1) frequency of crop raiding, (2) mitigation strategies, and (3) attitudes toward giraffe conservation.
- Experimentally tested deterrent methods using predator calls (lion roars), human vocalizations, motion-sensor floodlights, and Bluetooth playback systems.

- Estimated giraffe density and abundance using photographic mark–recapture and distance sampling techniques.
- 2. Principle investigator:** [The influence of invasive species on diet selection by the reticulated giraffe along the Kenya-Somali border - 2021](#)
    - Quantified giraffe foraging behavior and diet composition across native and invasive plant species.
    - Analyzed nutritional content of forage and documented activity patterns related to feeding ecology.
  - 3. Co-principle investigator:** [Habituation could lead to relaxed antipredator behavior among dik-diks.](#)
    - Investigated effects of human activity on flight initiation distance.
    - Conducted playback experiments comparing responses to predator vocalizations (hyena), threatening bird calls, and non-threatening bird songs.
    - Assessed how habituation influences antipredator responses.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (5)**

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### **1. Data & Reporting Manager (Volunteer)**

Mara Elephant Project — Kenya

*January 2023 – June 2023*

- Managed and updated geospatial databases (TPKs) using ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS Online, QGIS, and EarthRanger.
- Produced spatial outputs (e.g., elephant movement and patrol speed maps) using Python notebooks.
- Trained monitoring teams in QGIS and supported field data collection
- Managed wildlife tracking technologies (GPS collars, Garmin inReach, TerraChart) with near real-time monitoring via EarthRanger.
- Generated monthly operational and analytical reports.

### **2. Research & Conservation Manager**

Hirola Conservation Programme & Somali Giraffe Project — Garissa, Kenya

*May 2018 – September 2021*

- Designed and implemented field research on hirola conservation, including habitat restoration, diet/nutrition, and predator awareness.
- Developed grant proposals to secure funding from international donors.
- Coordinated field logistics and trained local scouts in ecological methods (e.g., distance sampling).
- Oversaw data collection, management, and analysis to ensure quality and consistency.
- Supervised students, interns, and volunteers in field research techniques.
- Prepared technical and financial reports for donors and stakeholders.
- Contributed to manuscript development (literature reviews, data analysis, editing).
- Led science communication and stakeholder engagement via social media.

### **3. Geospatial Technician Intern**

Kenya Electricity Generating Company — Naivasha, Kenya

*January 2018 – April 2018*

- Designed geothermal well pads and conducted spatial analysis using ArcGIS and QGIS.

- Performed data cleaning, georeferencing, digitization, and projection tasks.
  - Conducted topographical and route surveys, including profiling.
  - Monitored environmental variables (e.g., lake levels, noise levels).
  - Supported ecological baseline surveys and site restoration efforts.
  - Produced technical reports.
- 4. Community-Based Conservation Intern**  
Ol Chorro Oirua & Mara North Conservancies — Narok, Kenya  
*January 2016 – May 2016*
- Developed and managed geospatial databases using ArcGIS.
  - Supported human–wildlife conflict mitigation, including compensation claim verification.
  - Conducted community outreach and participated in natural resource management meetings.
  - Assisted in monitoring endangered species (e.g., white rhino).
- 5. Research Assistant (Volunteer)**  
National Museums of Kenya — Kisumu, Kenya  
*December 2014 – May 2015*
- Developed and managed databases for heritage and archaeological sites.
  - Verified land ownership documentation (title deeds, allotment letters).
  - Contributed to proposal writing and technical reporting.
  - Participated in community-based natural resource management initiatives.
  - Supported capacity building in computing skills.

## PRESENTATIONS

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### *Conference talks*

- Owino, R. O.**, Wells, H., Alston, J. M.,  
Native leguminous trees facilitate invasion of an East Africa savanna by prickly pears. *Tri-national Symposium 2026 in Ajo, Arizona.*
- Owino, R. O.**, Golding, J., Sangale, E.L, Ali, A. H., Alston, J. M.,  
Crop raiding: an emerging threat to giraffe conservation. *Joint annual meeting Arizona and New Mexico 2026 in Sedona, Arizona.*
- Owino, R. O.**, Hawkins, I., Noordermeer, I., Mercer, M. R., Stanton, L. A., Goheen, J. R., Alston, J. M.  
Animals acclimated to humans show relaxed antipredator Habituation behavior: the case of Guenther’s dik-diks. *The Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI) the 2nd International Wildlife Scientific Conference 2025, Naivasha, Kenya.*
- Owino, R. O.**, Hawkins, I., Noordermeer, I., Mercer, M. R., Stanton, L. A., Goheen, J. R., Alston, J. M.  
Animals acclimated to humans show relaxed antipredator Habituation behavior: the case of Guenther’s dik-diks. *Joint annual meeting Arizona and New Mexico 2025 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.*
- Owino, R. O.**, Know your favorite giraffe species and how to help save them!  
Carson Scholarship public lightning talks. Tumamoc Hill, March 6<sup>th</sup> Tumamoc Hill boathouse.
- Owino, R. O.**, Community-based approach for giraffe conservation in Kenya.

Earth Week 2025, School of Natural Resources and the Environment.

### **Posters presentation**

1. **Owino, R. O.**, Hawkins, I., Noordermeer, I., Mercer, M. R., Stanton, L. A., Goheen, J. R., Alston, J. M.  
Habituation to human could lead to relaxed antipredator behavior among dik-diks. *Joint annual meeting Arizona and New Mexico 2024 in Flagstaff, Arizona.*
2. **Owino, R. O.**, Hawkins, I., Noordermeer, I., Mercer, M. R., Stanton, L. A., Goheen, J. R., Alston, J. M.  
Habituation to human could lead to relaxed antipredator behavior among dik-diks. *America Society of Mammalogists, Boulder, Colorado, 2024.*
3. **Owino, R. O.**, Hawkins, I., Noordermeer, I., Mercer, M. R., Stanton, L. A., Goheen, J. R., Alston, J. M.  
Habituation to human could lead to relaxed antipredator behavior among dik-diks. Earth Week School of Natural Resources and the Environment.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE (3 courses, 160 students)**

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#### **Graduate Teaching Assistantship**

1. WFSC 444 - Wildlife Ecology, Conservation, and Management
  - Fall 2023 in person class: enrolment 30 undergraduate and 4 graduate students.
  - Fall 2024 in person class: enrolment 48 undergraduate and 1 graduate students.
2. WFSC 445/545 - Population Ecology
  - Spring 2025 in person class: enrolment 33 undergraduate and 1 graduate student.
3. RNR 321 – Ecological Surveys and Sampling
  - Spring 2025 in person class: enrolment 43 undergraduate students.
  - Spring 2026 in person class: enrolment 40 undergraduate students.

### **REVIEW SERVICES & MENTORSHIP (40)**

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1. **African Research Fellowship (16)**
  - Graduate grant proposal review 2024.
  - Graduate grant proposal review 2025.
2. **Students mentorship (24)**
  - Masters students (4).
  - Undergraduate students (6).
  - Liverman fellows (14)

### **MEDIA COVERAGE (4)**

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1. Boots on the ground podcast: [Young Voices in Conservation with Owino Raymond.](#)
2. Mara Elephant Project: [Meet a Young Kenyan Conservationist Working with MEP to Spark the Next Generation.](#)
3. The WILDLABS Community: [Tech4Wildlife Leaders: Resolving Human-Giraffe Conflict.](#)
4. Society for Conservation Biology: [Member Spotlight: Owino Otieno Raymond.](#)

### **MEMBERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION (4)**

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1. Society for Conservation Biology
2. WildLABs Network

3. Conservation Leadership Alumni network
4. American Society of Mammologist.

**PROFESSIONAL REFERENCE**

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*Available upon request*