



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

Nature-WEB Africa (NatWEB) is a firm that exists for research work and informatics in the fields of wildlife ecology (W), ecosystems and forestry management (E), and biodiversity conservation (B) in Africa. Our goal is to build on reliable research outputs and quality informatics in developing, supporting and promoting nature conservation and environmental management efforts/projects, beginning with data deficient areas and key ecosystems across the African Continent. Having completed a successful year in Malawi, the firm is looking to increase its research activity this year by engaging two undergraduate students willing to carry out their research work on specific components of the following ongoing projects;

Ecology of fires across protected landscapes in the Afromontane regions of Malawi: Opportunity is available within this project for a student to specifically work on revealing the spatial and temporal dynamics of fires across the Viphya plateau. Funding is here available to support an undergraduate student carry out his/her research project with an emphasis on providing leads on any significant ecological issues related to fire management on the Viphya ecosystem. Applicants for this project **MUST** have basic GIS and remote sensing skills, or be willing to put in the effort to come up to speed with minimum supervision.

Socio-economics of Alien Invasive Plants in Rural and Peri-urban settings of Malawi: Opportunity is here available for a student to specifically carry out an ethnobotanical survey of plant species co-existing with invasive pines species in either Chitipa, Dedza or Mulanje. Funding is available to support interested applicants in this project which aims at providing further insights on any short- or long-term ecological impacts of pine invasions on agroecosystems of rural and peri-urban communities in Malawi. Applicants for this project **MUST** be willing to travel to remote areas and be capable of learning under pressure.

Eligibility: Eligibility will be based on the following criteria;

- Enrolment in an ecology related undergraduate degree program such as Biodiversity Conservation, Forestry, Natural Resources/Environmental Management. (Honours students will have an added advantage).
- Ability to provide evidence of above-average academic performance, including in research related courses.
- Good interpersonal skills; evidence of internships, student-placements or participation in community driven initiatives will be an added advantage.
- Genuine interest in the selected research project.
- Readiness/willingness to work on tight deadlines and mature enough to learn under minimum supervision.

Application procedure: Interested applicants should submit their application dossier to projects@natwebafrica.org no later than 16:00hrs on the 18th February, 2022. Applications should include;

- A maximum two-paged cover letter clearly explaining the students' motivation for the specific research project they're interested in.
- A reference letter from their academic supervisor commenting on the student's passion in the selected field of research.

Interested applicants must only apply for one of the two projects. Further enquiries can be made through provided contacts.

