

We are seeking a capable M.S. student for the following funded project:

Noninvasive biodiversity surveys in Africa: In partnership with Biodiversity Initiative, we are seeking an outstanding MS student to implement camera and environmental DNA (eDNA) surveys in Central Africa. We have 1 year of camera trap data and a pilot year of eDNA sampling that the selected candidate will build upon to assess vertebrate diversity in Protected Areas and experimental forest plots on mainland Equatorial Guinea, Central Africa. Mainland Equatorial Guinea is in the midst of rapid development and we seek to provide tools to mitigate biodiversity loss and improve Protected Areas management. This project will work at the interface of burgeoning genomic tools and real-world conservation through active partnerships with Equatoguinean natural resource agencies. Please see <http://biodiversityinitiative.org/> and contact Dr. Kristin Brzeski (kbrzeski@mtu.edu) for more information.

Qualifications: The successful candidate will ideally have 1) Spanish language skills, 2) the ability to independently conduct field work in rugged, tropical conditions (i.e. Congolese lowland rainforests are hot, buggy, wet regions in which you must be comfortable working long, physical, yet rewarding, field days), 3) a strong interest in field and molecular research as well as applied conservation action, 4) quantitative skills and a strong desire to learn bioinformatics, for both camera and eDNA analyses, and 5) an undergraduate degree in a related field. The successful applicant will be expected to join Biodiversity Initiative researchers for the January 2019 field season.

To apply: Applicants should create a single pdf that includes the following: 1-2-page cover letter, curriculum vitae, unofficial transcripts, and contact information for three references. In the cover letter, please include a clear statement of purpose, including what topics of scientific inquiry are most interesting and inspiring to you, and what makes you uniquely qualified for this position. Please email the pdf as an attachment to Dr. Kristin Brzeski (kbrzeski@mtu.edu) with “Wildlife MS Assistantship” in the subject line. The pdf should be named with the first and last name of the applicant. Review of applications will begin October 25, 2018 and continue until candidates are identified. Desirable applicants will be invited to apply for admission to the graduate program in Michigan Tech’s School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science (forest.mtu.edu), for a January 2019 start date. Start date can be flexible, but the idea applicant will travel to Equatorial Guinea for the January 2019 season.