

OWINO OTIENO RAYMOND
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Personal Profile

I am an early career wildlife research biologist with a major focus on large mammals in East Africa. My current research work involves studying foraging ecology, habitat restoration, and human-wildlife conflict of the endangered reticulated giraffe in Garissa. Garissa, along the Kenya-Somalia border, marks the southern extent of the horn of Africa biodiversity hotspot, an ecologically important but often neglected part of Africa.

Education and Professional Qualifications

- Masters of Science (Biology of Conservation)** **2020-2022**
University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya.
Thesis: “Assessing the ecological component of the reticulated giraffe, and examining the spatial overlap of giraffe habitat use with preferred human landscape uses along the Kenya-Somalia border.”
- Bachelor of Science (Wildlife Management)** **2013-2017**
Maasai Mara University, Narok, Kenya.
Research project: “Assessing the impact of planned grazing on rangeland use by wildlife in the mara triangle.”
- Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE)** **2011-2014**
Ambira High School, Ugunja, Kenya.

Professional Training

- Conservation Leadership Programme, 2021:** Conservation Management and Leadership Skills (Leadership, Project Planning, and Management, Behavior Change, Communications & Media, Fundraising, Gender, and Conservation).
- Training Center for Communication, Nairobi, Kenya, 2021:** Scientific Communication & Publishing (paper writing process, research proposal writing & data management analysis).
- University of Wyoming 2019:** Field Ecology course at Mpala Research in Nanyuki. Lead instructor, Dr. Jacob Goheen (see <http://goheenresearchgroup.com/index.php/courses.html>).
- Regional Center for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD)2016:** Geospatial Database Development and Management Using ArcGIS and Remote Sensing & Digital Image Processing Techniques and Global Positioning Systems.

Research Grants, Projects, and Awards

1. **Reducing human-giraffe conflict along the Kenya-Somalia border** - Conservation Leadership Programme 2021 – (\$14,995). (<https://www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org/project/sustained-farming-giraffe-population-kenya-somalia-border/>).
2. **The Influence of Invasive Species and Competition on Diet Selection by the Reticulated Giraffe Along the Kenya-Somali Border** - Society for Conservation Biology 2021 – (\$1000). (<https://conbio.org/publications/scb-news-blog/2021-scb-graduate-student-research-award-winners>).
3. **African Graduate Fellowship 2022** – American Society of Mammologist – (\$1500) (<http://www.mammalogy.org/committees/african-research-fellowship>)
4. **Conservation Leadership Programme travel grant 2022-** (\$1250).

Work Experience

August 2021 - Present: Undertaking individual research projects on farmers-giraffe conflict and giraffe foraging ecology in Garissa along the Kenya-Somalia border. These projects have been funded by Conservation Leadership Programme and Society for Conservation Biology respectively.

Key Roles:

- Conduct desktop reviews to redesign field study methodology to current ecological methods.
- Coordinating the field logistics within the allocated budget to achieve projects specific objectives.
- Lead data collection, management, and analysis to ensure quality.
- Training research assistants on field research techniques.
- Identify other potential grants, and develop proposals to secure funding.
- Updating database for individual giraffe identification using GiraffeSpotter.
- Ensuring effective communication between the project and donor through regular reports including providing accurate and timely financial accounting and expenditure.

May 2018 – September 2021: Research and Conservation Manager. Hirola Conservation Programme, Garissa, Kenya.

Key roles:

- Design field research studies that are commensurate with the hirola population restoration including experimental studies on habitat restoration, hirola diet & nutrition, and hirola predator awareness after decades of exclusion in the sanctuary among others.
- Aid in proposal development to secure project funding from different donor organizations.
- Coordinating field studies and logistics including training the local scouts on up-to-date field research methods (e.g., distance sampling).
- Coordinate data collection, entry, management, and analysis to ensure quality.
- Training and supervising volunteers, students, and interns on field research techniques.
- Ensuring effective communication between the project and donor through regular reports including providing accurate and timely financial accounting and expenditure.
- Contribute towards manuscript development including desktop literature review, preliminary data analysis, and reviews.
- Develop social media content to engage the stakeholders.

January – April 2018: Geospatial Technician intern. Kenya Electricity Generating Company, Naivasha, Kenya.

Key roles:

- Planning and designing geothermal well-pads using ArcGIS and QGIS.
- Spatial data editing and cleaning.
- Monitoring lake levels using various techniques.
- Topographical survey, route survey, and profiling.
- Geoprocessing; georeferencing, projections, and digitizing.
- Ecological/Baseline survey.
- Rehabilitation and restoration of original fauna species in disturbed sites
- Monitoring of noise levels.
- Report writing.

January – May 2016: Community-based conservation intern. Ol Chorro Oirua and Mara North Conservancies, Narok, Kenya.

Key roles:

- Geospatial database development and management using ArcGIS in Mara North Conservancy
- Human-wildlife conflict management; including initiating the compensation process by taking and reviewing claims.
- Community Outreach program (i.e., sensitization through education and attending community-based Natural Resource Management meetings).
- Monitoring and management of the endangered White Rhino.

December 2014 – May 2015: Research Assistant volunteer. National Museums of Kenya (Antiquities sites & Monument-Western Region), Kisumu, Kenya.

Key Roles:

- Development of a database for National Museums of Kenya (Antiquities sites & Monument-Western Region).
- Verifying sites with land title deeds and letters of allotment.
- Proposal and report writing.
- Attending Community-based natural resource management meetings.
- Capacity building (i.e., aiding to advance computing skills).

Membership and Professional Affiliation

- Society for Conservation Biology (<https://conbio.org/>).
- WildLABs Network (<https://wildlabs.net/>).
- Conservation Leadership Alumni network (<https://www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org/>).
- American Society of Mammologist (<https://www.mammalogy.org/about-asm>).

Media Coverage

Tech4Wildlife Leaders: Resolving Human-Giraffe Conflict (<https://www.wildlabs.net/resources/articles/tech4wildlife-leaders-resolving-human-giraffe-conflict>).

Member spotlight: Owino Otieno Raymond (<https://conbio.org/publications/scb-news-blog/member-spotlight-owino-otieno-raymond>).

Professional Reference

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