



Call for Application: Mammalian and avian predator diversity in agroecosystems - MSc bursary 2014/2015.

Applications are invited for an MSc project to commence in 2014, with research focusing on meso-carnivore and avian predator diversity in agroecosystems. The research project will investigate the diversity, presence/absence and diet of mammalian and avian predators in agricultural environments and how it relates to pest rodent population cycles. This research forms part of a larger project aiming to develop long term sustainable rodent pest management through Ecologically Based Rodent Management practices. The project as advertised is part of a research project that will run in conjunction with research undertaken by the Agricultural Research Council (ARC-PPRI), the University of Venda (UNIVEN) and University of Pretoria (UP). The project is further linked to research from the SARCHI Chair on Biodiversity Value & Change in the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve Hosted by University of Venda & Centre for Invasion Biology. The student will be registered at UNIVEN, and will work closely with researchers from the ARC and UP.

This research project will require extensive independent field work, and previous experience with camera trapping, scat analysis and relevant field work will be an advantage. Applicants must have a current EB driver license.

Candidates will be selected on skill and merit and must meet UNIVEN's Post Graduate entry level criteria:

Running costs and a bursary equivalent of a NRF MSc bursary for the student are secured for 2014 and 2015.

Please send an application with:

- 1) A statement of interest that explains to us what motivates you to pursue a higher degree, what kinds of questions interest you, and why you think that you will be a suitable student, with examples of your ability to be organized and work independently.
- 2) A detailed CV that includes your relevant work experience.
- 3) Copies of your Academic transcripts.
- 4) Name and contact details of two references.

Closing date: 30th of December 2013. Project to start early 2014. Should you be shortlisted, we will contact you in January 2014 for a telephonic interview.

Please submit your application (or request for additional information) directly to Dr. Lourens Swanepoel (lourens.swanepoel@up.ac.za)