**INTERNSHIP WITH**
The *Institutional Canopy of Conservation (I-CAN)* Project: A Partnership between McGill University & The African Conservation Centre (ACC) in East Africa

**SUMMER 2017**

**POSITION:** Intern 6 positions  
**LOCATION:** Kenya

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**The Institutional Canopy of Conservation (I-CAN) Project**

The I-CAN program is a partnership project involving a rich network of collaborators and partners from universities, research institutions and NGOs in Canada, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, the U.S., the Netherlands, and Germany. The project looks into governance and the conservation of rangelands, wetlands and forests of the East African savannah, especially in the borderlands between Kenya and Tanzania where the world’s greatest concentration of biodiversity and its most significant repository of wildlife lies. The I-CAN research team addresses the challenge of combining protection of biodiversity with strengthened livelihoods, whether through recognizing local rights over resources, livelihood diversification, or stimulation of a new green, post-oil economy, including ecotourism. A major goal of the research is to identify the most effective designs for effective future Community-Based Conservation programs by examining the impacts of ongoing conservancy experiments on community livelihoods and members’ attitudes and practices towards natural resources. On the basis of the results obtained, critical issues of public policy – at local, national and global levels – regarding the rights and obligations of communities in managing and utilizing the natural resources on which communities depend, will be assessed. Therefore, the I-CAN project addresses in depth the conundrum of whether often-indigenous community members should be included in the management of protected areas and in conservation enterprises, as partners and stakeholders.

The African Conservation Centre, based in Nairobi, Kenya, is an independent nonprofit conservation organization. Founded in the 1970s by a small group of Kenyan nationals associated with the Wildlife Conservation Society, the organization is an African conservation hub with significant international recognition. The ACC is guided by its vision to conserve biodiversity in East Africa and beyond through collaborative application of scientific and indigenous knowledge, improved livelihoods and good governance through development of local institutions. As a result, the ACC has become a pioneer in community-based conservation, ecosystem monitoring, ecotourism, and biodiversity informatics by integrating knowledge, environment and livelihoods through cutting edge ecological research and community-based conservation practices that bring together the people and resources needed for long-term solutions.

Internships will be matched to one of 3 partner organizations:

**SORALO**

SORALO is a community-based initiative whose primary role is to bring landowners together for effective and sustainable management of natural resources over an area of approximately 1.3 million hectares (13,000 km²). Established in 2004, SORALO is a land trust that represents landowners and advocates for joint management of 16 Maasai group ranches that form the bridge between the famous Maasai Mara National Reserve and Amboseli National Park in Kenya’s South Rift. The South Rift is a region where wildlife and livestock have coexisted for over 2,000 years without significant degradation of the environment. We undertake a number of activities across this vast area, incorporating ecological, social, economic, and cultural knowledge and
perspectives. SORALO programs are based on sound information and good governance. SORALO encourages partnerships with other like-minded organizations, and use culturally appropriate approaches to solve modern problems associated with pastoralism, land tenure, and biodiversity conservation. SORALO’s main aim is to help the communities it represents conserve their land, livelihoods, and natural resources, believing that it takes multiple approaches to attend to the variety of challenges that communities in the South Rift face. As such, the work we do uses a diverse “toolkit” to plan and implement our numerous programs. Because our operations cover a huge area, we have established SORALO hubs across the South Rift, such as the Lale’enok Resource Centre in Olkiramatian, the Cultural Heritage Museum in Olorgesailie, and the Iluanat Centre in Mailwa (in development phases). Our programs are related to research, education, cultural heritage, women’s enterprise, and conservation.

IMPACT

IMPACT (Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflict Transformation) is a peace building, human rights, governance, land rights and policy advocacy and community development organization working among and with pastoralist communities to address the major problems faced by minority and indigenous people. In this regard IMPACT has been keen to tackle first and foremost, the loss of land rights, historical land injustices, exploitation of resources without participation or accruing benefits. Secondly, IMPACT has been keen to tackle problem and challenges relating to government biased development policies, social exclusion and discrimination based on descent that continue to undermine the dignity of indigenous people and minorities in key target counties of Laikipia, Isiolo, Marsabit and Samburu counties of Kenya. Their mission is to address deep-underlying causes of conflict, poverty, social and policy exclusion, environmental degradation human rights abuses and violations among the pastoralists communities of Kenya and strengthening their capacity to influence national policies, while broadening their democratic space.

ILEPA

The Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA) is an organization established in 2008 based in Kenya, which aims to enhance environmental conservation and livelihoods diversification for pastoralist indigenous communities with focus on Osuopuko division fo-in Narok South DistrictCounty. The immediate objective is to promote alternative sources of livelihoods through an ecosystems-based approach. It aims to enhance livelihoods with diversification options and sources of income. It will further improve access, management and sustainable use of natural resources to ensure security of livelihoods, experimentation and validation of REDD+ safeguards locally and nationally. It also aims to improve and enhance indigenous peoples’ participation in governance in the context of natural resource management promoting accountability and transparency. ILEPA had been participating in national REDD+ processes such as the Kenya Working Group for Climate Change in framing the social and environmental safeguards in relation to IPs to be integrated in the REDD+ national strategy. Tebtebba had been working with them in research and co-facilitating workshops in coming up with the community-participatory monitoring tools that are indigenous-and gender sensitive.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES OF INTERN:

• Assist organizations with coordination and communications. This could include report and newsletter writing, compiling content for website integration
• As needed, assist in data collection activities under the supervision of ACC and a partner organization, such as household survey implementation and interviews;
• Write funding applications and reports for partner organizations as needed;
• Contribute to the organization of various project-related workshops, including Participatory Video workshops;
• Write a personal research paper related to project activities (for students returning in the fall, this research paper will be submitted for credit);
• Assist with ongoing research activities, and lend support services such as data entry, data cleaning and basic data analysis where necessary.
• The intern’s duties and projects may not be as listed. These will depend on the needs of the host organization.

HOST ORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS:
• Strong interest in learning about issues around community conservation, sustainable development, land tenure security, community level development in East Africa
• Willingness to study Swahili either in preparation for, or during, the internship
• Some academic background in issues related to conservation and/or development
• Strong writing skills, ideally with grant writing experience
• Demonstrated leadership skills
• Strong inter-personal and communication skills, ability to work in a team
• Ability to take initiative and work/complete tasks with little supervision

HOURS: Full-time

Application Deadlines: AIO International: November 21, 2016

The Internship will run from May 8th to July 28th, 2017.

REMUNERATION: If the internship is unpaid, successful applicants may be eligible to apply for Faculty of Arts Internship Awards. See http://www.mcgill.ca/arts-internships/awards/apply for more information.

HOW TO APPLY: Students must complete the online Arts Internship Application Form http://www.mcgill.ca/arts-internships/find/mcgill/online-application-form-arts-internship-office-internships

ELIGIBILITY:
• McGill Faculty of Arts student completed 60 credits
• Minimum CGPA of 2.7
• Returning to McGill in the fall following the internship
• Students must fulfill Faculty of Arts requirements as outlined in the Handbook for Interns at www.mcgill.ca/arts-internships/forms

COSTS: The intern is responsible for all costs associated with the internship including transportation, accommodations, etc.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS: Preparing travel arrangements to and from the internship host community is the responsibility of the intern.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Finding suitable lodging during the internship is the responsibility of the intern.

Please Note: Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. At that time, you may be asked to come in for an interview. The Arts Internship Office will then transmit the selected applications to the host organization, which will ultimately be responsible for the selection of the candidate(s).

If you feel you have experienced barriers which have had an impact on your academic performance and wish to highlight these to the selection committee, the documents/comments will be taken into consideration..

WORKSHOPS: Successful candidates are required to attend the following sessions:
• Faculty of Arts Interns Meeting (All internships)
• Cross-Cultural Workshop (Internships outside of Canada, the U.S & Europe)
• International Travel Pre-Departure Session (Internships outside of Canada, the U.S & Europe)
• International Internship Debriefing Session (Internships outside of Canada, the U.S & Europe)
• Success in a Professional Environment (Internships in an office setting)

**HEALTH AND SAFETY:** All applicants should consult the Global Affairs Canada Travel Reports for the internship host country prior to applying for this internship. [http://www.voyage.gc.ca/countries_pays/menu-eng.asp](http://www.voyage.gc.ca/countries_pays/menu-eng.asp)

Traveling, living and working abroad can involve certain risks to your health and safety that differ from your home country. These may include: crime, political/social instability, tropical diseases/infections, extreme weather conditions, poor infrastructure, etc.

The Arts Internship Office cannot guarantee the safety of any intern in their host country. It is up to the student to fully assess and prepare for any health or security risks that may be involved in pursuing this internship. Applicants are encouraged to discuss potential risks with their family prior to applying.

Applicants must ensure that they are physically and mentally capable of successfully completing an internship in the internship host country. The Arts Internship Office may request a doctor’s attestation that an applicant is sufficiently healthy to complete an internship.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** Interns are responsible for informing themselves of what entry requirements are required to visit and work as an intern in the internship host country. These may include a visa, work permit, passport valid for at least 6 months after entry, and proof of certain vaccinations.

The intern is responsible for acquiring all necessary documents in time for the beginning of their internship.