

**Research Assistant
Position Announcement**

Are you interested in the nexus between ocean science and policy? Do you want to help build tangible solutions for challenges facing our oceans? If so, we invite you to apply for a Research Assistant position with the Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions. We are looking for a researcher to advance our capacity within a project aiming to understand spatial patterns in conflicts over marine resources across sub-Saharan Africa. This work will contribute to the development of a spatial database of conflict occurrences using French-language periodical sources through the Factiva database.

The [Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions](#) (COS), part of the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, catalyzes research innovation and action to improve the health of the oceans for the people who depend on them the most. COS capitalizes on Stanford's broad expertise in ocean science and in the many other disciplines crucial to developing ocean solutions including engineering, computer science, political science, design and business. Our core team of researchers and fellows partner with other research institutions, national and international non-governmental organizations, businesses and governments, as well as established and emerging leaders in the data revolution.

The research assistant will be part of a larger project (Mapping marine resource conflicts across sub-Saharan Africa: patterns, drivers and solutions for coastal communities) aimed at understanding how factors like ecosystem health, governance, or population demographics may be related to greater risk of marine resource conflicts. A better understanding of these conflicts can also help identify pathways to positive change. The project will also use expert surveys from across sub-Saharan Africa and household surveys from three case study countries—Ghana, Kenya, and South Africa—to create a roadmap for identifying which resource management and policy interventions are most likely to be successful in different contexts.

Job Description & Duties

The primary responsibility of the Research Assistant is to support research conducted by the Deputy Director through research and synthesis of reports of conflicts in French language periodicals. Specific tasks include:

- Conduct review of periodical sources using the Factiva database using established methodologies
- Record conflict occurrences
- Synthesize research findings for project needs, including internal and external communication purposes
- Write and edit work products relevant to our collaborative work on marine resource conflicts

Qualifications

We seek a self-starting graduate student or recent masters-level graduate with the following interests and experience:

- Fluency in French
- Familiarity with fisheries-related issues and vocabulary
- Passion for ocean science and policy and/or fisheries management
- Detail-oriented work methods
- Enthusiasm about unpacking “wicked” problems
- Experience in literature review methods and practices
- Data analysis, preferably both quantitative and qualitative methods
- Strong communication and technology skills (e.g., Microsoft suite, Google applications, spatial analysis experience is preferable)
- Ability to work independently, while also knowing when to seek guidance from peers

Hours and Compensation

This position requires a 6-month commitment of 10–20 hours per week, beginning in January. Anticipated compensation starts at \$23/hour. As this position involves connecting with international communities, some limited early evening or morning hours may be necessary. Local travel in the San Francisco Bay Area may be involved.

Preferred Start Date

January 2019

To apply

Please email 1) a letter of interest providing background on your experience and applicable skills; 2) a resume outlining your education and professional experience; and 3) contact information for three references to: Eric Hartge, Research Development Manager, Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions: ehartge@stanford.edu.

Deadline

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis beginning on January 7th. The position will remain open until filled.