



**Arnhold Environmental Undergraduate Fellow**  
*Behavioral Incentives for Land Transformation on Natural Grasslands*  
*(BILTONG)*

Summer 2025

**Project Background**

In 2021, the University of California Santa Barbara ([UCSB](#)) and Conservation International ([CI](#)) launched the Arnhold UC Santa Barbara-Conservation International Climate Solutions Collaborative to unify their demonstrated expertise and networks to conduct cutting-edge applied research to yield tangible, progressive solutions, and propel the careers of emerging environmental professionals. This partnership includes several applied collaborative research projects aimed at pushing the boundaries on resilient ocean and land conservation. The Collaborative has also created the Arnhold Environmental Fellows program—a powerful opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to engage in collaborative research projects and receive mentorship from experts in the fields of environmental and ecological science.

Africa's communal rangelands face significant degradation, driven by expanding settlements, land tenure policies, climate change, pervasive wildfires, and unmanaged grazing. This degradation leads to the loss of biodiversity and wildlife, erodes the resilience of communities to extreme weather events, limits agricultural-based livelihoods, and undermines water security and provisioning. The [Meat Naturally](#) (MN) model addresses these challenges by supporting community-driven, sustainable rangeland stewardship. Through capacity building and community governance structures, the MN model works to restore rangelands and conserve biodiversity while improving livelihoods. MN is scaling rapidly, and new initiatives explore access to carbon and nature finance as well as sustainable supply-chain meat markets.

**Responsibilities**

We plan to use detailed spatial data from Meat Naturally and global grassland maps such as the [Global Pasture Watch](#) product to perform a quasi-experimental analysis on the potential impact of the Meat Naturally rotational grazing programs. We are looking for undergraduate research assistants to:

- (1) Help digitize and clean geospatial data detailing the locations of Meat Naturally operations;
- (2) Conduct desk research on the environmental impacts of grazing practices;
- (3) Participate in meetings with emLab and CI, researchers, and staff and partners

**Qualifications**

- Prior experience using GIS software.
- Must be independent, communicative, highly organized and detail-oriented.
- Additional qualifications that are desired but not required:

- Prior experience georeferencing maps for use in GIS, and/or digitizing geospatial data.
- Coursework or research experience using GIS.

### **Fellow Selection Criteria**

Students will be selected as Arnhold Environmental Fellows based on the following criteria:

- Excellence in environmental and ecological science and research
- Interest, skills, and experience related to the project responsibilities described above
- Registered UCSB undergraduate student in good academic standing

All Fellows are expected to participate in bi-weekly professional development events throughout the summer, a 5-minute flash talk presentation about your project, and other program-related events.

### **How to Apply**

Apply for this position via Handshake with either the: a) job number – 9866664; b) job title – Arnhold Environmental Undergraduate Fellow: Behavioral Incentives for Transformation of Natural Grasslands; or c) employer – Marine Science Institute. In your application package, please include the following:

1. Your resume
2. A short cover letter (no longer than one page) that includes information on (a) any relevant work or volunteer experience that relates to the responsibilities and qualifications above and (b) your interest in rangelands/grasslands, land use, climate change, and/or conservation

The Arnhold Environmental Undergraduate Fellow will be paid \$18/hr and will work from early June until the end of August. The successful candidates will be expected to commit 32 hours per week.

For questions, please contact: Heather Lahr ([hlahr@ucsb.edu](mailto:hlahr@ucsb.edu)).

**Application Deadline: May 1st, 2025**