

Conservation & Community Programme



Volunteering
Factsheet



About

The Conservation & Community Volunteer Programme forms part of the main vein behind the heartbeat of the Reserve Conservation. For those volunteers seeking an experience to explore a corner of Africa and all its inhabitants, Conservation & Community will not disappoint. All aspects of conservation are addressed in your experience, no matter how short your time with us.

This Game Reserve is continuously monitoring and managing game throughout the year. As a Conservation & Community Volunteer, you will assist behind the scenes of the reserve on various ongoing conservation and community projects.

The main focus for community outreach is the local children of the Paterson, Sidbury and other local schools.

What will you do?

As a Volunteer, your responsibility is helping to manage all aspects on the game reserve including predators, all other animal species, as well as maintenance. The Reserve is strictly hands-off which implies that at no point will there be physical touching or 'petting' of the animals, but rather monitoring behaviour and checking fence lines, etc.

Community support is also an important aspect with regular visits to community projects. The rest of the day is filled with tasks and duties based around the reserve. You may also have the chance to assist with many ongoing short- and long-term projects on the reserve. A list below provides the details of various projects both ongoing and experienced by past volunteers.

Reserve duties at any one time may change, which means no week is the same.

create
stories
for a 
lifetime



Community projects

- Interacting with vulnerable children and children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS
- Assist with educational Lessons, special day celebrations and helping out at Sidbury Primary school
- Assist the Foundation in designated World Days namely Arbour Day, Water Day and World Read Aloud Day
- Assisting the I'Josi project with gardening and painting murals if needed

Ecology projects

- Predator Tracking and monitoring using telemetry
- Assisting the I'Josi project with gardening and painting murals if needed
- Herbivore monitoring
- Predator health and breeding monitoring
- Document the number of herbivore lambing

Maintenance duties

- Erosion control
- Fence patrol and maintenance
- Alien plant control
- Bush clearing and Road clearing
- Road maintenance
- Removal and documentation of old farm material on the reserve
- Monitoring and documenting water points on the reserve

Seasonal & circumstantial based projects

- Game capture, counts and monitoring
- Guided walks and trails through the reserve
- Nocturnal predator monitoring
- Darting and relocation
- Bi-annual neutering of stray dogs and cats in and around the surrounding townships

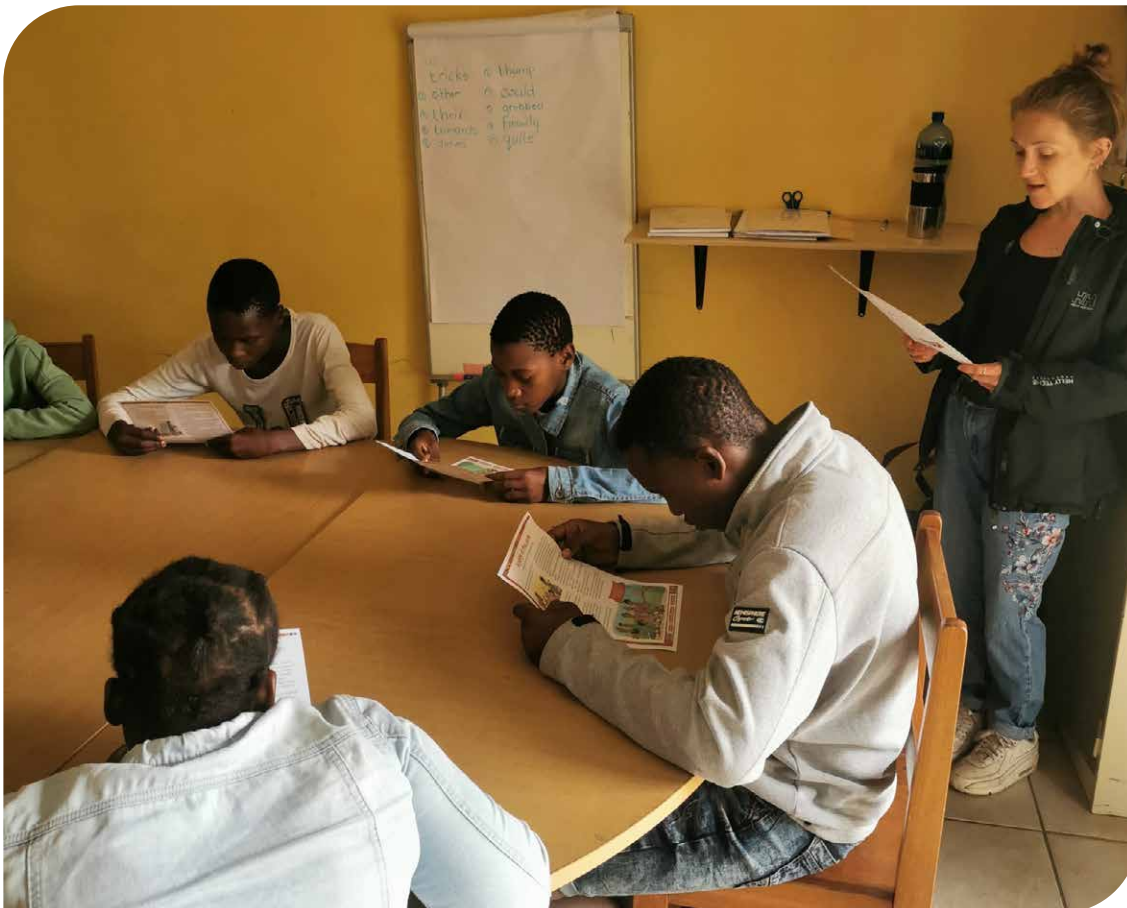


Additional projects

- Assist the Foundation with future projects at Sidbury Primary School
- Planting indigenous trees in the Paterson community
- Lunch scheme for club kids of on-going projects
- Wetland restoration
- Spekboom Project – Replanting spekboom on the Reserve and surrounding community properties

Fun activities - available on a rotational basis

- Bush camping and Star Gazing (not available in winter or when it is raining)
- 4-Star Lodge Experience (only for bookings of 2 weeks or longer)
- Visit Addo Elephant Park
- Sundays River canoeing
- Kenton on Sea road trip
- Cannon Rocks Hiking Trail
- Animal welfare visitation and assistance in Gqeberha
- Guided 2-hour bush walk in the Game Reserve
- Volunteer diary for our website
- Rent a vehicle and explore surrounding areas
- Enjoy swimming pool at Volunteer house
- Relax at the local pub and grill near the Volunteer house
- Various entertainment (rugby ball, soccer ball, card and board games) at housing



What to wear?

- Comfortable clothes that can be layered – transport to and from the reserve is in an open game viewer. Preferably khaki, nudes or black coloured clothing.
- Closed shoes recommended while on the reserve
- Please do not wear the following items during working hours:
 - Spaghetti/strap/crop tops
 - Short-shorts
 - See-through white trousers



Accommodation and meals

Volunteers are accommodated in a one-storey, 10-bedroom house, which overlooks a large garden and is within walking distance of the local bar and basic shops. Most of the rooms are twin bedded with 5 available bathrooms. A communal dining and sitting room with a TV is central to the house (Netflix and YouTube are available), with a well-equipped kitchen. A free Wi-Fi connection is available at no extra cost, but trust that volunteers will not abuse the system by downloading music/movies, etc.

The house also has an outside seating area with a braai (BBQ) and fire pit for chilly nights and social gatherings, as well as a swimming pool.

The electrical sockets in the house are 2 and 3 round-prong and will require international adapters which should be purchased before arrival.

What you need to know

During your placement, you will be out in the early morning, often straight into the bush to carry out the days' activities. You will be transported in an open land cruiser to and from the reserve. It is advised that you dress warmly, as the wind-chill factor can be quite sharp during the early morning and late afternoon drives.

Weather Conditions in the Eastern Cape can vary from one extreme to the next and therefore has gained its name for having four seasons in a day. Expect refreshing mornings and evenings, with warm to hot conditions during the day. This is especially evident in the summer where 35 C° during the day is not an unfamiliar occurrence. Thunderstorms in the late afternoon are an identifying feature of the summer season. Lip balm is highly recommended for those dry and windy days, as well as a rain jacket for unexpected rainfall.

Preparation for bush survival and camping out require a warm sleeping bag and torch along with an optional travel pillow. Anti-tick spray, a pen knife and warm sleeping-wear are optional items, however, they are recommended for a more enjoyable experience.



Minimum age

- We take volunteers from as young as 12, but they then need to be accompanied by a participating adult or guardian until age 16. 16 to 18 year olds are allowed to travel on their own, but will need a letter of parental consent.

Minimum level of English required

- Intermediate

Skills/personality traits required

- None required – but please indicate on your application what skills you are happy to share and we can work it into our planning where possible.

Application

- Please complete booking form – or submit a template from your own organisation that provides the necessary information.

Arrival

- Every Monday is a start day

Which transfers are included?

- Shared transfers to and from the project
(Depart every Monday at 07:00 from Paterson and Depart every Monday from Port Elizabeth Wat 15:00)

If a private transfer is needed outside of this arrival/departure window, there will be an additional charge of €100 per person per journey.

What to bring?

- We advise that you bring €100 per week as spending money, depending on what activities you would like to do during your leisure time.

All year-round essential clothing and essential items:

- Warm clothes – hat, scarf and gloves
- Waterproof jacket
- Thick fleece/coat
- Working/hiking boots
- Rockies or light canvas shoes for around the house
- Flip-flops
- Work gloves
- Long trousers
- Hat
- Masks
- Sanitiser
- Old shirt/old trousers (in case of painting with the children at Isipho)
- Insect repellent, sunscreen, after-sun
- Recommended* own first aid kit with essential items
- Torch
- Pocket knife

Vaccinations

Immunisation

Tetanus is highly recommended. Please consult your GP for advice on immunisation requirements. This is in a MALARIA FREE area.

Where is the project based?

- The Game Reserve will be near the town of Paterson, Eastern Cape.

Working?

The working week usually comprises of a 5-day week, 8 hours a day (Monday-Friday). Time to start and finish work will depend on the activities of the day and time of year. Evenings and weekends are therefore allocated for your leisure to either relax in the pub or sit in front of an open fire. Alternatively, a wide variety of activities can be booked from the volunteer house. A full list of activities is available at the house and on the volunteer website, which includes car hire companies should you simply like to explore the area for yourself.

Costs?

Placement fee: **€400** (non-refundable) | Price per week: **€660**

- The rate includes accommodation, food supplies and all activities from Mondays to Fridays. Over weekends, you are welcome to make use of the facilities, but all activities/excursions are for your own account.
- Transfer to the airport or bus station in Cape Town for onward journey to the project
- Transfers to and from Gqeberha (Vehicle departs every Monday at 07:00 from Paterson and departs again at 14:00 from Gqeberha). Airport transfers are from Port Elizabeth International Airport and bus transfers are from the Perridgevale/Greenacres bus terminal.
- A private transfer is an additional €100 per person one way



Probation?

- N/A.

Sick days?

- If you don't feel well, you are welcome to stay at the house and recover – it will have no work implications.

What is included?

- Project placement and all correspondence with the project
- Shared project arrival and departure transfers
- Daily transport to various project sites and the week's activities
- Arrival orientation
- Accommodation
- All basic food supplies
- Activities/transport from Mondays to Fridays
- Support services from both the project and EC Cape Town
- 24/7 assistance on EC Cape Town's emergency phone for the duration of your stay

What is excluded?

- Visa application fees
- Travel insurance (available at €22 per week if booked with EC)
- Flights
- Weekend excursions
- Personal food preferences and luxuries

Donations for community outreach

If interested, please note the following items are in great need in our communities:

- Kids clothes
- School stationery (books, pens, pencils, paint, etc.)
- Calculators
- Educational games for schools
- School clothes (grey skirts/pants and white shirts)
- Underwear and socks for all ages
- Sanitary pads

Terms and conditions

- Standard EC Terms and Conditions apply.
- In addition, please note the following Project Booking and Cancellation Policy:
 - ~ Between 30 days and 14 days – 25% cancellation fee,
 - ~ Between 14 days and 48 hours – 50% cancellation fee,
 - ~ Less than 48 hours – 100% cancellation fee



Donations for 2025

This is a list of possible donation options for volunteers who would like to contribute to our community in need. The list was created by working and communicating with the community members and their children:

- Socks and underwear for children between 2 – 18 years old
- Winter scarves, beanies (winter hats), gloves for children between 2 – 18 years old
- Educational games – building blocks, Duplo, Lego, puzzles, etc. for children between 2 – 8 years old
- Food parcels for under-privileged families – rice, maize meal, samp, sugar, flour, canned goods, etc.
- Blankets for autumn/winter (May – Aug)
- 2nd hand clothes of any kind
- Shoes, sandals or flipflops for children between 2 – 18 years old
- Dog leashes and toys for community pets
- Financial donations towards creating simple dog houses for community pets
- Financial donations towards spay/neuter campaign (R100 – male cat, R250 – male dog or female cat, R350 – female dog)
- Financial donation towards funding the building of a local church's ablution block with 6 toilets
- Arts and Craft supplies – paint, crayons, pencils, paper, cardboard, etc.
- Sports equipment - for example tennis balls, rugby balls, soccer balls, etc.
- Sports clothing – the local soccer team is in need of shirts and pants for teenagers between 13-17 years old – size 10-14 boys or small-large

Any donation or contribution is greatly appreciated by the community and helps create positive change for the community involved.

