



Coastal Conservation Project

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Introduction

The Coastal Conservation Project offers volunteers the unique and exciting opportunity to get behind the scenes and involved with real conservation efforts. This is the perfect eco-volunteer program, if you are looking for a meaningful travel opportunity abroad that together with like-minded people from all over the world, puts your passion for nature, environment, and wildlife to good use, trying to make a difference.

A team of passionate conservationists working tirelessly to save endangered and threatened wild and marine life from extinction. Volunteers will take part in short and long-term projects which are intended to create sustainability for generations to come.

The volunteer program runs from 1 to 4 weeks. In order to guarantee an educational and impactful experience for each volunteer, the project works in small groups with a maximum number of 8 participants. Tasks may vary from physical work to interesting and interactive lecture-based content.

Much of the Conservation work will take place at the Sibuya Game Reserve as well as at the nearby rivers and beaches. The Reserve is located in Kenton-on-Sea, along the Sunshine Coast of the Eastern Cape in South Africa, about 120 km from Port Elizabeth. This renowned Reserve is home to a wide range of different species of Flora and Fauna, with the stunning Kariega River Estuary meandering through it.



Accommodation

Together with the team and as a part of the Sibuya & Intaka Family, volunteers will be comfortably accommodated and hosted at the scenic 3-star Intaka Bird Lodge in Kenton-on-Sea – run by the kindest and most accommodating people: Retha and Paul. This beautiful 58ha property overlooks a panoramic view of deep valleys and rolling hills with the ocean and bush as a magnificent backdrop. Accommodation at the Lodge with its bird-hide and expansive grounds, sparkling swimming pool and outdoor BBQ area, create a great space in which to relax during free time.

Your Full board accommodation includes a shared double bedroom and en-suite, 3 meals a day and tea coffee and water are also included. (A private room can be arranged on request at an additional cost). A communal TV and pool table can be found in the entertainment area as well as a squash court and table tennis on the premises. Washing machines and dryers are also available for self-service laundry.



Activities

Wildlife Tracking & Monitoring

Regular monitoring and observation of Africa's Big Five (Rhino, Elephant, Buffalo, Lion and, if lucky – the elusive Leopard) during Game Drives enable the project to identify individuals, compile information about the family/ herd structure and determine feeding habits. Annual Game Counts are conducted to establish the carrying capacity of the Reserve to ensure the ratio is not exceeded and to establish if control measures are needed. Game Counts assist in the decision making of predator to prey ratios and the movement of animals on the Reserve. Data collected is used to assist in the management decisions of the Reserve. Furthermore, monitoring of nocturnal and elusive species such as Aardwolf, Spotted Genet, Caracal, Leopard, Aardvark and many more, by setting up camera traps and track stations are exciting experiences for the volunteers to find out what secretive animals venture the paths of our Reserve. Being out in Nature constantly, Bush skills like learning how to identify animal tracks, navigation and how to start a fire are essential and will be part of the program.

Rhino-watch/ Anti-Poaching Support

Perform Anti-Poaching night-patrols and learn more about their importance and protocol through night drives and sleep-outs on the Reserve that assist in Sibuya's Anti-Poaching Unit efforts. During daylight hours contribute towards the cause by assisting with fence and road monitoring. It should be noted and understood that participants on Rhino-watch assist in Anti-Poaching by provision of visible deterrent through their presence only.

Reserve Sustainability Project (Rsp)

Volunteers will assist in the development of a grey-water filtration wetland to further minimize ecological footprint and will learn hands-on about the benefits of Permaculture and help manage the indigenous tree nursery. These trees are going to be planted on the Reserve once they have reached decent size, to increase floral diversity and populations of certain species.

Alien Plant Control & Botanical Surveys

Alien plants were introduced to the land by the farmers of old for different reasons and uses. Today these invasive plants need to be removed to increase the natural biodiversity and to decrease fire risk. Volunteers take part in Vegetation transects and data collection for monitoring and calculation of Game carrying capacity. This will also aid in establishing density and species diversity in the different vegetation areas.

Marine Explorations, Research & Surveys

The nearby Rivers (Kariega/Bushmans) are being monitored on a regular basis to provide research with much needed information about species population densities, occurrence of critically endangered species such as the Estuarine Pipefish (*Syngnathus watermeyeri*), salinity levels and water temperatures. Regular trips to the beach for exploration and learning about the coastal Eco-system and how it works will open eyes to the diversity of life that is so close, yet often unnoticed. Volunteers will be spending time collecting data first-hand, as well as helping to reduce the amount of plastic pollution by actively removing it from the rivers and beaches in co-operation with local schools in the surrounding communities.

Community Engagement

Conservation does not stop at conserving Nature alone, but also includes a responsibility to uplift local and impoverished Communities. This responsibility includes environmental education of the Community as to the role and benefit of conserving biodiversity and further stresses the importance of conserving our natural resources. Regular trips are made into the local Community to raise awareness and assist in various Community Projects that range from creating recycling initiatives and beach/ estuary clean-ups, to educating and providing recreation opportunities for the kids.





Additional Excursions

There are several adventure and leisure-based activities in and around the area that can be arranged on weekends – at an additional cost – including horse-back beach rides, whale watching in Algoa Bay, deep-sea-fishing at Port Alfred or surf and river fishing, skydiving, and paragliding in Grahamstown, bungee jumping at the world-famous Bloukrans Bridge, arranged game drives or boat cruises on Sibuya Game Reserve and many more.



Project Dates & Cost

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

This project is suitable for persons over the age of 18, who have an interest in or have studied in the field of conservation, environment science, wildlife management, ecology or wildlife biology, wildlife journalism & photography, eco-travel, animal behaviour studies or just a sense of adventure. Volunteers need to be in good health with a moderate level of fitness. Personal qualities such as flexibility and adaptability are a must, as "African Time" and or unforeseen circumstances can lead to program changes at short notice.

PROGRAM DATES

The Coastal Conservation Project is open all year round except for a creative break from the 15th December to 12th January. Arrivals and departures to the project are on Sundays only.

PROJECT FEES

Whilst admission onto the project requires a duration of 1 to 4 weeks. We would like to recommend a minimum 2 week stay wherever possible, but it is not essential.

<u>Duration</u>	<u>Price</u>
1 weeks (7 days)	R 13,500
2 weeks (14 days)	R 25,400
3 weeks (21 days)	R 36,200
4 weeks (28 days)	R 44,800

For stays over 4 weeks please contact us for a quotation as additional discounts will be given.

Prices are shown in South African Rand. For your local currency conversion rates check out

www.xe.com



*Please note that any bank charges for payments will be for your account.

**A 50% non-refundable deposit is payable to confirm your booking and full payment is due no later than 30 days prior to your arrival. You are welcome to make one full payment should you wish to do so.

***Any payments made via PayPal will incur an additional 1.5% Service fee.

PRICE INCLUDES

- Return Road Shuttle from Port Elizabeth airport to your project.
- All Accommodation (Shared) whilst on the project
- Wi-Fi
- Conservation Levy
- 3 Meals per day
- Laundry (Self-service)
- Transport within the program.
- All Project activities as described.
- All project services as described.

PRICE EXCLUDES

- All Flights and/or transfers other than those described above.
- All drinks such as Alcohol and soft drinks (Safe drinking water is provided)
- All personal snacks and any other luxury items you can't live without.
- Social events.
- Eating out (any meals at restaurants is at your own cost)
- Any Excursions offered by the project
- Extra activities on excursions
- Medical Expenses
- Travel & Medical Insurance
- Any visa related expenses
- Any vaccinations

For an additional fee of R700/night, Scales Volunteers can provide overnight accommodation in Johannesburg or Cape Town between flights on your arrival or return from your including a return airport shuttle to transport you between the airport and your accommodation.

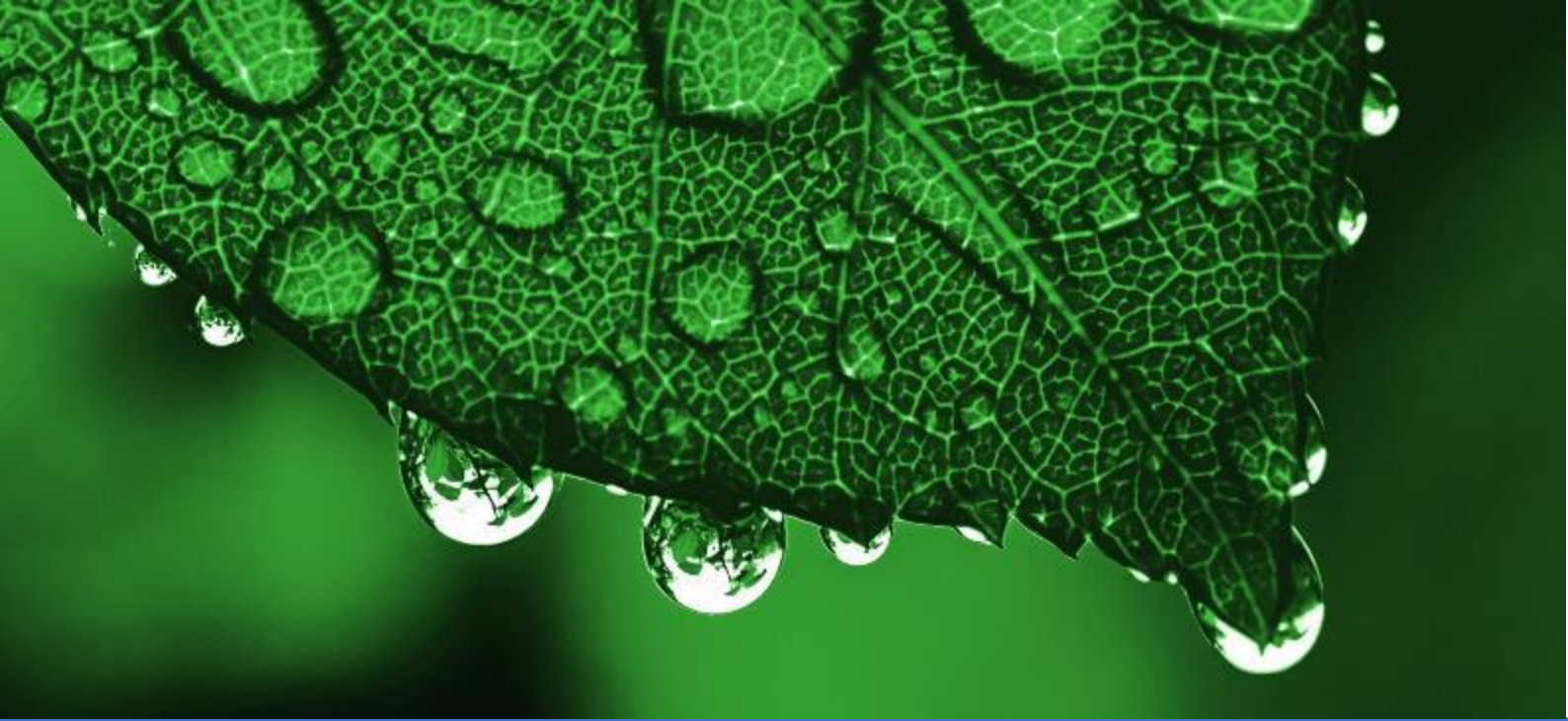
To cover any additional expenses, such as personal/luxury items, cost of excursions or for meals when eating out, we would suggest that you consider having access to approximately R500 per week of your stay. ATMs are readily available throughout Hoedspruit and accept all major credit cards. Please consult your bank regarding charges and it is also advised that you notify them that you will be travelling abroad.

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Luxury Safari Break

If at the end of your Volunteer Program, you would like to treat yourself to a little bit of luxury at an affordable price contact us for more information about the Luxury Lodge options close to your project.





Weather & Climate

Port Elizabeth has a subtropical climate with abundant sunshine. On average January is the warmest month with highs of 26c, whilst July is the coolest averaging temperatures between 8c-21c.

Between September and June, you are most likely to experience good weather with pleasant average temperatures falling between 20c -25c. August is also the wettest month. This month should be avoided if you are not a big fan of rain.

If you would like to research more about the weather you can expect during the specific time of your trip, then we recommend that you check out wunderground.com as they give access to extensive historical weather data for almost all chosen locations.

As with any natural events, we are unable to guarantee that the weather you encounter will be as described, this is merely an indication to help advise you on what to expect and what weather to pack for.



Travel Information

HOW TO GET THERE

You will need to fly to Port Elizabeth airport, South Africa as this is the closest airport to the project. If you require assistance with selecting a flight, please do not hesitate to ask and we might be able to assist you, however Scales Volunteers do not offer flights as part of our packages.

Please book your flight to arrive / Depart Port Elizabeth Airport (PLZ), South Africa. The shuttle to your accommodation will depart from the airport no later than 15h00 on Sundays, so please book your flight accordingly. For departures, the shuttle will leave your accommodation no later than 8am on a Sunday. It is a one-and-a-half-hour drive to the airport, so please arrange your return flight for no earlier than 11h00.

A private shuttle can be organised, should your flight schedule not match our pick-up times, however please note that this will be an additional cost.

PASSPORTS & VISAS

It is your responsibility to ensure that you meet the passport and visa requirements for entry into South Africa. Ensure that your Passport is valid for your trip and for a minimum of 6 months after your return.

Please check with your nearest South African High Commission or the relevant South African Diplomatic website for the country in which you reside for more information regarding your specific visa requirements.

It is also your responsibility to ensure that you meet the COVID-19 requirements for entry into South Africa and any other country you might be passing through.

MEDICAL & PERSONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Prior to travelling, you should visit your Doctor/Healthcare Professional to obtain advice on immunization and general health requirements. The Greater Kruger National Park is generally a low to medium risk malaria area, but you should consult your Doctor/Healthcare Professional about the appropriate prophylactics. Ensure that you declare any medical information we should be aware of on your booking form including any allergies and/or dietary requirements.

INSURANCE

It is very important that you take out adequate travel insurance for your trip to cover such events as cancellation due to illness, accident or injury, personal accident and personal liability, loss of or damage to baggage. Scales Volunteers or Scales Conservation Fund will not be responsible or liable if you fail to take adequate or no insurance cover at all. You will be required to submit a copy of your insurance policy / certificate with your travel information prior to departure.

CURRENCY

South African Rand. As the project is situated in the middle of the bush it is very hard to change currency, so we recommend that you exchange any cash prior to arrival. We also recommend the use of bank/travel cards over cash for security purposes. All shops accept Visa and Mastercard, as well as other well-known providers. However please ensure to contact your bank to notify them of your travel plans before you leave your country of origin to avoid your card being flagged as fraudulently used and subsequently blocked. We highly recommend travel cards as you can lock in your currency and do not charge withdrawals. Again, these should be arranged prior to departure.

SAFETY

The project is based in a safe community, and you won't have to worry whilst you are at your project, however we do want to give you some basic guidelines in order to ensure you have the best experience during your stay.

- Don't accept lifts from strangers
- Don't leave valuable things on display
- Don't "flash"/display any large sums of cash
- You will be in a wildlife area so beware of snakes, scorpions, and centipedes.
- Don't approach any animals that are in the wild as they are unpredictable.
- Follow project rules at all times. Always follow direction and requests from the Project Staff, they are looking out for your safety.
- Don't be shy to ask questions!





What to Pack

The suggested packing list below should help you with deciding what to pack. If you are unsure about any items or have any questions, then please ask. We are here to help!

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

- Original and certified copy of your passport
- All tickets and receipts for travel.
- Certified copy of any prescription medicines (Original only necessary for re-fill)
- Original and certified copy of any Medical or Insurance Cards
- Original and certified copy of your Driver's License (If necessary)
- Copy of your Travel Insurance
- Copy of your Travel Itinerary

CLOTHING

- Hat / Cap
- Sunglasses
- Warm Jacket / Fleece
- Waterproof Jacket
- Durable and neutral-coloured shirts / t-shirts / Vests
- Durable and neutral-coloured long sleeve shirts (seasonal, but also useful for covering yourself from the sun)
- Durable and neutral-coloured shorts
- Durable and neutral-coloured trousers
- Socks & Underwear
- Comfortable Walking Boots
- Sandals / flip flips

- Trainers
- Gloves & Beanie (Seasonal)
- Swimwear
- Appropriate Sleeping Clothes (Accommodation is shared)

TOILETRIES

- Shampoo / Conditioner
- Soap
- Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- Hairbrush / comb
- Bath Towel
- Personal Toiletries – Razor, deodorant, sanitary products etc

GENERAL

- Water Bottle (Minimum 2 litre)
- Torch / Head Torch
- Day Pack
- Camera (with Batteries/charger and spare memory card)
- Personal First aid kit (Plasters, Antiseptic, Prescription Medicine etc)
- Sunscreen (Factor 50)
- Laptop or iPad
- Insect repellent
- Travel adaptor Plug for South Africa

RECOMMENDED

- Binoculars
- Reading material
- Power bank
- Mosquito Net
- Positive attitude

We recommend acquiring a local mobile SIM Card from one of SA's "pre-paid" options (Vodacom, MTN, Cell C, Telkom and Virgin), which are inexpensive and can be used to keep in contact with project staff, our office, friends and family or anyone else you might need to contact during your stay.

If you still have space left in your bag, please contact us to find out if there is anything that you can bring out for your project, such as supplies or donations that are waiting for transport.



**WE ARE LOOKING
FORWARD TO HELPING
YOU PLAN YOUR NEW
ADVENTURE!**

