

Wildlife Conservation



Overview

Location	Closest town: Windhoek (about 45 minutes away), Namibia.
Duration	From 2 to 12 weeks.
Dates	All year round.
Capacity	35 – max. 65 volunteers at one time
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum age: 18.• You must have an Upper Intermediate level of English.• Special skills: You should have a love for animals.
Your impact	♥♥♥♥♥
Documents required	Enrolment form, curriculum vitae, letter of motivation, passport copy, proof of medical insurance, (all travellers to Namibia are required to have a valid passport).
Day of arrival	Monday (or any day preferred)
Day of departure	Monday (or any day preferred)



Highlights

- Work closely with the conservation of African wildlife.
- Help to enrich and care for a variety of the sanctuary animals.
- Learn about conservation and research efforts.
- Experience the beauty of African wilderness.
- Spend time at an informative and educational environment.
- Learn about old San traditions and culture.
- Take part in excursions in Namibia: 3-day to 28-day tours are available at an extra cost. Tours may include visits to the amazing sand dunes in Sossussvlei, the coastal resort of Swakopmund and the Etosha National Park.
- Make new friends from all over the world.

Project information

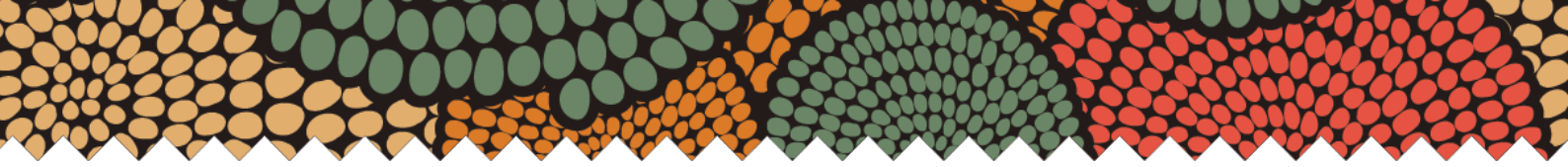
This project, situated on a 3,200-hectare reserve near Windhoek, provides a safe haven for orphaned and injured African wildlife.

The project includes a conservation charity dedicated to preserving the landscapes, cultures and wildlife of Namibia. The Wildlife Sanctuary provides a haven and second chance for countless injured, orphaned and human-wildlife conflict animals. Wherever possible the aim is to release animals back into the wild. This is aimed to be achieved through encouraging participation, education and scientific research. The project strongly believes that wildlife belongs in the wild and they direct all their efforts towards long-term rehabilitation. But sadly, not all of the animals that come to this sanctuary are able to be released back into the wild. Those that can't be released remain in the sanctuary to be taken care of and to live out their lifespan at the sanctuary. The project also provides an important source of employment, accommodation, education and healthcare to many San families, giving this marginalised community the boost they need to build a brighter and healthier future.

Located at the Wildlife Sanctuary itself, their registered primary school was established in 2009, its aim being to provide free education and support to all of children of families working at the project.

During your time at the sanctuary, you will feed and provide enrichment to the animals, as well as clean and maintain their enclosures, but you also get the opportunity to spend time on their vast reserve where some of the animals previously housed at the sanctuary have been released. Here you go out on the reserve to track the high-profile species on foot, go on game counts and help with any other projects that may come up. You have the rare and exciting opportunity to work closely with animals and to participate actively in the conservation of African wildlife. You may also be given the chance to assist the primary school teachers with a sporting activity with the school children if you wish.

The sanctuary and their reserves currently provide a safe refuge for orphaned and injured wildlife, including a number of lions, leopards, cheetahs, wild dogs, caracals, white rhinos, elephants, baboons, banded mongoose, often a warthog and meerkats as well as some domestic animals such as donkeys, sheep and goats. You play an important role, caring for and feeding the animals on a daily basis, and helping to clean, maintain and develop the sanctuary and the property. It is important to note that although hands-on contact can be expected that any direct contact with the animals will only ever be conducted if this is in the



animals best interest, e.g. for feeding or providing enrichment or medical care.

Programme details

"Conservation Through Innovation": The project strives to create sustainable and long-term solutions. It is their vision to play a proactive role in nature conservation because they believe that they hold this invaluable heritage in their trust for future generations. They rely solely on generous donations and on the time given by volunteers to continue their vital work to help the people and animals of Namibia.

Your role

Activities at the project are carried out using a rotational group system to ensure that everybody gets exposed to the variety of experiences available. Volunteers are split into groups of 4-5 people. They are assigned to these groups for the duration of their stay and rotate through activities on a daily basis.

Each group activity is led by a Wildlife or Research Coordinator.

Possible tasks could include:

- Food preparation
- Feeding of the animals (small animals on the sanctuary, carnivores in larger camps on the property)
- Enclosure cleaning
- Providing intensive care for juvenile wildlife
- Cheetah run observation and the education of cheetah physiology
- Project work including building camps and new facilities, breaking down old structures, maintaining roads, fence work, assisting with the various projects that arise at the sanctuary and much more
- Monitoring high-profile species on the reserve
- Spoor tracking of reserve animals. Join skilled trackers to identify game and carnivore numbers and learn the ins and outs of animal populations
- Rhino Rangers "Lite": This activity includes: Tracking, overnighting in the bush, own food preparation and wildlife monitoring
- Focused research:
 - monitoring free-roaming carnivores
 - analyzing camera traps
 - analyzing GPS data
- Game counts on horseback and tending to the riding horses
- Attending to human-wildlife conflict calls (if they arise)
- Working with the school children from the on-site primary school (usually 1 afternoon per week)

The work schedule follows the below basic timing:

Monday to Saturday:

- 07:00 - 08:00 Breakfast and morning meeting
- 08:00 hands-on work and activities
- 13:00 - 14:30 Lunch and afternoon meeting
- 14:30 hands-on work and activities
- 17:00 End
- 18:00 Dinner

Saturday afternoons are usually reserved for fun team building activities with coordinators and volunteers.

Sunday:

- 08:00 to 09:00 Breakfast

- 09:00 (2-3 h) Morning Meeting and feeding of animals
- 13:00 to 14:30 Lunch
- 14:30 Free time
- 18:00 Dinner

There are additional research and social programmes available through the organisation, that you can upgrade to depending on space, once you reach the Sanctuary. If you are keen to find out about the various opportunities contact us.

It is important to note that the task descriptions serve as an examples only. The daily tasks and challenges depend on the volunteer, the time of the year and the work that needs to be done. The final job description can therefore vary substantially from the above.

Project location



The Wildlife Conservation project is based in a remote area, approximately 45 minutes away from Windhoek.

In all likelihood, everything will be very different to what you are used to at home. During the first few days, you may find it very difficult to adapt to the new situation; you might even feel homesick. It is important to give yourself time to get used to the new challenges you may face. Within the first week, you will come to find it much easier and will soon be won over by the landscape and the people. Also remember that you are able to reach out to us or the onsite team if there is anything you wish to discuss and there is always a solution which can be found for any issue.

Getting to and from the project

You need to arrive at Hosea Kutako International Airport in Windhoek, Namibia, where you will be collected by a project member.

Arrival and departures are available on any day, however, please make sure to arrive and depart during daylight hours.



Accommodation

The volunteer accommodation is fixed structured canvas tents, located at the sanctuary.

Two types of accommodation are offered:

- three single beds with en-suite ablutions, electricity, lockable entrance door and lockable bathroom door. There is also a safe included in the room with instructions on how to use the safe.
- two single beds with separate ablutions (shared with a maximum of 4 people), electricity with a lockable entrance door. There is also a safe included in the room with instructions on how to use the safe.

The rooms are basic, but the single beds are comfortable; towels and bedding are provided (duvets, pillows and linen). Showers and toilet facilities are shared with either 3 or 4 people and the hot water is heated by solar energy and is therefore sometimes restricted. Electricity is freely available. However, please be aware that sometimes the electricity supply can be cut off during storms. Additional power sockets for electrical items are available in communal areas.

Electricity:

The plugs used in Namibia, like those in South Africa, have three large round pins and you will need to bring an adaptor in order to charge electronic items such as phones and camera batteries. You need to be sensible when using electricity as it is much more of a luxury in Africa. You should also be prepared for power cuts as these are common, and you will need to be flexible about charging your items. You should bring spare batteries.

Internet:

WiFi is available at the sanctuary during mealtimes only, however due to the rural location, connection can be unstable. You are also able to purchase WiFi coupons which gives you 30 minutes access to the WiFi for an additional cost. In your free time, you may get access to free WiFi at the local Mall in Windhoek.

Telephone:

To use your mobile phone, you will need to activate roaming, alternatively you can purchase a Namibian SIM card, however for this you will need to ensure your phone is not locked to your home cell network provider. The Namibian SIM cards can be purchased at the airport or at the shop at sanctuary, as well as pay-as-you-go credit. The team on-site can assist you with adding this to your phone as it is very easy and they do this all the time. Due to the rural location of the sanctuary, the mobile phone signal is quite weak, but there are a few spots around the sanctuary where you can get reception. In case of emergency, the in-country team has a phone you would be able to use.

Laundry:

There is a free laundry service at the sanctuary for all volunteers to use. Laundry bags and laundry sheets are provided where volunteers can hand in their dirty laundry and indicate their name, tent number and all items to be washed. Clean laundry can then be collected the following day (weather permitting).

Meals

Three meals a day are provided on a help-yourself basis buffet. Breakfast includes toast, cereals and fruit daily, with a variety of additional items which vary during the week, such as eggs, bacon, porridge, muffins and pancakes. For lunch, pasta, wraps, burgers or stir-fry are available. Dinner includes meat, fish, vegetables, rice, potatoes or pasta. At weekends, there is often a braai (barbecue). Water, tea, coffee and milk (dairy and non-dairy) are freely available throughout the day and other drinks and snacks can be purchased at the sanctuary. There is a little coffee shop which is open during the day and a bar which is open during the evenings. The project accepts cash and card payments and also has an ATM for



withdrawing small sums of cash which can be used at the bar.

The project can cater to most special dietary requirements and you would need to clarify this with your enrolment.

Free time

Free time can be spent in the communal areas which includes a swimming pool, volleyball pitch and pool table.

There is a reduced work schedule over the weekends.

Saturday afternoons are filled with fun team building style activities (not compulsory) followed by a braai (the Southern African word for a BBQ) for all.

Most of Sunday is free time, 2 optional Sunday activities (at a small extra fee) are offered on a first come, first served option:

- Sunday buffet lunch (at the Lodge).
- Trip to Windhoek (visit shopping mall, craft market and a well-known restaurant for lunch). The cost covers the transfer only.

Alternatively, volunteers are welcome to enquire at the bookings office to sign up for a two-day or three-day safari excursion.

Namibia is a beautiful country with a stunningly diverse array of landscapes. This Wildlife Conservation project is part of a larger conservation organisation, which focuses on the conservation of the people, landscapes and wildlife of Namibia. If you plan on a stay of 3 or more weeks in Namibia, you can combine any of the projects offered, which allow you to not only see more of this magical country but you will also continue to support these essential conservation efforts at the same time.

You can make the most of your time in this amazing country by combining your project with a tour. Depending on your time and budget, you can choose from a range of trips from 3 days to two weeks or more.

You could visit the amazing sand dunes and desolate plains of Sossussvlei and the Namib Desert (3-day tour available), the Skeleton Coast and the coastal resort of Swakopmund, or the dense bush and open plains of the Etosha National Park, the third largest in Africa, for spectacular game viewing (3-day tour available).

Local transport

Transport, or town trips to Windhoek, can be arranged by the project at an extra cost.



What to bring

Please note that a **compulsory uniform** will need to be worn by all volunteers participating in the project. This consists of a t-shirt and zip-off trousers. The following parts of the uniform need to be brought from home:

- Spare trousers or knee length shorts (khaki, olive green or denim)
- Closed, sturdy footwear

Please find further information regarding the uniform under the “What to wear” headline.

Other clothing you need to bring will depend on the time of year you visit.

May to September is the winter period and can be **very** cold at night and in the early mornings and daytime temperatures can vary. A sleeping bag is recommended! Please make sure to bring warm cloths, sturdy shoes that will not get wet, gloves and a beanie. All clothes should ideally be in neutral colours for when you'll be visiting the Reserve.

October to April is the summer period and the rainy season is from November to February. At this time, it is generally hot during the day, but it can rain and become chilly in the evenings so do pack a jumper or fleece and a waterproof jacket.

Please note that Namibian culture is somewhat conservative, please bare this in mind when packing. Certain clothing is not permitted, and these items include hot pants and cropped tops.

Please wash your hands carefully at all times before handling food to avoid the spread of diseases and infections. This includes food preparation and when feeding animals.

Please note that work at the sanctuary includes being very hands-on, so you are likely to get very dirty. For daily activities, bring old clothes, which you don't mind ruining. Sunday trips to Windhoek are available, but it is advisable to bring enough of what you need for the duration of your stay.

Personal Admin

- Passport including your visa, insurance certificates and personal documentation (Photocopies of all these documents should be left in your home country.)
- Spending money (bring Namibian Dollars or SA Rand, there is an ATM at the Sanctuary and card payments are also accepted)
- Proof of vaccinations (Please contact us to find out which vaccinations you need.)
- Secure, waterproof bag for documents and money: sealable plastic bags will do.

General

The project is aiming to 'Go Green' and we hope to reduce the amount of waste, plastic and packaging as much as possible. We, therefore, ask that you keep this in mind when packing. Please see items below listed as 'Go Green' where we believe you can actively help. Please also keep in mind that we request that any plastic bottles and packaging that you bring with you, should also be taken back with you.

- Toiletries 'Go Green' (biodegradable products, shampoo and soap bars)
- Face mask for COVID-19 protection as this might not be available for purchase.
- Sleeping bag: useful for winter months, possible overnight sleep-outs in the field or if you plan to travel outside of your project
- Silk or cotton line (optional): Ideal for hot nights or as an extra layer to your sleeping bag
- Sunglasses (high UV protection)
- Sun cream (high factor needed)
- Torch and batteries (preferably a head torch)

- Alarm clock/watch
- Camera/batteries/film or memory card
- Water bottle - at least 75cl 'Go Green'
- Day pack/rucksack for everyday use
- Cloth Laundry bag 'Go Green' – this is for laundry to hand in for cleaning
- Cloth Shopping bags 'Go Green' – for use if you go into Windhoek for shopping
- Mobile phone set for roaming (local SIM cards are available at the airport or the sanctuary)
- Swimming towel
- Sewing kit and pocketknife for general use (not in hand luggage!)
- Plug adaptor (3 large round pins)
- Padlock (although safes are sometimes provided, the easiest way to store anything of value is to put this in your suitcase and lock this with a padlock)
- The evenings can be quiet so bring books, cards, board games, etc.

Clothing

- Adequate cover for cool mornings and evenings (e.g. gloves and beanie)
- Sun hat/bandana
- Gardening gloves to protect your hands
- Casual clothes for day trips to Windhoek and for weekend activities
- Flip flops/sandals for the evenings/free time
- Underwear for at least seven days
- Pyjamas/nightwear
- Lightweight fleece or jumper
- Waterproof jacket
- Warm clothes for winter and early mornings (It gets very cold when the sun goes down)

Medical Kit

- Hand sanitizer and wet wipes
- Personal First Aid Kit
- Re-hydration salts and Imodium or similar product
- Personal medication e.g. prescription drugs/inhalers
- Contact lenses and solution if necessary
- Lip balm with sun protection
- Sanitary products if necessary
- Mosquito repellent (please bring non-DEET mosquito repellent since DEET is not environmentally friendly)
- Ear plugs – you may be sharing a room with 1 or 2 people



Your commitment

Please be aware that in applying for a volunteer project, you are making a firm commitment to the project. Our projects depend on the volunteers. It is necessary that you take this commitment seriously.

Some projects will appoint specific responsibilities to you; others are less structured and require the volunteers to use their initiative. If you prefer the one type over the other, please ask us for the most appropriate project for your preference.

Your daily presence is required and working hours are to be followed strictly. Not fulfilling your obligation can result in your dismissal from the project.

Cell phone use during working hours

We kindly ask that you refrain from using your cell phone during work hours as this will distract you from doing the work at hand. Due to strict privacy laws, taking photographs of people, particularly children, is in most cases prohibited. This is also for the safety of the volunteers who work with animals.

We also ask that you consult with the project team onsite to receive guidance and advice on the taking of photographs while at the project. Please ensure you follow this advice as it is for your own safety as well as the safety of the children whom we support with our social projects.

Many of the animals at the sanctuary come from cases of conflict with humans, in some cases having been kept as pets illegally. Taking photos of animals in close proximity to people, where it is not clear that these animals are being cared for in a sanctuary environment, can lead to a promotion of animal trafficking.

What to wear

It is compulsory to wear a volunteer uniform during your working hours. It is expected that all volunteers follow this policy and be accountable for their appearance. A volunteer may be required to change their clothing if found to not meet the required dress code. The uniform consists of the following:

- The mandatory uniform will be provided on the day of arrival. The uniform consists of 1x t-shirt and 1x zip-off trousers
- Additional uniform sets can be purchased from the in-country team.
- Spare trousers or knee length shorts – khaki, olive green or denim (to be brought from home)
- Closed, sturdy footwear

Reasons to wear a compulsory uniform:

1. Safety of Volunteers

The new Namibian Reserve covers 8,000 hectares of land and is right next to the wildlife sanctuary property. The Wildlife Conservation Project manages all wildlife on both properties, which will include a wide variety of wild antelope species, lions, African wild dogs, elephants and white rhino. With the introduction of elephants and rhinos, the project has had to invest in a professional anti-poaching team who will patrol this property 24 hours a day. Any person not wearing the approved uniform could therefore be seen as a possible intruder.

2. Uniformity of all

The supervisors in Namibia would like to ensure that all those working at the project sites, staff and volunteers alike, look professional at all times. It is expected that all volunteers follow this policy and be accountable for their appearance. This new policy is geared to improving security on the new reserve and aims to strengthen the Namibian projects responsibility of providing a safe working environment for volunteers and staff members alike.

Any volunteers found inappropriately dressed will be given a written warning and asked to leave the project if the written warning is ignored.

Insurance

Travel insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out full personal insurance cover.

This should include protection against theft and against loss of fees, should the whole or part of a programme or activity or accommodation not be attended.

Medical insurance

You are required to take out medical insurance before travelling.

You must ensure that you are covered from the day of departure in your home country to the day of arrival back in your home country. The minimum coverage must be US\$ 100.000 and, as part of the enrolment process, you will need to email us a copy of your insurance policy documentation.

Safety

While all safety precautions are followed, you are still working with wild animals and must be aware of this at all times and follow the safety guidelines.

Health

In general, no vaccinations are required for travellers going to Namibia. Please note that for this project a rabies and tetanus vaccination is highly recommended. Clients should consult their doctor for any other recommendations.

A yellow fever certificate is compulsory for those persons who have travelled from, or intend travelling through, countries in the yellow fever belt:

Africa: Angola, Burundi, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda.

South America: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guyana, Guyana, Panama, Peru, Surinam, Venezuela, Argentina and Paraguay.

Bring medication just in case you suffer from any travel-related illnesses, e.g. stomach upsets, since your body needs to adjust to the change in food and water during your first few days in Namibia.



It is important to keep in mind at all times that HIV and Aids are widespread diseases in Namibia.

Make sure you are up-to-date on routine vaccines before every trip. We recommend that you make contact with your local vaccination services. The vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine and polio vaccine. In addition, we recommend Hepatitis A, typhoid and rabies. You can get hepatitis B through sexual contact, contaminated needles, and blood products, so this vaccine is recommended if you might get a tattoo or piercing.

Please contact us at Good Hope Volunteers should you have any questions about this.

What's included / not included

Included:

- Project placement
- Airport transfer on arrival and departure (Hosea Kutako International Airport in Windhoek)
- Accommodation (twin room, full-board, laundry)
- Towels
- The **mandatory uniform** consists of 1x T-shirt and 1x zip-off trousers
- An orientation at the beginning of your volunteering
- Electronic certificate (printed copy on request)
- Local support including a 24-hour emergency number

Not included:

- Wi-Fi/Telephone calls – due to the rural location, signal cannot always be guaranteed
- All items of a personal nature
- Drinks and Snacks
- Excursions
- Local transport

Visa

From 24 August 2019 onwards, all volunteers joining the Wildlife Conservation Project can enter Namibia on a Tourist Visa, valid for a maximum of 90 days. They will receive the visa at the airport when entering the country. All visitors require a passport for entry into Namibia, which must be valid for at least 6 months beyond the intended stay in the country and have sufficient pages for entry and exit stamps. All visitors must also have a valid return ticket.

Extensions for a further three months are available from the Ministry of Home Affairs in Windhoek, and the on-site team can assist if a visa needs to be extended.