



NHOLWASI COMMUNITY PROJECT CLOSE UP

The word Nholwasi means 'to build and work together', and this project provides the opportunity to do just that - working in partnership with the Children In the Wilderness charity, the programme focuses on hands-on environmental education amongst the youth in the Tuli Block.

CONSERVATION IN ACTION

How does this project make a difference?

The Nholwasi Community Project assists in providing a future for conservation in the Tuli block of Botswana, by providing local kids at disadvantaged rural schools in the area with a fun way to learn about conservation and develop an empathy for the wildlife and environment that surrounds them.

How do I, the volunteer, make a difference?

Working with the children from a number of local schools, you can help to enrich their environment, and in turn their lives, by providing vital resources through your placement contributions. You will also be directly involved in running educational workshops about the environment and conservation. It is a truly moving and possibly even life changing experience.

CORE ACTIVITIES

Improving the school environment and facilities

This can involve working in a variety of different schools during your placement, on dedicated projects, focussed on providing better working conditions for both the children and the teachers. This can involve tasks such as:

- Vegetable food garden establishment and maintenance.
- Painting and improving the condition of classrooms, providing a more inspiring learning environment
- Assisting with the physical maintenance of schools and the provision of crucial elements such as safe drinking water and good sanitation.

Work alongside established charity Children In The Wilderness

- CITW works within the local community and schools to support their wildlife club in inspiring children to care and protect their environment. Volunteering with Nholwasi Community Project, you have an important part to play in assisting CITW reach specific goals through both funding and physical help at the project.





Bush camps in Tuli Wilderness

During South African school holidays, bush camps are provided for the local children to attend, with various eco-based themes. If you join Nholwasi during the school camp dates you will act as a mentor for the children. The camps always include topics such as sustainable living, fresh bush facts, new skills to discover in the bush and workshops based on environmental education. You will assist the camps in the following ways:

- Assisting with teaching ecological subjects. In a fun way, technical skills, awareness and literacy are transferred using the natural environment. Children learn to put into practice what they have learnt during game drives in the bush.
- Integrate into the team running the course and assist with duties from food preparation for the group to reading and learning sessions. You often get to learn as much as the children about the unique environment you are working in during these camps!

EXTRAMURAL ACTIVITIES

As part of inspiring and teaching the children about their bush environment, you will at times join the Tuli Conservation Project where you'll receive your own training in animal identification, behavior and tracking to assist with wildlife cub game drives for the children.

SKILLS GAINED

Whether you join the bush camps or work at the project during normal school sessions, you will learn as much about Botswana's ecosystems and wildlife as the children. You will also develop considerable skills in working in a cross-cultural environment as you will be a member of a truly diverse team.

WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

Tuli's resident populations include elephant, lion, leopard, cheetah, giraffe and eland. In addition to the common plains game like wildebeest and zebra, there are troops of monkey and baboon, as well as populations of steenbok, the timid duiker, grysbok, impala, common waterbuck, bushbuck, and warthog. Also present are aardvark, aardwolf, bat-eared fox, African wild cat, spotted hyena and black-backed jackal as well as a great diversity of bird life, with over 350 species having been recorded to date.

"Suddenly elephants emerged from the bush and crossed our path. Just a few at first, and then more and more. I inadvertently held my breath - a herd of 93 elephants migrated past us!"

Silvia Russenberger

LOCATION

The project is named after the Tuli Block, an area which forms part of the Limpopo-Shashe trans frontier conservation area, which also straddles the borders of South Africa and Zimbabwe allowing for natural migration of elephant herds and other animal species across historically established national borders.





FACILITIES

Accommodation: The volunteer camp has a combination of traditional huts and tents. The accommodation is mixed with three volunteers per hut. There are communal outdoor showers and flushing toilets, a kitchen, dining area and a volleyball court. Lighting is provided by gas and paraffin as there is no electricity. An inverter is available to charge cameras, phones and any other 230 V electrical equipment.

Meal arrangements: Food is provided and cooking is done communally. Additional refreshments are available to buy at the camp, only cash is accepted.

Laundry: Washing is done once a week by a domestic helper.

Nearest towns: Selebi-Phikwe in Botswana; Polokwane (formerly Pietersburg) in South Africa.

Time off: One day per week, usually Sundays. Town trips are variable and usually occur once every two weeks.

Contact with home: Dependent on cellphone signal. Botswana time = GMT+2hrs. There is no internet access.

Transfers: Transfers to the Tuli Conservation Project are done by road. The drive from Johannesburg airport takes approximately 8 hours, broken up with a lunch stop. Once at the border, volunteers will usually spend the night in a camp right on the Limpopo river on the South African side (the camp is within the reserve area so elephants pass by and there are always antelope in front of the camp.) Each person has a walk in tent with double bed, full electricity and a full bathroom built on-suite.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Airport: We meet all our volunteers personally at Johannesburg airport directly off the plane.

Road Safety: All drivers have Public Driving Permits and only new, air conditioned vehicles are used for transfers.

First Aid & Emergency: First aid Level 5 qualified personnel on site.

Medical: Doctors and hospital in Polokwane.

IS THIS PROJECT RIGHT FOR ME?

You do not need any previous experience, but you should enjoy working with children and have genuine enthusiasm for conservation and wildlife. This project is not physically strenuous, but it can be emotionally taxing, however, you will be amazed at the energy and warmth with which the school kids greet you and seeing the difference that you can make to their lives is incredibly rewarding.

BOOKING INFORMATION

What's included? Return international flights from London Heathrow (optional), transfers, food and accommodation, 24 hour support from our ground manager, ACE T-Shirt, financial contributions to the project.

What's not included? Travel insurance, spending money.

When can I join? This project runs all year round.

How can I join? You can apply online at www.conservationafrica.net/apply or simply fill out an application form in one of our brochures and post it back to us.

