



NSIKAZI WILDLIFEVETS EXPERIENCE PROJECT

CLOSE UP

For those living and working as a wildlife vet, this isn't just a job, it's a vocation, a way of life that they are dedicated to; treating, healing and substantially managing the wildlife that they love in a country they love.

CONSERVATION IN ACTION

Veterinary work is essential to the preservation and protection of rare and endangered species endemic to Africa. The value of this project is heightened by the local community awareness scheme and disease control methods. In collaboration with the State Veterinary department, in the local Nsikazi district community, Nzikazi Project will provide a clinical service and management input to the cattle breeders at the diptanks. This area is adjacent to the Kruger National Park and plays an important role in conservation medicine at the interface between wildlife and livestock.

CORE ACTIVITIES

Clinical and Field Veterinary Work

You will join the community vet service provided and wildlife veterinary work in the field. You may also be involved in handling wildlife intoxication cases, hand rearing and rehabilitation of injured or orphaned wildlife. The team also frequently assist in forensic work on carcasses of poached species, and recovery of bullets.

Disease Research and Control

You will join the team in clinical trials on wildebeest and disease testing of various species in breeding projects.

Game Capture

Wildlifevets are specialists in the chemical immobilisation of wildlife. Other capture techniques are also utilised and include mass capture, passive capture, net capture, trapping and baiting. As a volunteer you will assist both the veterinarians and highly trained and dedicated game capture team, learning the use of specialised equipment.

Nsikazi Project

Wildvets.com assist the local state veterinarian in various community projects, which include assistance at dip tanks and vaccination of dogs in rabies campaigns. In collaboration with the State Veterinary department, in the local Nsikazi district community, Nzikazi Project will provide a clinical service and management input to the cattle breeders at the diptanks. This area is adjacent to the Kruger National Park and plays an important role in conservation medicine at the interface between wildlife and livestock. You will be working with livestock at 52 dip tanks to reduce the transmission and spread of rabies and TB, and providing a mobile community veterinary service to local dogs, reducing the occurrence of rabies.





SKILLS GAINED

Administration of low schedule drugs, mammal identification, physical capture, animal care, disease testing, veterinary work guidelines and practices in South Africa

WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

Volunteers can expect to work with a wide variety of species including buffalo, rhino, antelope, dogs, wildebeest with occasional work on elephant and predators.

LOCATION

This project is located by Nelspruit in the Greater Kruger Area

FACILITIES

Accommodation:

Based near Nelspruit and White River, South Africa, Nsikazi Wildvets Experience is located on a private game reserve in the African bush. Accommodation will be shared in the colourful 'Africa House'. Which has two large rooms that can sleep 2 to 5 volunteers, each with its own en suite bathroom with basin, shower and toilet. The house has a fully equipped communal kitchen, dining area and fire place.

Internet: There is a communal computer in the house. At a cost of R200 per week volunteers have unlimited internet access.

Nearest Town: Nelspruit

Meal Arrangements:

Money is provided for volunteers to buy their own food during a weekly shopping trip. Volunteers are expected to prepare and cook their own food as a group.

Working hours:

Time off is hugely variable and depends on the vet's schedule but will generally be on the weekends.

Contact with home: SA time is GMT +2 hours. In the house there is a communal computer with internet connection for volunteers to use.

Transfers to the vets from Johannesburg airport takes approximately 5-6 hours, broken up with a lunch.

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 kit on site. The co-ordinator, being a veterinarian, has some medical and first-aid background.

Project Insurance: Students will be required to sign an indemnity form.

Medical: Doctors and hospital in nearest town.





IS THIS PROJECT RIGHT FOR ME?

The project is a great opportunity for those interested in the many elements of veterinary work and is particularly suited to current veterinary medicine students looking for practical experience, undergraduate students preparing to apply for veterinary school or already qualified vets, vet techs and vet nurses looking to extend their knowledge of working with exotic wildlife. The vets will expect you to act in a professional manner at all times, and in turn you can expect to learn a lot from them! If you are planning to use your placement to fulfill university requirements for extramural studies, you are welcome to do so and we will be happy to assist you with any necessary paperwork, provided you advise us of this in advance. You have to be realistic about what you can achieve within the limited time of a placement though, and we can never guarantee a set number of hours of practical work per week, due to the reactive nature of wildlife veterinary work.

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?

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.

