



ZINGELA PREDATOR CONSERVATION PROJECT CLOSE UP



At Zingela you can study some of Africa's most elusive and persecuted predators, focussing on lion and cheetah conservation, leopard and brown hyena studies and the preservation and monitoring of a broad range of African species.

CONSERVATION IN ACTION

How does this project make a difference?

The project co-ordinator, Anthony Peniston, is an inspiration to any budding conservationist. His original inspiration? To drastically reduce the number of cheetah which are shot each year in

Alldays, an area dominated by game farming and hunting. The successful implementation of this project has led to the growth of a new area of predator conservation, focussed on protecting the last free roaming lion population in southern Africa. With numbers drastically declining, the situation requires a careful integrated approach with the local community to ensure it is sustainable and will have a real and longterm impact.

How do I, the volunteer, make a difference?

This project is completely dependent on funds from volunteers - without your efforts the project would not be able to provide financial incentives to local landowners to look at alternatives to hunting when making a living off their land. You will also provide funds to sponsor anti poaching techniques and hands on help with the collection of data, tracking and monitoring species which is critical to the success of the project.

CORE ACTIVITIES

• Cheetah conservation

The Limpopo province has the highest number of wild roaming cheetah. There is a viable population of cheetahs on the main reserve with a couple having been fitted with a radio collar to enable their movements and behaviour to be studied more closely. Volunteers work with telemetry equipment to locate the cheetah and use traditional tracking skills to follow on foot, observing the animal's behaviour and recording details on research sheets.

• Leopard research

Zingela is also home to a number of leopards, and sightings and tracks are being used to develop an understanding of the number of animals, their territory size, and their impact on the prey species on the reserve.

• Limpopo free ranging lion population project * NEW

Having formed a successful project conserving cheetah and leopard, by creating an alternative way of funding and of managing predators, Zingela is now extending their work to preserve a critical lion population in the Limpopo province.





A challenging project to change the local farming view towards the last free roaming lion population in southern Africa, this project is an exciting programme for any conservation enthusiast to join.

At present the lion population numbers are undetermined with individuals roaming over a vast area. A unique behavioural adaptation of this population is that the normal pride social structure is not present, with animals moving in small groups or singly. Zingela have the experience and dedication to help conserve this lion population before it becomes too late.



Conflict is occurring at the boundary between livestock land and wildlife reserves, where livestock losses are being incurred by communities that can ill afford it. The project will work with rural farmers to minimise predation of livestock using deterrent techniques and introducing new grazing practices which are environmentally friendly and increase productivity of their land. Your funds directly support these elements of the project and support teaching of new techniques to manage livestock camps more effectively and allow lions to continue to roam the land without threat.

The project aims to build strong relationships between private landowners, the hunting fraternity, local communities and the department of nature conservation, thereby enabling effective and continuous monitoring of the population. This action is to secure a future for what is the southern most free ranging lion population in Africa.

You will assist with creating identification sheets for field identification, mapping movements and behaviour of the individual lions, specifically when they roam closer to farming land.

- **Hyena project**

Volunteers assist with the hyena project looking at the resident population numbers and diet preferences, to establish the ration between scavenging and hunting. This information is essential to manage the brown hyena numbers within the reserve and on neighbouring reserves and determine if they can be managed through natural methods such as the introduction of spotted hyena.

- **Rhino tracking and monitoring**

White rhino have recently been relocated into the reserve due to the level of safety it provides against poaching. You will assist with monitoring the health and behaviour of these rhinos as they become habituated. Careful management will provide the possibility of a future breeding programme for white rhino in the reserve.

- **Environmental Education (Optional)**

The project are passionate about integrating their conservation approach with the local community and working with local farm owners and landowners to ensure the predator project is sustainable and has a long term future. Every Wednesday there is the opportunity for you to visit the local schools and provide environmental education lessons to the children.





- **Sable and Roan antelope breeding programme**

Zingela is home to one of the largest privately owned roan antelope breeding populations in SA. You will be involved in the management of these antelopes by supplemental feeding, creation of improved watering holes in the dry season and management of the sable and roan camps to ensure breeding males are rotated for increased genetic diversity. You may be involved in game capture as part of this programme or part of the more general management of the reserve.

- **Prey species**

Zingela has a wealth of animals, and research on prey animals is also needed to help develop a full understanding of the predator-prey interactions.

- **Buffalo** on the reserve have also been collared to help try and develop an understanding of their behaviour and movements around the reserve.

- **Reserve management**

The Zingela project operates on a large 8,500 hectare farm, and volunteers are required to help in the management of the roan and sable antelope breeding station which occupies 1,500 hectares of the total land space. Young antelope are very vulnerable in the bush and the bomas require management to ensure predation levels from cheetah and hyena are minimal.

- **Fence line patrols of inner sable and roan camps and the greater reserve:**

This work includes regular fence patrols and repairs and providing supplemental feeding during the dry season for the breeding populations.

SKILLS GAINED

Tracking (including telemetry equipment), animal identification and species specific physiology, animal behaviour, electric fence maintenance and temporary grazing techniques, reserve management, community interaction and integration methods.

WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

The reserve is home to rhino, leopard, cheetah, brown hyena, roan and sable antelope, tsessebe, zebra, jackal, pocupine, giraffe, impala, steenbok, duiker, gemsbok, wildebeest, warthog, bushbaby, kudu, waterbuck, black chested snake eagle and many more. While working at Zingela you will be working within a range of reserves and on neighbouring private farms and community owned land.





LOCATION

The project base camp is situated on an 8,500 hectare farm near Alldays, in the Limpopo Province of South Africa.

FACILITIES

Accommodation: Rustic bush camp with accommodation in twin share tents. There is no electricity at the main camp but showers are heated via log burners.

Meal arrangements: Meals provided at both camps.

Nearest Town: Alldays, South Africa

Working hours: Variable and weather dependent. Sundays are a day off. For students volunteering for four weeks or longer there is the opportunity to visit Kruger National Park.

Contact with home: Your mobile will work, albeit intermittently. South Africa time = GMT+2 hrs. You will have access to pay phones and internet cafés during town trips on days off.

Transfers: Transfers to the Zingela Predator Conservation Project are by road. The drive from Johannesburg airport takes approximately 7 hours, with regular stops.

TYPICAL WEEKLY SCHEDULE

• Monday - Wednesday

Cheetah tracking and monitoring, leopard and hyena research, rhino tracking and monitoring, buffalo habituation, sable and roan breeding project management, reserve management.

• Thursday and Friday

Focus on the lion population studies including lion tracking, monitoring and creating ID sheets for quick field identification. You will also create movement maps of where the different lions spend most of their time.

• Saturday

Work in the local community and farms to reduce the lion/human conflict. Collecting data of lion kills, sightings and movements and working with rural farmers to minimise lion predation on their livestock. Working with farmers to create an effective financial incentive program to encourage farmers not to shoot the lions.

• Sunday

Day off spent at Zingela base conservation reserve and camp.





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 available in camp and on horse trails.

Medical: Doctors in Alldays. There is a hospital in the nearby provincial capital Polokwane.

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

Contact with home: Your mobile will work, albeit intermittently. South Africa time = GMT+2 hrs. You will have access to pay phones and internet cafés during town trips on days off.

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IS THIS PROJECT RIGHT FOR ME?

Zingela is a great project for anyone with a keen interest in predators and sustainable conservation initiatives. This project gives you experience working in real communities with real conservation needs and how these can be drawn together successfully. Due to the nature of the work, the project can be quite physical, and will require tracking on foot at times.

The camp is atmospheric but the facilities are somewhat basic - if you want to learn about wildlife, feel comfortable with the thought of camping in the African bush, and are looking for an opportunity to immerse yourself in nature, then the Zingela project will be a fantastic choice for you.

BOOKING INFORMATION

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

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

When can I join? This projects runs all year round except over Christmas.

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.

