



CONSERVATION: WILDLIFE REHABILITATION SOUTH AFRICA

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

South Africa has everything ...

- ◆ Sun, sparkling warm and clear oceans, and the most beautiful golden beaches you will ever see ... stretching for miles.
- ◆ Mountain climbing, biking and hiking
- ◆ The *Garden Route*, world famous and sheer paradise!
- ◆ Outstanding Game Reserves where you can see wild animals in their natural habitat, and by contrast symmetric vineyards stretching to infinity
- ◆ Sharks, whales and dolphins, and the amusing Cape Fur Seals.
- ◆ Elegant restaurants, barbecues and beach parties
- ◆ And FRUIT everywhere!

But most of all, South Africans are the friendliest and most hospitable people in the world - without a doubt! If you're invited to dinner ... don't eat for a week beforehand because you'll be overfed, especially if it's a barbecue. Wine is cheap and good. The salads are to die for. And - of course - the fruit! From the exotic to the commonplace, it's everywhere.

“A small reebok that had been raised as a pet and grown up with dogs, paddles through a pond and comes to stare at you through the fence....it is being rehabilitated: taught not to think like a canine, so that it can be returned to its natural habitat in the Drakensberg.



Nearby a group of baboons are getting up to monkey business, each of the individuals have carefully been identified and chosen to fit into and play a role in this “unnatural” troop. They will be weaned from a “fast food” diet to a natural one and dehumanised – once they are ready, they too will be released into the wild.



This is the animal sanctuary and 24 hour hospital...”

About the Rehabilitation Centre

The Centre is situated KwaZulu-Natal. It is a wildlife hospital that cares for the injured and orphaned wild animals and birds and the only centre of its kind in the Province.

VISION: To be an independent, pioneering force in the protection and rehabilitation of orphaned and injured wildlife, while promoting the preservation of their natural habitat.

MISSION STATEMENT: Committed to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of orphaned and injured wildlife, and believes in action and education with regard to the protection of all natural resources.

The Centre is considered to be one of the leading rehabilitation Centres in South Africa. Any wild animal, that has been injured, rescued or abandoned, is admitted free of charge. Almost 90% of animals admitted have sustained injuries due to human negligence. It takes time and dedication to rehabilitate these animals and to prepare them to be re-introduced in their natural environment.



Animals that are currently being rehabilitated are placed in enclosures far away from public activity, so as not to 'humanise' the animals. Humanising them means that they can never be rehabilitated and returned to live free in the wild.

As far as possible, animal enclosures are created that are similar to their natural environment to give them a "feel" of what their world is like. Orphaned antelope are often only released in Nature Reserves, where there are no predators, as they do not know what a predator is. These animals are tended to by staff and volunteers whose love, care and dedication is unconditional, around the clock.

The team has extensive experience in the rehabilitation of wildlife and assists a number of wildlife agencies in drawing up release protocols for rehabilitated animals.



As the Centre is a non-profit organisation with no financial aid from the government or any large concern, they are solely reliant on our fundraising initiatives and the generosity and goodwill of the public. As the running costs are approximately R110,000 or more a month, there is very little funding that can be applied to appointing full time staff. **The volunteer programme is the lifeblood of this organization**, especially during the spring and summer months when lots of orphan baby animals are brought to the centre for care.

Location: Yellowwood Park, Durban, South Africa

The sanctuary is located on the east coast of South Africa, in the KwaZulu-Natal Province in a suburb of Durban, called Yellowwood Park. (Between The Bluff and Queensburgh on the adjacent map).

The centre lies close to a small protected reserve of 253 hectares, called Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve. The reserve offers fine examples of coastal forest and grassland habitats and include species such as zebra, bushbuck, reedbuck, impala, blue, red and grey duiker, vervet monkey, rock hyrax, slender mongoose, bush-baby, Egyptian mongoose, banded mongoose, water monitor and genet. The reserve has an interesting variety of indigenous flora and over 200 bird species on record. There are 13 km of nature walks and a pleasant picnic site is available.



Because of the proximity to the reserve and the fact that food is always available at the Centre, you will see an abundance of birdlife scavenging food from the enclosures.

The Bluff is a gigantic headland that forms the south-eastern 'arm' of Durban Harbour and enjoys a string of safe and protected beaches. Brighton Beach, Cave Rock Beach, Anstey's Beach and Garvies Beach are all highly popular, with interesting walks through coastal bush that ends almost at the water's edge.

Your work:

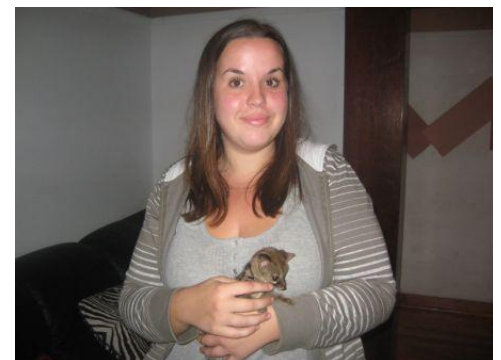
CROW is a project which benefits the animals enormously. You will need to be prepared to muck in with all jobs, such as maintenance of the centre and cleaning out cages as well as feeding and caring for the animals.

There is also quite a lot of manual work that you will get involved with such as digging, building, cleaning.

Volunteer duties are varied so there is something for everyone, from feeds to assisting nurses in the clinic, to grounds work and the building of suitable enclosures, to assisting in rescues and releases.

These releases take place on various game reserves a few hours' drive away from the centre and you will spend a few days on the reserve monitoring the animals which are about to experience their longed for freedom.

You may have the opportunity to assist in creating items for the cage enrichment programme. You will have to be imaginative as well as creative, as each day the previous day's item must be removed and replaced by a new one. Volunteers have really enjoyed this aspect of their daily tasks and have had a lot of fun designing tools and toys for the animals to investigate and either eat from or play with.



Animals normally range from birds and mammals to raptors and reptiles, and monkeys.

As a charity organisation there are always more mouths to feed than hands to feed them, so every helping hand is greatly appreciated.

Volunteer duties and responsibilities are linked with level of experience so there is something for everyone, from feeds to assisting nurses in the clinic, to grounds work and the building of suitable enclosures, to assisting in rescues and releases.

Autumn and Winter Months

South African autumn months are March, April and May which are still quite warm due to the subtropical climate of most of Natal. The winter is from June to August .

During the late summer and autumn those animals that have suitably recovered and been rehabilitated (weaned from their dependence on their human caregivers) are reintroduced to the wild. In addition to caring for those animals and babies that are not suitably recovered yet, you are likely to participate in the release and monitoring of animals that are being returned into the wild. This may involve going out to game reserves and farms where animals will be allowed to go back into the wild.

This is done specifically to give the animals a chance to adapt to their new homes, establish a territory, find the best food sources and water, etc before the cold winter months set in and adequate access to food and shelter become essential to their survival.

Those animals that are not ready to be released remain in the centre over the winter and require ongoing care throughout the winter. This is also the time that the centre readies itself for the next influx of babies.

Baby buck usually arrive in the early winter and will be in need of a lot of TLC.

Preparation of food, feeding and caring for those animals that have remained in the centre is ongoing, but there is also a strong focus at this time to repair and improve the grounds, clinic, education centre, enclosures, the cages and transport boxes.

Rescues are ongoing throughout the year and you may go out with the staff to help capture and secure injured animals that need to be brought back to the centre for medical attention and care.

Duties throughout the year may also include painting and construction, landscaping and removal of alien vegetation, as well as enriching the cages with structures and equipment to keep the monkeys entertained and stimulated.

Baby Animals

Due to the climate and vegetation of the Province, many of the cities and towns still have small populations of wildlife such as monkeys and mongoose roaming around. From around October to March every year the centre experiences a large influx of baby animals which range from little birds, mongoose, duiker and monkeys. There could be a wide variety of little ones that need a great deal of nurturing and you may be asked to assist with the feeding and offering loving care.

This is a very rewarding experience and you will be filled with joy when you see the baby develop as a direct result of your input.

There may be times when we have more volunteers than babies, and in such situations please abide by the decision of your supervisor at the centre as to who gets to "mother" the baby, or whether one baby can have two volunteer "mothers". If you are not chosen to mother a baby, please accept it gracefully. In situations like this where we work with orphaned animals, we need to deal with the demand that nature throws at us, which neither Travellers nor the centre can control. Your efforts will be of direct benefit to the animals.

Accommodation and Living Conditions:

We have 2 types of accommodation –

We have a fully furnished volunteer house that accommodates up to 10 volunteers at a time. There are three bedrooms and two bathrooms.

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Volunteers share rooms. The house is within the security of the sanctuary and surrounded by an electric fence.

For couples or groups of volunteers who would like some extra privacy, we have a log cabin situated next to the main volunteer house, nestled under huge indigenous thorn and fig trees. It comfortably sleeps 4 volunteers in two bedrooms and has a verandah, small kitchenette and sitting room. Ablutions consist of a shower, toilet and hand basin. Meals will still be cooked with the rest of the volunteers in the main house. Allocation to this accommodation will be made at the discretion of the Project.



Sufficient food is purchased for the house on a weekly basis to provide 3 basic meals per day. Volunteers advise Sharon, the volunteer coordinator, of any special requirements i.e. vegetarian, and these are met within reason. Volunteers cook their own meals out of the food provided. In addition to the stove in the house, there is also a braai (barbeque) area to cook outdoor meals.

There is a Spar (general grocer) within 10 minutes walk from the house. The shopping complex also has a post office. To use the internet you will have to travel to a shopping centre like the Pavilion or Gateway to get a proper internet café or a postnet.

The house is serviced once a week by a cleaner but volunteers are expected to keep their accommodation clean and tidy during the course of their stay. A washing machine is available and volunteers can do their laundry on the premises but washing powder is not provided.

A safe is available at the main office should you wish to lock away your passport, money or any valuables. Mobile phones do operate with full reception on-site and it is recommended that you bring one with you.

Transport and Outings:

You will be collected from the Durban airport or Baz Bus arrival point and taken back to the Centre where you will be introduced to everyone. There they will ensure that you are comfortably settled into your accommodation.



As you can see from the description of Durban further in this document, there are lots to do in the surrounding area. Volunteers work according to a roster and do not all take their days off at the same time, so that there is always someone to help at the sanctuary. Your project supervisor will help you schedule your two days off.

General Information about Durban:

Durban Metro is Africa's *ultimate* coastal playground in the sun! The enchanting, vibrant, historic city and townships of Durban are very cosmopolitan and offer an idyllic outdoor lifestyle in a subtropical climate. Durban is Africa's largest and busiest port and the economic powerhouse of the province.

Durban is also ideally situated to visit many of the Province's fine tourist attractions, among which are the majestic Drakensberg mountains; the world-famous Big 5 Game Reserves of Zululand, history-drenched Battlefields where the Zulu's fought both the British and the Afrikaners; the Midlands Meander route and a resort-dotted coastline that stretches seemingly forever in both directions.

The Durban seafront has exerted a magnetic pull since time immemorial... first attracting San hunter-gatherers of the Stone Age from their icy mountain fastness with the mildest winter imaginable. Iron Age peoples from Central Africa began infiltrating about two thousand years ago...pirates and shipwrecked European explorers of the modern era made temporary homes here during the 1700s...and in 1824, British adventurers deceived King Shaka and raised the Union Jack over this gem of his recently-founded Zulu realm.

The Durban seafront is known as **The Golden Mile**, with golden beaches and the warm Indian Ocean current. Beaches are protected year round by shark nets and expert lifeguards and offers excellent surfing. At the end of the Golden Mile is the uShaka MARINE WORLD, Africa's largest Marine Theme Park. uShaka incorporates a unique shipwreck-themed aquarium, a 1,200-seater dolphin stadium (the largest dolphinarium in Africa), a seal pool and penguin rookery – and interactive activities in the dive tank, snorkel reef and touch pool.

Did you know?

- South Africa has the oldest wine industry outside Europe
- South Africa is the third most biologically diverse country in the world
- South Africa's history extends back to around 40,000BC
- South Africa is in the world's top 25 diamond producing nations
- South Africa has 11 official languages

THE NEXT STEP

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I do hope you join us and please do call or email if you have any questions at all about this or any of our other projects – 01903 502595 or email info@travellersworldwide.com

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