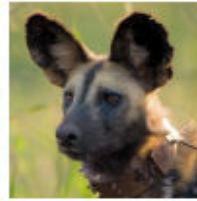
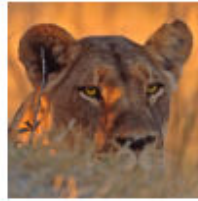


# Endangered Wildlife Monitoring



## Project description...

AVIVA have teamed up with the **Wildlife Africa Conservation Team (Wildlife ACT)** to provide you with an unbeatable wildlife volunteering experience in South Africa. This project is unique in that you will actively help to save endangered wildlife species by getting involved in some of the most exciting monitoring projects in Southern Africa. Wildlife ACT's work is focused on Cheetah, Wild dog, Black Rhino & Vultures. They also monitor Elephant, Lion, Leopard, Hyena, White Rhino and Buffalo.

These species act as umbrella species, meaning that the conservation of these high profile species has a spin-off effect of the preservation of large tracts of land and the conservation of biodiversity in these systems.

**As a volunteer, you will be actively involved in the day-to-day aspects of the work, including:**



**WILDLIFE  
ACT**

- Daily tracking and locating of priority species wildlife, via radio telemetry.
- Mapping the sightings using GPS equipment. You will be taught how to use the equipment.
- Observing animal behaviour (e.g. wild dog pack dynamics) for research purposes.
- Photographing and creating identity kits for reintroduced/relocated animals.
- Periodically setting up and checking camera traps at watering holes and game trails.
- Assisting with ongoing game counts.

**Depending on how long you join our team, you could experience:**

- Radio collaring of animals.
- Notching (identity marking) of animals such as Rhino.
- Night tracking excursions – for example Hyenas.
- Relocation or re-introduction of endangered species.
- Vulture counts and nest surveys.
- Bird ringing & alien plant control.

**Wildlife ACT** is an experienced, passionate, hands-on team who are looking for volunteers who want their contribution to be effectively utilized in genuine conservation efforts. If want to make a real difference and have an experience of a lifetime, then come and join the team!



## More about monitoring wildlife...

Wildlife monitoring is essential for keeping track of animal movement patterns, habitat utilisation, population demographics, snaring and poaching incidents and breakouts. The valuable information that you gather, has numerous management applications, including the planning of successful introduction and removal strategies of endangered wildlife species.

Wildlife ACT supplies information to local conservation authorities including the **WWF**, the **Black Rhino Range Expansion Project** and the **KZN Wild Dog Management Group**.

We concentrate our monitoring efforts on the endangered species present on the reserves. While doing so we have the capacity to keep track of other priority species on the reserves which potentially have an impact on the well-being of the endangered species (Lion and Hyena) or have a large ecological impact (Elephant). The following information gives some background on the endangered species and the reasons why we monitor them:

### Wild dogs

The African Wild Dog is one of the most endangered carnivores in the world. Their numbers have severely declined due to disease, loss of habitat and human persecution. Once common in all areas of Africa, African Wild Dogs are extinct or nearly extinct in nearly 25 of the 39 countries of their former range, and the majority of remaining populations are too small to remain viable. Of the six countries where they still exist, only three (Botswana, Tanzania and South Africa) have populations of more than 300 dogs. An estimated 5000 individuals remain in the wild. The project actively helps in the conservation of these amazing animals and cooperates with the KZN Wild Dog Management Group. As a member of the project team you will learn how to track these highly efficient hunters and help collect valuable research data.

### Cheetah

Cheetahs are classified as Endangered in South Africa and the meta-population is listed as Vulnerable. Over the last 30 years the population of Cheetah has declined by a massive 30%. This decline is largely driven by persecution of Cheetah by livestock farmers and communities, the trade in their skins for the fur trade and probably the largest contributor has been habitat loss and fragmentation due to burgeoning human populations. The known Cheetah population in the world today numbers ~7 500 individuals and is spread across Southern, Eastern and Northern Africa and the Sahel. The South African population is comprised of only ~550 individuals. This project aims at monitoring Cheetah populations which have been re-introduced to reserves and to gain a better understanding of how we can better conserve these cats in game reserves in South Africa.

### Black Rhino

Black rhino are a critically endangered species, with fewer than 4 500 individuals remaining in Africa. The total South African population is less than 1 500 individuals. Rhino have been persecuted for decades in Africa for use in dagger handles in Yemen and as an ingredient in many Chinese medicines. The incidence of poaching is still a threat to this population. The expansion and growth of the population has been deemed a conservation priority. To monitor and provide feedback on successful or failed reintroduction attempts have been designated as vital components of the continued conservation of this species by the governing conservation authorities. We are currently involved in the post-release monitoring of black rhino and provide valuable feedback in this regard.



## Who can join?

Anyone from the ages of 18 to 70 can join us; all you need is to be young at heart, have the passion to make a difference, a fair grasp of the English language and to be in reasonably good physical condition.

All training and supervision is provided, so qualifications, skills or previous experience are not required.

We need volunteers who seek a hands-on, authentic African wildlife conservation experience, so if you wish to be a part of a professional conservation team, want to make a real difference, and experience important conservation work in Africa, then you are the kind of volunteer we are looking for.

## How long can I stay?

Placements are scheduled throughout the year with a minimum stay of 2 weeks - you can add increments of 2 weeks to extend your stay to a maximum of 12 weeks. Because we work across various game reserves in Zululand, you have the opportunity to work on multiple reserves. If you stay for 2 weeks, you will work on 1 reserve, but for every extra 2 weeks you stay, the better your chance is of experiencing another reserve. By joining our team for 8 weeks or more, you could even experience the diversity of all the reserves we work on, and get a taste of the different conservation work being carried out at each one.

## More about the reserves we work on...

### Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Game Reserve

Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Game reserve is the oldest game reserve in Africa, where Zulu kings such as Dingiswayo and Shaka hunted and put in place the first conservation laws. Hluhluwe-Imfolozi is also famous as the place where the White Rhino was saved from certain extinction. Today, Africa's 'Magnificent 7' stalk the flourishing savannah and covers a massive 96,000 hectares, making it the second biggest reserve in South Africa, containing an immense diversity of fauna and flora and characterised by hilly topography. The teams focus on the monitoring of Cheetah, Leopard, African Wild Dog and Rhino, making extensive use of innovative monitoring techniques including the use of remote camera traps.

### Thanda Private Game Reserve

Thanda Private Game Reserve is situated in an area exceptionally rich in fauna and flora, boasting not only the "Magnificent 7" (lion, buffalo, elephant, rhino, leopard, African Wild Dog and cheetah), but also over 380 bird species. The team you will be joining initiated their monitoring efforts to help assess the progress of recently reintroduced species with a focus on the African Wild Dog, Cheetah and Black Rhino as well getting a handle on the resident Leopard and Hyena population's demographics, and how these species including Lion and Buffalo impact these endangered species.

### Mkhuze Game Reserve

A place of great beauty and high contrasts, Mkhuze is renowned for its astonishing diversity of natural habitats, from the eastern slopes of the Lebombo Mountains along its eastern boundary, to broad stretches of acacia savannah, swamps, a variety of woodlands and riverine forests as well as a rare type of sand forest. The reserve constitutes the north western spur of the recently declared World Heritage Site: the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park. The reserve offers an abundance of wildlife including endangered species such as Black Rhino, Cheetah, African Wild Dog, Vulture and Suni, and forms the team's main focus.

### Tembe Elephant Park

Situated in Northern Zululand, and adjoining the Mozambique border, Tembe is home to over 200 African elephants and a rich diversity of wildlife - including the big 5 with Black and White Rhino, Buffalo, Hippo, Lion, African Wild Dog, Leopard and various Antelope species. Tembe is also famous for having the world's biggest Elephants. They are absolutely massive! The main focus on Tembe is the monitoring of Lions, Elephant and Wild Dogs.



## Food & Accommodation Facilities

You will stay in basic, but comfortable accommodation on the reserve you are working on, with shared bedrooms (max 2 per room), hot water showers, flush toilets, and electricity. A bed, bedding and mattress are provided, but you will need to bring a sleeping bag for potential sleep outs during your placement.

On the majority of reserves we work on, the camp accommodation is unfenced, so you can expect visits from antelope, warthog, porcupine and the occasional hyena during your stay!

There is a well-equipped communal kitchen, where you will cook and prepare meals with the other volunteers.

We will take you shopping and provide basic groceries for all your meals. You can purchase personal items, luxury food items and soft drinks at the nearest town, which is about 30 minutes away – We make bi-weekly trips for supplies, and provide trips to town for volunteers at least once every 2 weeks.

Internet access is available in emergencies and for the occasional email home.

Drinking water at the research camp is of a good quality, but you can purchase bottled water at your own expense if you prefer.

## What's Included?

### Your Endangered Wildlife Monitoring Project includes everything below...

- A comprehensive welcome brief from a member of the Wildlife ACT team.
- Accommodation at the research camp within a game reserve.
- All project related transfers, equipment and consumables.
- All meals at the research camp.
- Supervision and training.
- An attractive certificate recognizing your contribution to the Endangered Wildlife Monitoring Project.

### If you would like to add the optional 'Joburg Arrival Package', the following will also be included:

- Johannesburg Airport collection and drop-off.
- Overnight accommodation in Johannesburg before your project.
- Return flights between Johannesburg & Richards Bay.
- Return transfers between Richards Bay & Mkuze to join the project.

### If you would like to spend some time in Cape Town before your project, you have the option of adding a special 'Cape Town Week' to your stay.

#### Everything below is included with the Cape Town Week:

- Johannesburg Airport collection and drop-off.
- Overnight accommodation in Johannesburg before your Cape Town Week.
- Return flights between Johannesburg & Cape Town.
- Cape Town Airport collection and drop-off.
- A welcome brief from a member of the AVIVA team on arrival in Cape Town.
- 6 nights' accommodation at AVIVA House in Cape Town, with self-service breakfasts.
- **A Peninsula Tour** - A full-day Peninsula Tour which includes lunch, visits to Hout Bay, Chapman's Peak Drive, Cape Point, Simon's Town, Boulders Beach Penguin Colony and much more. An incredible day rich with history and some of the world's most beautiful scenery.
- **A Cultural Tour** - A half-day Cultural Tour, a fascinating introduction to South Africa's recent political history before and after Apartheid, includes highlights of Khayelitsha, South Africa's second largest township after Soweto.
- **A Winelands Tour** - A full-day tour to the beautiful mountains of the Cape Winelands including the Paarl, Franschoek and Stellenbosch regions. Chocolate, Cheese & Wine tastings and lunch are included.
- Advice and support from our experienced team during your stay.
- Return flights between Johannesburg & Richards Bay.
- Return transfers between Richards Bay & Mkuze to join the project.

## How do I get there?

The project is based in the Zululand, South Africa, considered to be the heartbeat of Africa. It is one of the most productive wild lands on the planet, yet it is an incredibly fragile and complex ecosystem. The wild lands of Zululand are world renowned for their high concentration of unique species of mammals, birds, insects and plants.

Zululand makes a dramatic backdrop to this project. It is a place of unspoilt beauty, with culture as diverse as its landscapes. The rolling green hills are disturbed only by the zigzagging of rivers, and the picture-perfect coastlines are framed by abundant forests. Zululand is a rare place where age-old cultures and traditions live hand in hand with modern culture, living and conservation efforts.

### Getting there...

- You should aim to arrive at Mkuze in KwaZulu-Natal Province on your start date (always a Monday) around midday. The simplest way of doing this is fly into Johannesburg the day before, then catch a short flight to Richards Bay the following morning, followed by a transfer to Mkuze. You can arrange this yourself, or ask us to add the 'Joburg Arrival Package' and we will do this for you.

### If you are adding the 'Joburg Arrival Package'...

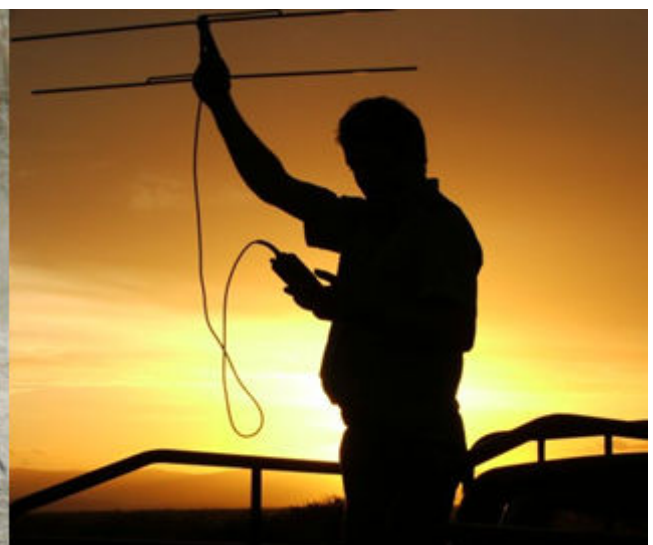
- You should aim to arrive in Johannesburg on Sunday, the day before your start date. (see *What's Included* section on previous page).

### If you are adding the optional 'Cape Town Week'...

- You should aim to arrive in Johannesburg on Monday, a week before your chosen start date. (see *What's Included* section on previous page).

## Working Routine

- You can expect to be busy for 6-7 days each week with the occasional Sundays free for rest at the camp.
- Most of the project activities entail early mornings and late evenings, with a midday break taken in between monitoring sessions.
- We rise with the sun and head out to locate the animals for the morning. We are usually back at camp by the middle of the day to grab some lunch and have a little siesta before heading out again between 2-3pm to follow up on animals we did not locate in the morning. We usually return to camp shortly after sunset.
- At least once a week we have an afternoon or day set aside for admin, data capture and analysis.
- Each volunteer will also be responsible for helping with general camp cleanliness.
- Appropriate supervision and instruction will be provided for all elements of your practical experience.



## Weather

The summer season covers October to the end of April when the sun is particularly intense, and the air hot and humid, especially December through February when the average daily maximum temperature is 30°C, with temperatures peaking at around 40°C.

A warm dry winter begins in May and ends in September. Although the days are generally sunny, the nights and early mornings can be cooler so long sleeve tops will come in handy then. The average daily maximum temperature is 24°C

## Health & Safety...

- As part of your project welcome brief, we will cover all safety issues relating to the environment and wildlife that you are likely to encounter. Project risk assessments are carried out on a regular basis.
- All project monitors are highly qualified and very experienced in the field. Each monitor has a minimum First Aid Level 2 qualification, and they are equipped to deal with a wide range of medical emergencies that might be encountered in the bush.
- In the unlikely event that you are become ill or are injured, we have very good medical and hospital facilities within a 45-minute drive of the research camps. You will also be covered by the medical evacuation coverage of the project, which is taken out with Safari and Tourism Insurance Brokers ([www.satib.co.za](http://www.satib.co.za)) who cover our emergency evacuations.
- Please note that you must still ensure that you have adequate medical/travel insurance for the duration of your stay in South Africa.
- Although no compulsory inoculations are required for travel to South Africa, we do advise that you ensure your Polio and Tetanus vaccinations are in date prior to arrival. Please note: a Rabies vaccination is not required.
- Please consult your doctor before volunteering if you are pregnant or on medication.
- Although all the reserves you will work on are in a low-risk malaria area, you may wish to take precaution against this. Please contact your medical care provider for recommendations. The majority of permanent residents in this area do not take medication, preferring to cover up in the evenings and early morning or using mosquito repellent spray which is readily available in South Africa.
- It is important to note that we do work with large, wild African animals, but we mostly view and monitor all of these animals from the safety of game vehicles. The animals are habituated to the vehicles and generally do not change their behaviour due to our presence. All darting and wildlife capture operations are carried out under strict safety guidelines. The days are long; the work is important and provides volunteers with a true conservation experience. It's not always pretty or easy, but it is real Africa, real conservation.



**Please remember – “This is Zululand – Not Disneyland!”**

## Packing for Your Trip

You should bring comfortable clothes such as t-shirts, khaki shorts and trousers for working in the bush.

Your clothing should be dull in colour (khaki, beige & sandy colours are ideal), easy to wash and dry and should preferably not need ironing. Avoid synthetics, which can be very uncomfortable in hot weather.

Hiking boots will also be very useful. For the winter months you are advised to bring some warm clothes as the early mornings and late evenings can be very cold then.

Sunscreen is an absolute must at any time of year, along with a hat and UV protected sunglasses.

If you are bringing your mobile phone and would like to take advantage of cheaper local call rates in South Africa, you can purchase a South African Sim card and Airtime Vouchers here. Please remember to unlock your phone before you leave home, and don't forget your Sim Unblocking Pin Code!

### Hand Baggage: Normal limit 5-7kg depending on airline

Passport
Visa (if required for stays of more than 90 days)
Tickets
Insurance Policy
Mobile Phone
Contact Numbers & a copy of your Travel Itinerary.
Wallet/Purse
Approx R500 in cash for initial spending money
ATM & Credit Cards (Don't forget your PIN's)
Photo ID Driving Licence (if you plan to hire a car at any time)
Toiletries/Make-up – Be aware of limits on the quantities of fluids that can be carried in hand baggage.
Personal Medication (if required)
Book/Magazine for the flight
Camera, Film/Card, Batteries
Binoculars – <b>8x42</b> or <b>10x42</b> are ideal for wildlife, birds, whale watching etc.
ipod / mp3 player – don't forget your charger
UV Filter Sunglasses - if you wear glasses or contact lenses, be sure to bring an extra pair.

### Suitcase: Normal limit 20-64kg depending on airline

Casual / long trousers / Jeans
Shorts / Skirts / Beach-shorts / Bikini
Long sleeve Sweater / Blouse / Shirts / Polo / T-Shirts
Jacket – Waterproof
Trainers / Walking shoes / boots / Beach Sandals / Flip flops
Sun hat with a wide brim – dull colour
Underwear
Electric Razor/Hairdryer
Washing Gear & Toiletry bag, Toothbrush, Paste & Towels
Books for 'relaxing' during free time
Water bottle
Sleeping bag
A hand held torch & a head torch



# How do I book?

## 1 You can make an application using any of the following methods...

- ✓ Apply online using the simple booking form on our web site - [www.aviva-sa.com/booking.php](http://www.aviva-sa.com/booking.php)
- ✓ Email your requirements to - [info@aviva-sa.com](mailto:info@aviva-sa.com)
- ✓ Call one of our friendly team during office hours on +27 (0) 21 557 4312
- ✓ Fax your requirements to +27 (0)86 634 2063
- ✓ Chat to us online for free, directly from our web site!

## 2 We will reply to your application by the next working day...

When you book a placement, we will send you a login username and password which will allow you to access your personalised **MyTrip™** page on our web site. With **MyTrip™** you will be able to:

- ✓ View and check your full itinerary, which includes recommended arrival and departure dates.
- ✓ View useful information relevant to your trip.
- ✓ Approve your quote & make secure payments on line.
- ✓ Update your personal information and travel details (when you have them!).
- ✓ Get useful advice about qualifying for discounts, fundraising and much more...

## 3 Pay your deposit...

- ✓ When you are happy with everything, you can secure your place by paying your deposit.
- ✓ 50% of your remaining balance will be due 12 weeks before you arrive in South Africa, with the remainder due 4 weeks before you arrive.

## 4 Contact us at any time for help and advice...

- ✓ We guarantee you a prompt response to your enquiries. Our friendly, professional team in Cape Town have a wealth of experience and are on hand to assist you with all aspects of your journey.
- ✓ We will also put you in touch with the Wildlife ACT team on the game reserves so you will have access to all the latest developments live from the field. The Wildlife ACT team can also help you with specific enquiries relating to latest animal sightings, and other interesting news as it happens.



## Booking & Travel Notes...

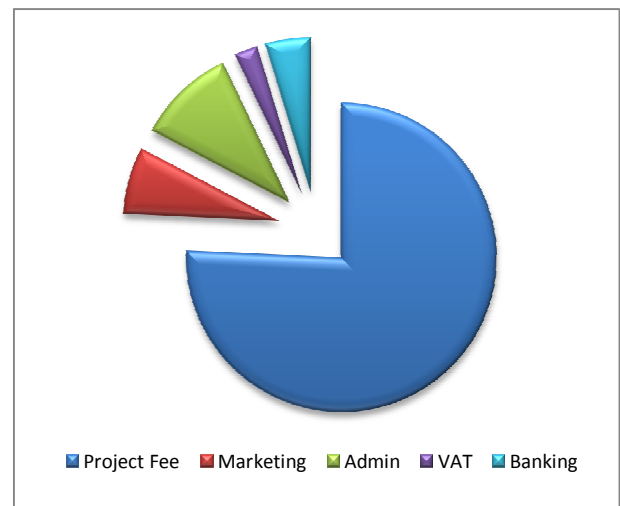
We work hard to ensure that your trip preparations are as enjoyable and stress free as your stay with us in South Africa. Here are a few useful notes for your peace of mind...

- You do not make any payments until you are happy with everything, so making a booking is a great, risk-free way to check everything out on your MyTrip™ profile before making a final decision to join us in South Africa.
- If, when booking your international flights, you find that you can get a cheaper flight that arrives earlier, or leaves later than the dates we recommend, we can arrange extra accommodation for you to match your flight dates. This is often worthwhile, as the cost of extra accommodation can be far outweighed by savings on your flight ticket.
- Please don't worry about what time your flight arrives in South Africa as we can pick you up at any time of day. We also monitor expected landing times for inbound flights, so if your flight is early or delayed, we will still be there to welcome you.

## Where does my money go?

Many of our volunteers say that money cannot buy the kind of life changing experience they have had with AVIVA & Wildlife ACT. We ensure that the majority of your funding is used directly to benefit the important conservation work they do in Zululand.

Your placement fee goes directly to Wildlife ACT. Your money is used for Wildlife ACT's project running costs, such as vehicle maintenance, fuel, equipment, accommodation, salaries and food. A portion of your fee also goes towards the region's social and conservation efforts. This includes Wildlife ACT's learnership programme, a unique initiative where they enlist talented young individuals from the local community to work alongside their rangers and monitors.



For example, the cost of a 2-week stay at R10,750 (South African Rands) would break down as follows:

<b>R8140</b>	Project Fee - Food, accom, project transport, training, a contribution towards equipment, new tracking collars and more.
<b>R750</b>	Marketing
<b>R1100</b>	Administration
<b>R259</b>	VAT
<b>R501</b>	Banking Fees

## A recent testimonial...



### Kalley Nicely – 22, from the USA

*"I only spent a month on this project, but it was a month that I will remember for the rest of my life.*

*Coming to the project I was shy and unsure, but the field guides at Mkuzi and Thanda were welcoming and informative about the bush and the equipment. I learned so much about all the animals, their behaviour, and the reasoning behind the monitoring.*

*The best part of the trip was accompanying Chris to Tembe to dart the wild dogs. His passion for the African animals is inspiring. My time in Zululand gave me necessary experience for my future zoological career, and also gave me some lifelong friends. I cannot wait to come again."*