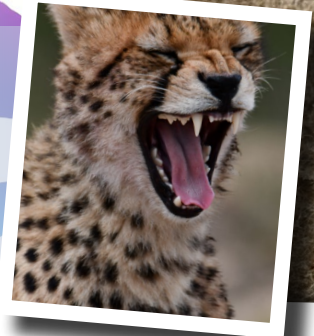




Umkhondo Big-5 Wildlife Volunteering



Umkhondo Wildlife and Conservation programme

Dear prospective volunteer

We would like to thank you for enquiring about our Umkhondo Big 5 Volunteer program. This course has been developed to offer participants the absolutely incomparable volunteer experience in practical knowledge and diverse hands-on encounters with the world famous "Big-Five" animals of Africa, as well as a multitude of other wild animals found in Africa. As a volunteer, you will learn numerous facets of operating a wildlife game reserve, make memories that will last you a lifetime and more importantly, you will contribute to returning some of Africa's lands back to their original state – an African savannah teeming with wildlife.

Local wildlife manager and conservationist, Hein Schoeman started the course in 2009. Hein and his wife Kim's passion for conservation and education led to the birth of the Umkhondo Project. Umkhondo is the Xhosa word for footprint, or a trace of something. The suggestion in the name is that "something moved through, was once present or was otherwise important." Umkhondo summarises the program's central vision: to develop a long-term self-sustaining natural environment, create community awareness, expand the existing reserve, and continue successful cheetah breeding in the wild and most importantly... to make a difference. Although Hein and Kim no longer run the program personally they are still very involved from a distance and try to meet most of the volunteers.



For Enquiries on availability and rates, please contact:

Kim Schoeman (Umkhondo Director)

Email: kim@bigfivevolunteer.com

• Tel: +27 82 9238855 • Or: +27 82 2931803



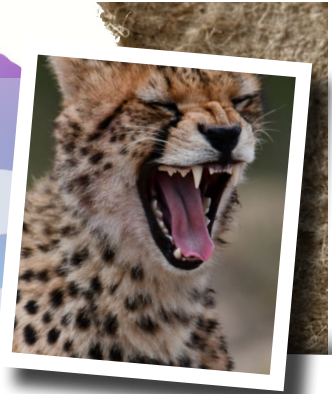
Umkhondo Big-5 Wildlife Volunteering
www.umkhondobigfivevolunteering.com

Please refer to our Umkhondo Big-5 Wildlife Volunteering Facebook site to find out what our previous guests have been up to!



"Make your mark in African conservation"

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The team has developed a course that will instruct and guide volunteers in many of the disciplines central to managing an African game reserve. Specific focus is placed on managing the wildlife, conservation, reserve maintenance, the tracking of free roaming cheetah, elephant care and all research and projects. The course is run over two or four consecutive weeks, with the option of staying longer. Volunteers will also engage in night time and dawn/dusk activities, research, monitoring and patrolling.

Escape from the ordinary and immerse yourself in a month of personal interaction with some of the most charismatic mammals in Africa, brought to you by this team of passionate and experienced wildlife staff. The program allows up-close experiences with wild lions, elephants, buffalo, rhinos, and possibly the rarely occurring leopards, as well as other South African wildlife – all within malaria-free, private game reserves. You can rest assured that you will be able to get to know the unique wildlife of Africa in a safe, controlled and responsible manner.

Our program is a once in a lifetime opportunity for aspiring wildlife conservationists or nature enthusiasts. The program will demand much from participants, mentally and physically; however, the demands are well within the capabilities of most volunteers, and whilst being challenging, is both enjoyable and exciting. It is an opportunity to learn invaluable new skills, experience Africa's unique environment and wildlife, be part of the difference that returns the environment to its natural, original state. It's not only about what you take with you, but the lasting effects of what you leave behind... your footprints.

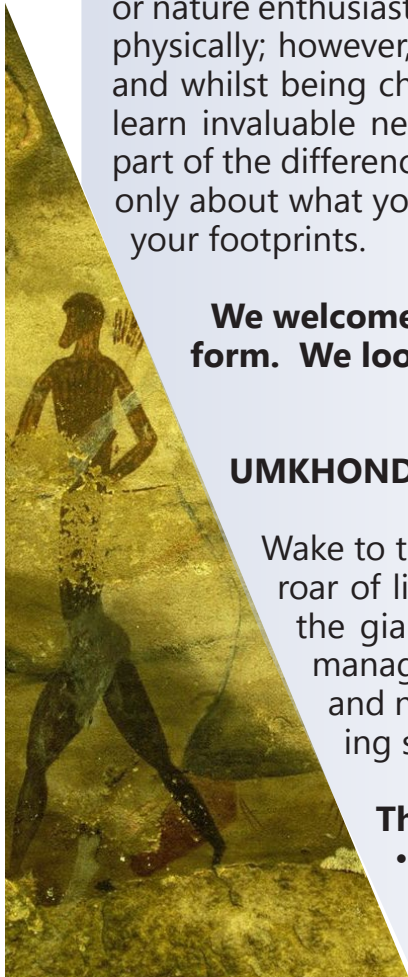
We welcome future volunteers to complete and submit the application form. We look forward to receiving your application, and the opportunity to welcome you to South Africa.

UMKHONDO BIG-5 WILDLIFE VOLUNTEERING

Wake to the early morning calls of the Hadedra birds (Ibis), after hearing the roar of lions through the night. Get close to African elephants to admire the giants going about their daily activities.. Learn how to successfully manage and care for the animals on a game reserve. Through walks, day and night game drives and sleep outs, you will be trained in the following subjects:

Theoretical training:

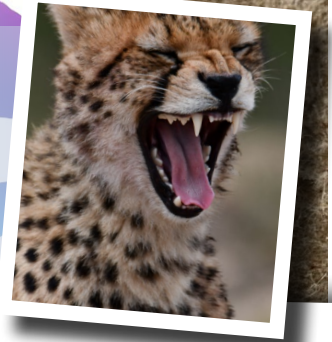
- Animal immobilisation - A short course in drugs, methods and equipment (optional)
- Tracking - A course on the basics of animal tracking





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- Bird, insect and plant identification - Volunteers will learn to identify the different types of birds, insects, fauna and flora
- Wildlife management: learn all the facets of managing a big5 game reserve.
- Anti poaching
- These are all basic courses, more detailed courses on all the above is an optional extra, request info and prices on these short courses

Practical training:

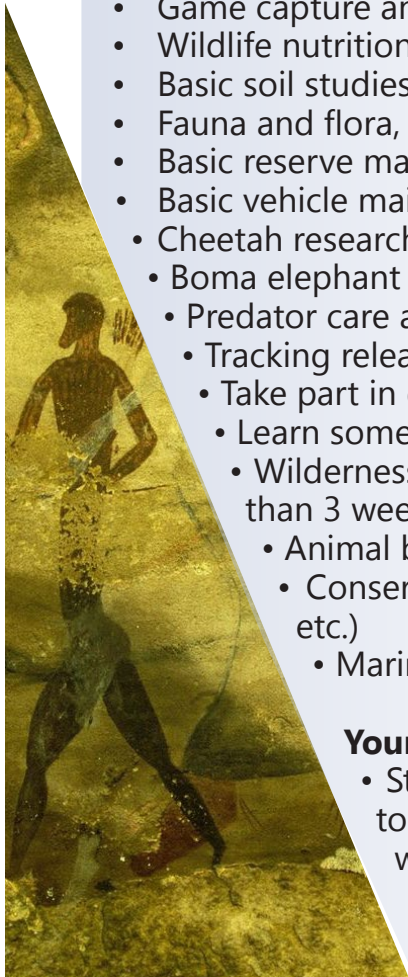
- Approaching game on foot - Learn how to safely approach animals on foot, while being conscious of their comfort zones
- Tracking - The practical basics of training
- Survival camp – learn how to survive in the wild. (only for volunteers here for more than 3 weeks weather dependant)
- Understanding the enclosure structure and the upkeep and improvement thereof.

The course could include:

- Game capture and translocation
- Wildlife nutrition and feeding
- Basic soil studies
- Fauna and flora, and related research
- Basic reserve maintenance (fences, roads, construction etc.)
- Basic vehicle maintenance and repairs
- Cheetah research project
- Boma elephant care and nutrition
- Predator care and monitoring
- Tracking released cheetah on foot
- Take part in different rural community projects
- Learn some bush cooking skills "boskos"
- Wilderness camp and basic survival skills (only for volunteers here for more than 3 weeks weather dependant)
- Animal behaviour and approaching on foot
- Conservation projects (planting trees, erosion control, seed harvesting etc.)
- Marine ecology and beach clean ups (optional extra)

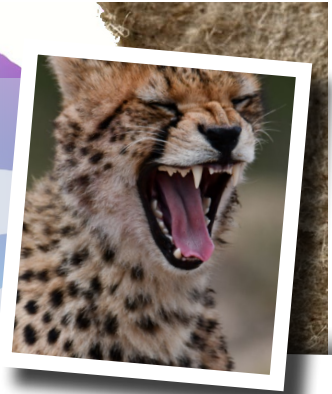
Your typical day may consist of the following:

- Start the day with breakfast then followed by doing a rhino patrol to find the rhinos. Every morning will include a basic tracking lesson where possible.
- Tea break is at 09:30 in the reserve, after which you will start/continue with a project. Projects include erosion control, road





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maintenance, alien plant removal, predator feeding and enclosure upkeep where needed, elephant boma cleaning, cutting browse for elephants, constructing vegetation exclusion plots, vegetation fixed point photography, and planting out trees and seeding tree species that occurred before agriculture.

- Lunch at 13:00
- Afternoons are used for research and monitoring. This includes dung sampling, game counts, species behavioural studies and research, water testing and treatment, plant, bird and insect identification, supplement feeding of certain species, small mammal surveys, etc.
- Dinner
- One night per week you will do a night drive to identify nocturnal animals and plot their position and behaviour.

Location we work on a few different reserves depending on where we are most needed for example:

1. Garden Route Game Lodge (big5)

Set against the scenery of the magnificent Langeberg mountain range, the Garden Route Game Lodge protects the entrance to the world renowned Garden Route coast in South Africa. Volunteers will live in simple but comfortable accommodation in the heart of the Garden Route Game Lodge. The Garden Route, known for its mild climate and spectacular scenery, has a pristine coastline, rivers, salt marshes, vast wetlands, lofty indigenous forests all occupied by abundant, beautiful and distinct fauna and flora. This malaria-free, private game reserve in Mossel Bay is home to a breathtaking diversity of bird and animal life, including the Big 5. Mossel Bay, which lies between the mountains and the sea, offers a remarkable mix of African wilderness experiences.

2. Bergsig game reserve (wildlife capture and release)

Bersig reserve only 8km from the lovely coastal town Hartenbos is popular for its unique breeding gene pool mainly antelope and buffalo. Volunteers help with game counts and moving different groups of special antelope from one area to another (black, white and coffee coloured springbuck golden wildebeest and many more amazing variations).

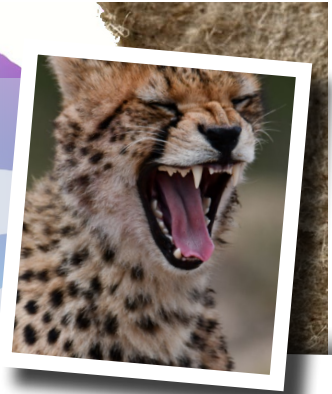
This reserve has sadly lost 2 rhino to poaching and we aim to create awareness and protect their remaining rhino. Work at this reserve could include the use of a helicopter and this gives volunteers the opportunity to get a bird eye view of their hard work.

And more





Umkhondo Big-5 Wildlife Volunteering



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F.A.Q. (Frequently Asked Questions)

• Eligibility?

Volunteers must be able to speak English, must be of good health and have a love for nature and the outdoors. No experience is required, but students studying in the field of Fauna and Flora and anything animal related will benefit most.

• For how long?

A minimum of two working weeks is required and weekends are free time. The longer you stay the more you will do and experience.

• Where?

The reserves are close together (at most a 30min drive) and located about 400 kilometres east of Cape Town, and 400 km west of Port Elizabeth. We work on the above mentioned reserves and more, it depends on where we are most needed at the time. The student accommodation is on Goedemoed reserve. A big comfortable farm house, with safe walking / running area and amazing view of local wildlife. Also only 15min from the beach.

• Cost?

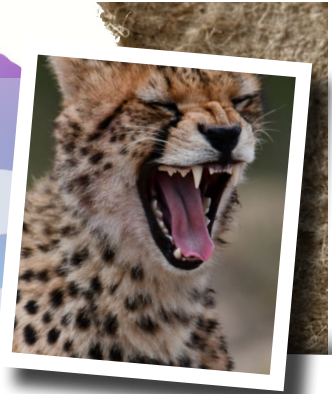
Living costs are set on an annual basis. Air travel to, from and between research stations are not included in the costs. The equivalent of R18 360 per 2 weeks and R36 720 per month in 2020 which will cover the following:

- Confidence that every effort is made to ensure your safety and enjoyment during your stay
- Pre-departure support and information
- First day introduction, orientation to projects and colleagues
- Thorough orientation to area
- Food for your entire stay on the program
- Lodging (the rooms will be shared with other students)
- All practical and theoretical training
- Project related transport (not on weekends)
- Arrival pickup and departure in Mosselbay only on weekends
- Assistance with optional activities and tours
- 24/7 emergency support
- Rifle handling short course (longer the 2 week stay upon request)



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- Wildlife immobilisation short course (upon request)
- 2 day survival camp (only for volunteers here for more than 3 weeks weather dependant)
- Internet (very limited no downloads or skype calls)
- Laundry service once a week
- Post-project involvement and updates

We usually suggest adding to your monthly budget about 8 000 to 13 000 South African Rand for souvenirs, excursions, entertainment and other personal daily needs. We can send you a list of activities and prices if you would like to do your budget planning.

What is excluded:

- Flights and visas
- Travel insurance (necessity)
- Optional excursions and activities: full package trips can be up to R7000 and day trips can be up to R3000. Please make allowance for the trips you want to take. Please enquire in advance if you would like more information about the optional weekend and day trips.
- Transport on weekends to and from activities are not included
- Post placement transport
- Day to day expenditure
- Spending money: Approximately R5000 – R20 000 spending money will be sufficient for eating out, entertainment and other extra excursions.

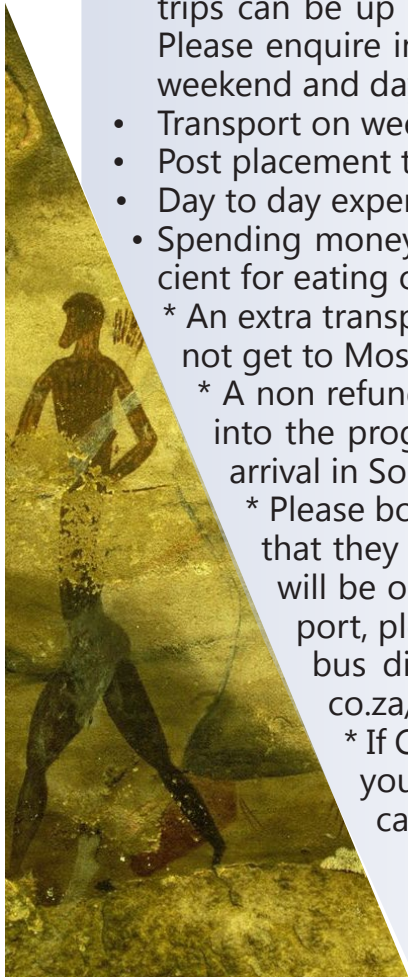
* An extra transportation fee will be charged for airport transfer should volunteers not get to Mosselbay.

* A non refundable deposit of 25% is due within one month of being accepted into the program. The remainder of the payment is due 4 weeks before your arrival in South Africa.

* Please book flights well in advance. Please ensure the flights are booked so that they adhere to the arrival and departures dates of the program, which will be on Sundays. Final destinations can be Cape Town International Airport, please arrive before 10:00 am that way you can take the Langeberg-bus directly from the airport to Mosselbay. <http://www.langebergbus.co.za/> we can help with this booking.

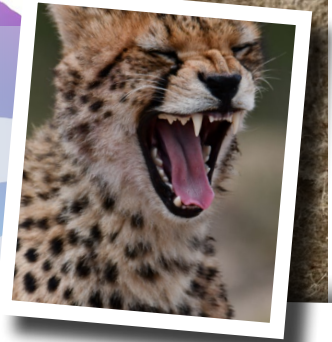
* If Cape Town is your final flight destination and you arrive after 10 am you will have to spend a night at a backpackers after which you can catch the Baz Bus to Mosselbay. The bazbus leaves at 07:00 am.

You could also take the Langeberg bus from the city the following day at 12:00.





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The bazbus is more expensive than the Langeberg bus but both buses are reliable and usually on time and easy to book.

* Ashanti backpackers (www.ashanti.co.za) rates are between R250 and R350 for a dorm room for one night. Baz Bus (www.bazbus.com) costs from R700 for a one way ticket from Cape Town to Mosselbay.

Langeberg bus (<http://www.langebergbus.co.za/>) is R420 one way from CT to Mosselbay. We do not recommend flying to George as this transfer is more expensive and flights are often delayed.

• Do I need a VISA?

No. You will not be employed by the institute nor paid. You are volunteering and entitled to enter on a temporary visitors permit (e.g. tourism permit). Tourist visiting visas are usually issued for three months/90 days upon entry in South Africa.

However, we do recommend that you contact the South African Embassy or Consulate in your country and confirm this fact. If your application period is for a period longer than three months, or if you plan to travel in South Africa prior to or after your internship for a period extending 90 days, you will have to apply for a Tourist / Volunteer VISA through your home embassy.

• Do I need insurance?

Yes, medical insurance is mandatory; you are strongly encouraged to apply for travel insurance because foreign insurance often times does not cover injury abroad. The benefit to travel insurance is that, depending on the plan you select, it covers injury, flight changes, as well as lost, damaged or stolen personal items. Should you decide to partake in SCUBA diving while in South Africa please have your DAN insurance prearranged. Note that you will have to submit proof of your insurance to our administrator prior to arrival.

• Do I need any specific vaccination or medication before coming to southern Africa?

No, we are far from malaria areas, and there are no strange African diseases which you could pick up (that is if you respect the same safety rules as anywhere else in the world).

• What do I need to bring?

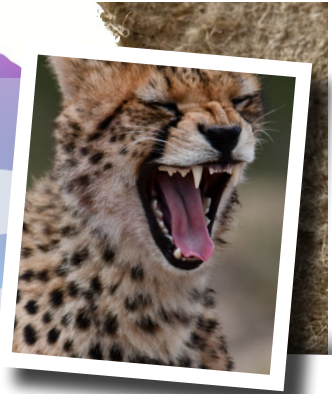
• Winter months (May – September)

Average day temperature during winter is 5 degrees Celsius nights can drop to -4 degrees Celsius in June July and August. Pack warm clothing like jackets, scarves, gloves, beanies as well as full rain gear as winter is our rainy season.



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- **Summer months (October – April)**

The average day temperature during summer is 30 degrees Celsius (January, February and March can reach up to 40 degrees Celsius). Pack cool clothing, hats, shorts, swimwear, sun block, swimming towel and flip flops.

- **Key items to remember when packing for your Wildlife Conservation trip:**

- o Warm sleeping bag for camping as well as a small rucksack (for during the day)
- o Still camera/hand camcorder
- o Old neutral (khaki, brown, green) clothing that you don't mind getting dirty
- o Multi-tool knife
- o Sunscreen, hat and sunglasses are a must throughout the year
- o Alarm clock, books and games
- o Torch
- o Insect repellent (can buy here)
- o Gum boots (can buy here)
- o Work gloves
- o Binoculars
- o Water bottle
- o Well worn-in boots for field work
- o We carry a full equipped first aid kit, but for personal use we recommend you pack a first aid kit containing the following:
- o Anti-diarrheal meds, anti-inflammatory meds, anti-histamines, paracetamol /aspirin, anti-bacterial ointment, bandages, plasters and tweezers

- **Do we have weekends off?**

Yes, the program runs for weekdays only, in the weekends you will be able to take part in other activities or relax, -please inquire if you would like more information on this. You will need to pay for weekend transport to and from town, this is not included. If we have transport available it is cheaper than using the local taxi service. We charge R8 per km for transport.

The best option is going to one of the local backpackers either in Mosselbay 15km from us, or Sedgefield about 70km from us or Plettenberg Bay 150km from us. All these are located on the Garden route and are close to exciting activities the backpackers will arrange transport to and from programs and have a great atmosphere at night and is a wonderful way to meet other travellers. This can all be arranged once you are here.

- **How can I get more information?**

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Kim Cell: +27 82923 8855

Madre: info@bigfivevolunteer.com

