

Extensive information:

Project animals and children
South Africa



Table of contents

	<u>Page:</u>
1. Introduction	4
1.1 Background of African animals	4
1.2 Orphaned animals	4
1.3 Help the animals	5
2. The project	6
2.1 Goal	6
2.2 Some project animals	6-7
2.5 The future	8
3. Volunteers	9
3.1 Period / duration	9
3.2 Requirements	9
3.3 Costs (including and not including)	9
3.3 Accommodation	10
3.4 The work	10-12
3.5 The project staff	12
4. South Africa	13
4.1 Geography	13
4.2 Project location	13
4.3 Climate	14
5. Travel information	15
5.1 Flight arrangements	15
5.2 Passport and visa	15
5.3 Insurances	15
5.4 Arrival in South Africa	15
6. Medical advise	16
6.1 Advise	16
6.2 Required vaccinations	16
6.3 Recommended vaccinations	16
6.4 Medical service	16

7.	Personal equipment	17
6.1	Essential items	17
6.2	Optional items	17
8.	General information	18
3.1	Food and refreshments	18
3.2	Supermarkets and markets	18
3.3	Laundry services	18
3.3	Telephone	18
3.4	Internet access	19
3.5	Transport during your stay	19
6.2	Excursion arrangements	19
6.3	Photo and film materials	19
6.4	Currency	20

Note: Annually the text of this extensive information will be developed and will be kept up with regularly in cooperation with this project. Because there can be made some changes or because there will be some changes be necessary because of certain and unexpected results, etc., it could be that this text not every time will compare in practise at this project.

Join the project with an open mind, and a flexible attitude and you will leave South Africa with unique, special and unforgettable memories!



1. Introduction

1.1 Background of African animals

Africa has a huge diversity of wildlife and ecosystems but much of this has been destroyed by human encroachment.

Hunting and poaching have also played a big role in the diminishing numbers of animals, and added to this is the continual killing for traditional medicines.

Basically the only reason why some animals are alive today is because they are protected in private and national game reserves.

Wildlife in the rural and agricultural areas has been eliminated for many years, and very few have survived or adapted to the cities and farms.

Every species has a role to play in the world's eco-system. Removal of any species threatens the survival of others that depend upon it. Eventual destruction of the animals and habit could result in the destruction of humans themselves.

1.2 Orphaned animals

Human encroachment has drastically reduced the amount of suitable habit for wild animals. Many baby animals are hand-raised by caring people, but when the animals reach maturity they usually come to a bad end. These animals either become dangerous, having lost their natural fear of humans, or get killed by coming too close to unfriendly humans. There are very few safe habitats left for these animals, like the project.

Most animals are shy and have associated humans with destruction. As a result many animals, although they exist, are rarely seen. Orphaned wild animals have been habituated to humans, and although cannot be released, can be seen and experienced by the children in the project.

Whilst humans care for humans who are maimed or injured, very few care for animals in the same condition. At the project, animals can at least have a life, and at the same time play a role in education.

Orphaned animals also play a role in providing necessary research, which will enable the project to understand their needs for survival in the wild.

Orphaned animals instill compassion in people who interact with them. Only by caring will people understand them and look after them.



1.3 Help the animals by educating people

South Africa's large under-privileged population results in overcrowding of schools, where individual classes sometimes exceed 160 children per class. This results in many children not even being able to understand the basics of education.

People who do not know or understand how essential the environment is for our own survival fundamentally cause continual abuse of the environment. Most children, throughout the world, live in villages, towns or cities where the indigenous wildlife has for many years been eliminated. Although the wildlife is their heritage, many do not have the means or opportunity to even see a giraffe.

If people are educated, they will understand the spiritual and vital importance of our environment. That's why the project supply education to children so the animals will benefit in the future.



2. The project

This educational Project, which combines the education of underprivileged children and a wildlife orphanage, is a registered non-profit organisation located at the heart of the Limpopo Province of South Africa. This does not only mean it is in the middle of the African bush surrounded by wildlife, but also that it is near the gates of the iconic Kruger Park as well as many other beautiful sights!

This exceptional experience provides volunteers with the unique opportunity of not only caring for some of South Africa's most iconic species, but also of using these animals as a tool to inspire a generation of underprivileged schoolchildren to become passionate about wildlife conservation.

2.1 Goal

The project's goal is to create compassion and care for animals and the environment. To do this the project educates the local underprivileged children about nature and the role they can play in conservation.

8 underprivileged children are collected from their school (Monday – Friday). A different group is collected each week. The children are usually between the ages of 13 and 15 years and in the grade 8 class. They are in a class of 160 children at the school and many of them have not even learned the “times tables” yet. The project tries to enforce the basics in education and to adjust their teaching methods to the level of each child.

The orphaned wild animals provide the basis for inspiring care and compassion. The project educates the children and creates within them a compassion for the animals and environment so they will really care about the future of their environment

2.2 Some project animals

Currently there are a few different animal species at the project such as Duikers, Squirrels, Tortoises, Ostriches, Owls, Eagles, Bush baby, Mongoose, Leguaan and Porcupine, Surricat, Genet and a Cheetah. Please note that some of these animals might be rehabilitated when you will visit the project. You might not see them all but might also see new ones.

Some animal stories:

Spikey the porcupine: Somebody brought a baby porcupine to the project who has been caught in a trap. He has been named Spikey, and was almost a month old. Spikey is now a grown up porcupine and lives free in the reserve. You will see him most of the evening walking around the dinning area, begging for food and attention.

Banchee the thick tail bush baby: He was hand raised by people who found him as a baby. He grew up very healthy, but couldn't be kept free roaming as he started to bite. He couldn't be rehabilitated because he is too tame. You will be able to see him and interact with him, carefully so you don't get bitten, and this will probably be the most memorable experience you will have.

The donkeys: Although donkeys aren't wild animals, they are still an important education tool for the local children at the project. Two donkeys were bought at the local village that was treated badly and they had a baby, named surprise. They are part of the educational plan so the children can learn to love donkeys and give them better treatment in their village.

The Duikers and Bushbucks: Over the years the project has successfully raised orphan duikers and bushbuck. They are all free roaming BUT come back every day into camp to get love and attention. You will be amazed by their attitude to let you know what they want and you won't be able to resist Maxi's eyelashes.

Shangan the Caracal: The beauty of this small feline will stun you! Shangan isn't tame enough to be cuddled but you will be able to go in his enclosure and admire his beautiful pointy ears from very close. You will have to find many tricks to make his life enriching and we be surprised by his agility to find his hidden food.

The Eagles: These three eagles have also been brought to the project by a neighboring rehabilitation center. They all have wings problem and can't unfortunately be released into the wild. They are at the wildlife orphanage for a happy long life.

The Strauss Family, the two ostriches: These two ostriches, male and female are from an ostrich farm where they are originally bred for their meat. When they were baby they were given to the wildlife orphanage because they were classified as too small to be productive. They have grown tremendously over time.

Martin the Cheetah: Martin's story is one that we are unfortunately too familiar with. He was rescued as a youngster alongside his brother after being kept in very bad conditions where they both heavily suffered. They were saved by the SPCA, yet Martin's brother was not able to overcome his injuries and did not survive. After a short stay at the SPCA, the young cheetah was moved to the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre (HESC) where he recovered from his injuries. As Martin is now old, losing his teeth and will never be able to be released back into the wild. The HESC accepted to donate Martin to the project where he will now be looked after. Martin will continue making a difference by providing an essential tool towards our mission of educating young underprivileged children about the environment. Being able to see one of Africa's big cats in such close proximity provides another unique experience to appreciate the beauty of the local wildlife, be it big or small! Martin has a very spacious enclosure and we are making sure his privacy is respected.



2.3 The future

The plan for the future is to have more volunteers to be able to welcome more children per week and over the years. With more volunteers and fund also helps to develop the second project called “outreach”. The Outreach manager goes once a week in two different schools in the village to give extra environmental lessons and guidance for jobs in Eco Tourism. You will be welcome to go at least once and help for these extra mural lessons in the village.

The project is also constantly raising funds to build more animals enclosure, more accommodation and more green energy tools. With more funds the project also plan to be involved in Early Childhood development and community project.



3. Volunteers

By being a volunteer on this project you will support this project's work in two ways:

1. Volunteer donations contribute to the day-to-day costs of running the project. These costs include food, healthcare and the provision of new and updated housing and its enrichment for the animals as well as food and housing for the children and renovations/upgrading of facilities, etc.
2. Volunteer participation in the work of the project is essential, as each volunteer brings unique skills and perspectives to the organisation.

3.1 Period / duration

Volunteers are welcome all year round.

Closed for 4 weeks (mid-December till mid-January)

Start every Saturday.

The duration of your stay starts from 1 week to 3 months.

3.2 Requirements

There are no specific skills, nor previous animal care experience, required to participate at the project.

However, volunteers must be:

- A minimum of 18 years old or 16 if accompanied by a parent/carer;
- Having a passion and love for animals;
- Be able to communicate in English.

3.3 Costs (including and not including)

The costs per person to participate at this project are as specified in the Global Spirits' website.

These costs include:

- Transfer return from the Hoedspruit Airport to the project site (for arrivals on Saturdays only)
- Accommodation
- 3 meals per day, tea, coffee, juice
- Laundry
- A trip to town each week
- A donation to the project
- Training and supervision
- Administration costs

These costs do not include:

- Travel to and from Hoedspruit, South Africa
- Passport / visa
- Travel insurance, which is compulsory for all participants and a cancellation insurance
- Personal expenses such as telephone bills, Internet, souvenirs, etc.
- Any excursions undertaken by the volunteer

3.4 Accommodation



The project can accommodate 8 to 12 volunteers at the same time. Volunteers will be accommodated on the project in a chalet. You will normally share the bedroom with other volunteers. The rooms are equipped with toilets and showers. There is no electricity on the reserve but solar power and generator provide lighting and power. There is a swimming pool and a sitting area where you can enjoy your meals.



3.5 The work

As a volunteer/intern, you will be at the very heart of the project. You, alongside the other volunteers, will be in charge of leading the lessons as well as the activities, which the children are involved in. These include a lot more than just teaching the children, as the program is diverse and dynamic. Be it doing bush walks, learning about the negative aspects of poaching, or discussing the importance of respect, you will always be busy! Members of the project's team will guide you and help you whenever needed, so you will never be alone!

On arrival you will be shown your room and the facilities. On Sunday the project will have a late breakfast and a general briefing to help you in your confidence and ability to enjoy your experience.

During your stay, you will help the project with:

- **Teaching basic subjects to children**

8 underprivileged children are collected from their school on Monday and they stay at the project until Friday. A different group is collected each week. You will accompany the Director to the school at least once to see where the children are coming from.

The project tries to enforce the basics in education and to adjust their teaching methods to the level of each child.

The project's methods are not always conventional but are fun for the children. Many of them do not understand even basic English and their standards are at a very low level.

- The project welcomes your diversity, knowledge and innovative ideas. No experience is necessary.



Other learning activities include:

- Team building games
- “Thinking games” (e.g. Card games)
- General etiquette and good manners are enforced by role play
- General education including life skills, and construction projects.

- **The day-to-day care of animals**

The orphaned wild animals provide the basis for inspiring care and compassion for the environment. To this end the project tries to have animals that can be touched and caressed. This is not always possible.

As a volunteer you will be expected to accompany the children on stabling duties.

These tasks include:

- Cleaning and disinfecting animal camps and cages
- Providing fresh food and water for the animals
- Checking the health and condition of the animals

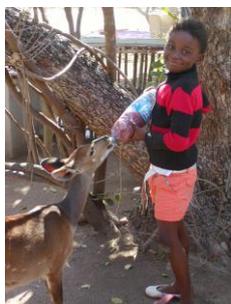
Many animals require extra care and sometimes this may involve working during the night.

- **Renovation, building and maintenance**

The project is continually growing, and sometimes-physical work is required.

Duties can include:

- Renovating animal camps
- Building new animal camps and cages
- Renovating accommodation
- Painting
- General construction and repairs



typical day / example schedule:

- 07:00am - Volunteers and children meet in the morning for tea/coffee and the morning dog walk.
- 07:30am - Breakfast
- 08:00am - Volunteers and children feed the animals and clean their camps
- 09:00am - Morning lessons start
- 12.30pm - Lunch and pool time for the children.
- 02:00pm - Afternoon lessons start
- 04:30pm - Volunteers and children feed the animals and play a game
- 05:30pm - Social talk about respect, drugs/alcohol or sex education
- 06:30pm – Dinner
- 07:15pm – After Dinner games / film with the children
- 08:30pm – Bed Time for the children

All volunteers work 5 days a week, from 7h until diner with a break at lunchtime, when you are able to enjoy the swimming pool.

You will have time off on Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday and will be able to take this opportunity to visit the incredible area surrounding the Farm or relax around the camp.

A trip to town is organised every Saturday where volunteers can explore the shops and restaurants in Hoedspruit.



3.6 The project staff

The project consists of a permanent staff of 9 people. The staff is enthusiastic and enjoy training and working with volunteers from different countries. The language spoken at this project is English.

4. South Africa

4.1 Geography

South Africa occupies the southern tip of Africa, its long coastline stretching more than 2500 km from the desert border with Namibia on the Atlantic coast southwards around the tip of Africa and then north to the border with subtropical Mozambique on the Indian Ocean.

To the north of South Africa lies Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Swaziland, while the Kingdom of Lesotho is an independent enclave surrounded by South African territory.

South Africa is made up of nine provinces; Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Free State, North West, Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu Natal.

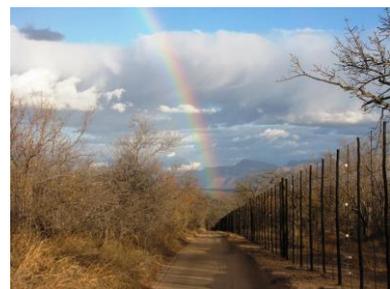
There are three capital cities in South Africa; Cape Town, which is the parliamentary capital in the Western Cape, Pretoria in Gauteng, which is the administrative capital and Bloemfontein which is the judicial capital. Johannesburg in Gauteng is the largest city.

4.2 Project Location

Breath taking scenery and African sunsets with all the colors of the rainbow. The noise and hustle and bustle of the world are nowhere to be found. The only sounds to grace your ears are the calls of the different wildlife around us piercing the quiet of the bush! And this is just the splendid place where you will be staying! Imagine the fulfillment you will feel from changing the lives of children, animals, and even your own!

The project is situated in a beautiful area in the Limpopo province in the North East of South-Africa, on an animal reserve that has 700 hectares of pristine natural habitat and house several natural wild animals.

It lies in the heart of the central Lowveld, just 80 km from the Kruger National Park and has a wonderful all year round climate, many game lodges, game reserves, nature conservancies and other tourist attractions in the surrounding.



4.3 Climate

The North-east of South-Africa can expect sunshine, long summer afternoons and dry days for most of the time.

During the summer months the heat is often interrupted by a short thunderstorm, which is usually a welcome respite from the sometimes-extreme heat of the day.

Average summer temperatures, between late November and March, may reach of 28°C to 35°C .

During the winter the days usually start with a chilly morning, which progresses to a warm midday and cool, dry afternoon. At night the temperature drops dramatically and you usually need to reach for a blanket to stay comfortable.

Average winter temperatures, between June and late September, may reach 23°C to 25°C.



5. Travel information

5.1 Flight arrangements

Volunteers have to make their own flight arrangements. We advise you not to reserve your flight before we have confirmed your participation at the project, unless you will plan your participation at the project as a part of a bigger journey.

If you are unable to arrange your flight yourself for any reason, Global Spirit will be able to help. If you would like us to help you, please note this on the booking sheet.

5.2 Passport and visa

To visit South Africa you will need a valid passport, which must be officially valid, for at least 30 days, beyond the period of intended stay. Passport also must have at least two blank pages for entry stamp. This cannot include the 'endorsement' page at the back.

To visit South Africa, you will automatically get a tourist visa at the airport on arrival for a stay of up to 90 days providing you have a return ticket.

If you will visit South Africa longer than 90 days, you will need to apply in your country, for a visitor visa before coming to South Africa

Passport and visa requirements are liable to change at short notice. All volunteers are advised to check their entry requirements with their own embassy or consulate!

5.3 Insurances

Every volunteer is required to have a travel insurance policy (which covers extra medical costs, accidents and repatriation costs), and cancellation insurance is highly recommended. Without this travel insurance you will not be permitted to work at this project.

Global Spirit can help you arrange travel insurance (for volunteers who live in The Netherlands, Belgium and Germany) and cancellation insurance (for all volunteers). If you would like assistance, please indicate this on the booking sheet. If you already have insurances (or if you are a volunteer living outside The Netherlands, Belgium or Germany) please send a copy of the policy to Global Spirit.

5.4 Arrival in South Africa

You will be responsible for arranging your own transport to South Africa.

Providing we have received your flight/arrival details, you will be met at the Airport of Hoedspruit and brought to the project by a member of staff. Please note that all arrivals (and departures) are on a Saturday.

(If you are interested we can recommend 2 nice guesthouses in Johannesburg in case you arrive earlier or departure later than Saturdays. We can also inform you about the shuttle service for you from Johannesburg to Hoedspruit and back. Ask us for the possibilities).

6. Medical advice

6.1 Advise

As Global Spirit is not a professional medical service, we advise you to go to a local clinic or medical authority in your own country for the appropriate medical advice.

This document is provided for information purposes only.

Do not visit your local clinic or medical authority later than six weeks before departure.

As a participant in this project, you are responsible for yourself. Global Spirit is not held responsible/liable for any unexpected casualties. Our advice is to behave responsibly and always listen to the project staff.

6.2 Required vaccinations

There are no vaccinations required at this project, although Yellow Fever vaccination is required for travellers arriving from a yellow-fever-infected area in Africa or the Americas. (Only in many countries it won't be given because it isn't effective, but your vaccination book will be signed because many countries in the world will check it).

6.3 Recommended vaccinations

It would be best (for safety) to be vaccinated against:

- D (K) TP
- Hepatitis A (and B if you want to participate for a long time)
- Typhoid
- Yellow fever (in many countries it won't be given because it isn't effective, but your vaccination book will be signed because many countries in the world will check it).
- To take an anti-malaria treatment
- Rabies/Tetanus shot (animal bites)

These vaccinations are not required, but are still very important to have. If you don't take them it's on your own responsibility. Global Spirit is not held responsible/liable for any unexpected casualties.

6.4 Medical service

There are good medical services available in town. If you should need a doctor, you can go to Hoedspruit, which is approx 60 km's from the project site. An ambulance service is also available if needed both private and government.

If you need any medication, you can obtain it from a pharmacy, which is also approximately 60 km's from the project site.

7. Personal equipment

Some items are provided at the project, such as:

- Pillow
- Bedding /Linen / Towels

7.1 Essential items

Because you will be working with animals or building camps, don't bring your best clothes.

Here are some essential items, which you should bring with you:

- Valid passport
- Shorts/skirt kaki, beige or brown in colour
- Mosquito net for single bed (take out)
- At least one pair of long trousers kaki, beige or brown in colour (jeans are also fine)
- T-shirts (you will be given one from the project that you can wear when teaching the children)
- Long sleeve shirt / t-shirt to protect you at night against the mosquito's
- Something warm
- Strong working shoes, hiking boots or trainers which you will need for doing bushwalks
- Sandals / Flip flops (whatever you are used to)
- A Hat or cap
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen (it's recommended to use for at least SPF 15)
- Insect repellent
- A head lamp and spare batteries
- First-aid kit with for example plasters, disinfectant, painkillers, etc.
- Bathing/swimming suit
- Toiletries

7.2 Optional items

Here are some optional items, which you may choose to bring with you:

- Binoculars
- A lighter
- A watch
- An alarm clock
- A camera (and photographic materials)
- A notebook and address book journal/diary
- A water bottle
- A day pack- small back pack
- Vitamin B (it will be anti mosquito)
- Something against dehydration like ORS (we advise you to drink a lot of water)
- Imodium or other ant-diarrhoea medication
- Leisure clothes (volunteers can go out, so keep this point in mind)?
- Books or magazines
- Snacks

8. General information

8.1 Food and refreshments

Breakfast, lunch and evening meals as well as tea, coffee and juice are included in the participation fee. The staff of the project prepares the meals and you will enjoy their excellent and abundant food.

It mainly contains of:

- Breakfast: Coffee, tea, fruit juice, yoghurt, toast, jam, peanut butter, cereals and fruits
- Lunch: will be usually consisting of salads and cold meat.
- Evening meals: will be usually consist of a cook dish with meat and vegetables.

If you are a vegetarian or have special dietary requirements, please indicate this on the booking form.

It is also possible to go out for dinner on your day off (at your own expense). There are good local restaurants in the area. If you do, please notify this to the project staff in time.

All drinking water on the reserve is safe.

Should you prefer there is mineral water available at the local supermarket

8.2 Supermarkets and shops

Supermarkets/shops:

Supermarkets: Spar and Pick'n Pay in Hoedspruit for all your needs.

Shops: Chemist, Souvenirs, jewellery, outdoor, cloth etc.

8.3 Laundry services

There is a laundry service available at the project. All laundry is taken care of by the project.

8.4 Telephone

There is a telephone available at the project's site, which you may use to call home in case of emergency only.

Most mobile phones can be used, but for sure we advise you to contact your phone company or phone service in your own country. There is not a very good cell phone reception at the project and you might have to wait to be in town to get better signal. (Vodacom provides the best cell phone reception at the project site).



8.5 Internet access

Internet/email facilities are available at the project, which volunteers may use within reasonable time at the same rate as in a local Internet café. (We advise you to create a Skype account so you can keep in contact telephonically with your relatives).

There are about 4 Internet cafes in the town of Hoedspruit.

8.6 Electricity

South Africa has an electricity voltage of 220 - 230 Volts. A 3-legged plug can be used. It would be handy if you bring an adaptor with you, but it will be cheaper to buy one when you will arrive in Hoedspruit.

There is no electricity on the project, but solar power and generator provide lighting and power.

8.7 Transport during your stay

The project location is rather isolated. A trip to town is organised every Saturday.

If you want to go somewhere outside of the project area on your free day, you can make arrangements with the staff to transport you to either the bus station or pick-up point for any extra travelling or activities you wish to join. This can be arranged at the same rate as local tour operators. You can also chose to rent a car for the weekend and travel on your own or with other volunteers to share the cost. Advises will be given to you at the project.

8.9 Excursion arrangements

Where possible or when opportunities are available, the project will give you time to visit the surrounding area and do some tourism. But as nature is the master and the children and animals the priority, the project can't guaranty it and plan it in advance. Be assured that they will do their best to make your stay as enriching as possible.

Sunday is your day of. Some nice examples to visit:

- Kruger National Park
- Blyde-olifants Conservancy (consolidates a group of privately owned game farms in the central Lowveld region into an official nature reserve)
- Manyeleti Game Reserve (shares with the Kruger National Park, Sabi Sands Game Reserve and the Timbavati Game Reserve, forms an integral ecological unit where all the animals roam free)
- Balule Game Reserve (is adjacent to the Kruger National Park, home to the Big Five and world famous for its abundance of wildlife and birdlife)
- Hans Merensky Nature Reserve (The main draw card to this beautiful reserve is the fact that you can walk most of it on foot)
- Tshukudu Private Game reserve
- Many more

All of these activities would be at your own expense but the staff can arrange these excursions when possible at a preferential rate.

8.11 Currency

The monetary unit of South Africa is the South African Rand.

Foreign currency can be exchanged in most banks. Most major international credit cards such as American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard, Visa and their affiliates are widely accepted. It is not recommended to bring Travellers Cheques as they take too long and special arrangement to be cashed out.

You can find banks in Hoedspruit. The banks are open on Monday – Friday from 09.00 am until 15.30 pm and Saturdays 09.00 am until 11.30 am.

There are cash machines (ATM) in Hoedspruit. All cash machines have instructions in English.

