

Wildlife Conservation Volunteering - Sanctuary



About the Sanctuary

The animals at the N/a'an ku sê Sanctuary come to us in need of rescue, rehabilitation and sometimes permanent captive care. In an Africa where humans and wildlife sometimes struggle to co-exist peacefully, the N/a'an ku sê Sanctuary provides a haven and second chance for animals in need. Our Wildlife Conservation volunteers come from all backgrounds, nationalities and with varied familiarity with animals and wildlife, from absolutely no experience to those with a professional background in veterinary or conservation science. What our volunteers do have in common is a love of wildlife and a passion for aiding in the conservation and care of Africa's diverse species.



Our Wildlife Conservation volunteers provide an important resource in caring for and feeding the animals daily, as well as helping to maintain and develop the sanctuary. As a wildlife volunteer you should be ready to be actively involved in the day-to-day activities which support the foundation.

At N/a'an ku sê our goal is to release animals whenever possible so that they may be free to live a natural life in the wild. However, sometimes an animal comes to us that cannot be released for various reasons such as habituation to humans which would put the animal at risk if released or an extensive injury. Our aim is to provide a lifelong sanctuary for these animals.

Because we release and/or relocate whenever possible, the animals at the sanctuary will vary at any given time but may include carnivores such as wild dogs, lions, leopard, cheetah and caracal; primates such as baboons and vervet monkeys; birds such as peacocks and vultures; antelope such as oryx (gemsbok), springbok, duiker and kudu; small mammals such as meerkats, rock dassies, polecats, genets and warthogs as well as a host of other species and farm animals.



Activities at the Sanctuary

Activities at the sanctuary are carried out in a rotational group system to ensure that everybody gets exposed to the variety of experiences available.

Possible tasks as a Wildlife Conservation Volunteer on the Sanctuary include:

- Preparing food and feeding the wildlife and farm animals
- Cleaning and maintaining enclosures
- Providing enrichment to the animals in the form of interaction, walks in the bush or implementation of special activities for them
- Providing intensive care for juvenile wildlife including overnight care for some animals such as baboons
- Physical labour such as building new facilities
- Research which may include the monitoring of free-ranging carnivores in the area, analysing camera traps and GPS data
- Time in the environment such as tracking & monitoring carnivores (and sometimes snakes!) on or near property, horseback riding and game counts in the bush
- Assisting with the various projects that arise at the sanctuary

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Food Preparation & Enclosure Cleaning



A vital part of the day-to-day running of the sanctuary involves preparing food for and feeding the animals as well as cleaning and maintaining the animals' enclosures and housing. This can be a very messy but satisfying part of your day, as you're ensuring the nutritional needs of each animal are met while also checking up on their health and happiness while cleaning their enclosures. You'll be handling fruits, vegetables, meats and corn-based meal among other things to help prepare the meals needed for all of our animals, including baboons and cheetahs. To prevent cross-contamination of disease

rubber gloves are required for all handling of animal food.

Carnivore Feed

The time spent feeding our carnivores is a very important and always enjoyable part of your day. During this activity you will get to see and possibly assist in the feeding of our cheetahs, wild dogs, lions and leopards. This coordinator-led activity is also the best time for you to take pictures of our amazing animals. You will also learn about the animals' backgrounds, interesting facts and the reason why the animals are at the sanctuary including the difficulties faced in trying to manage the human-wildlife conflict.



Animal Enrichment



We have the privilege to be able to take some of our juvenile baboons from the sanctuary out for enrichment walks and provide them with the opportunity to forage, explore the veldt and splash around in our local waterholes. The baboon walks are primarily for their enrichment as well as an opportunity for volunteers to learn more about and bond with these amazing primates. Taking the baboons for walks gives them the opportunity to forage and diversify their diet, stretch their legs and climb anything and everything in sight (including you).

You may also get the chance to interact hands-on with certain animals at the sanctuary depending on the needs and types of animals at the time of your arrival. Sometimes our youngest animals need to be "babysat" and provided extra attention while other animals require quiet observation and company. With orphaned and injured animals arriving throughout the year, you never know who may be in need of some extra tender loving care!



Mention something about actual animal enrichment activity as this will remain a constant of the programme.

It is always important to remember that, while some animals are approachable, they are all wild animals at heart and thus it is important to always respect their boundaries. It is therefore essential to listen to any staff members accompanying you and who will provide you with the best practices for interactions.

Intensive Juvenile Care & Baboon Sleepovers

N/a'an ku sê Foundation, P.O. Box 99292, Windhoek, Namibia.

Namibia Charity no.: 21/2007/256. UK Charity no. 1142421 VAT 4432160-01-5

T: + 264 (0) 81 261 2709 E-Mail: bookings@naankuse.com Website: www.naankuse.com

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N/a'an ku sê is home to many orphaned animals, including baboons, which up to a certain age need extra care overnight. The purpose of this interaction is to simulate the role that their mother would play in the wild. When sleeping overnight with a baboon, you will be responsible for bathing them, feeding them and taking them to bed with you so they have someone to cuddle with at night and don't feel scared. Although a highlight of many people's time here and a crucial part of our project, at times there are no babies coming out at night meaning there's more babies staying out in the wild with their mothers where they belong! Staff members are always there to help you with questions, and you will have a baboon induction to show you the ropes before you take your first baboon. Due to the responsibility involved this activity is for volunteers who will be with us for longer than 4 weeks. It is not mandatory to be involved in the baboon sleepovers, but we do encourage you to try the experience as many people leave with baboons firmly in their heart.



Other orphaned baby animals come to us and may need intensive care such as bottle feeding, observation and interaction.

Project Work

Project work at the sanctuary varies depending on the needs of the project, and is a large and vital part of your time with us. Project work can range from easy and fun jobs to heavier labour that involves work with tools, lifting and more. Some of the projects completed in the past with the assistance of our volunteers included:

- Digging waterholes for our new caracal and baby baboon enclosures
- Digging holes and putting up fences for enclosures
- Painting the school
- Removing un-needed/old fencing

Research



Research is a vital part of our work at the sanctuary, and we offer you a chance to be a part of it through a variety of activities, which will depend on the research project that the research team is focusing on at the time of your stay. You will likely be involved in setting camera traps, analysing the data, and conducting game counts. The information gathered on game counts and from camera traps helps us to understand the health, movement and behaviour of our animals in Namibia and is also a fun way to see the farm. Data gathered are essential to monitor N/a'an ku sê wildlife population, including antelopes, giraffes and carnivores. The research is focused on human – wildlife conflict mitigation, including snakes, primates, and carnivores. The Research Rapid Response Unit team may also be called out to collar a wild carnivore in Namibia during your stay and you may have the privilege to join them on this exciting adventure.

Horseback Riding

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If you are a horse lover, then you are in luck. Activities on the sanctuary may include horseback riding through the veldt, which is a special and unique way to spend time in the African bush with the chance of close encounters with wild game. Game counts on horseback are other activities in which you may be involved during your stay.

Clever Cubs School

The Wildlife Conservation project may also entail volunteering with the San children and assisting the teacher at our Clever Cubs School, located on premises at the N/a'an ku sê Sanctuary. This Pre-School provides vital free education to the San Bushman children whose parents work on site and who would otherwise not have access to education.

The school, opened in November 2009, provides a full curriculum including English, Mathematics, Arts & Crafts, Sports and Environmental Studies to our children and toddlers. As well as learning how to read and write, the children enjoy dancing, singing and playing. We are also working to enroll as many of the older children as possible into mainstream schools in Windhoek to continue their education. The children are extremely friendly and love meeting new people – their enthusiasm and smiles are infectious to all!



Wildlife Conservation Volunteers may choose to spend time with the children and assisting our teacher as the school is located on the Sanctuary's property. If you would like the opportunity to help at the Clever Cubs School please let us know in advance where possible although requests to participate in this activity are also taken upon arrival and throughout the duration of your project stay. If you would like to focus solely on volunteering at the school throughout part or all of your stay, please indicate this to the bookings office at the time of your reservation.



Weekend Activities



Weekends at the sanctuary tend to involve a Saturday activity that can vary from a nature walk through the farm, volleyball in the river or challenges and quizzes. Saturday evenings involve a braai and time to socialize and relax together. As an extra, you may wish to join our Sunday trip to Windhoek or have a beautiful buffet lunch at our luxury Lodge, depending on availability.

Please take note that over the weekend (Saturdays and Sundays), our beloved furry friends still need to get their food and your cooperation is highly appreciated in finishing these tasks.

Accommodation & Meals

We have two options of accommodation at the Wildlife Sanctuary; volunteer rooms with up to four people (same gender) sharing each room, or large tents with a living and bedroom area to be shared by up to two or three people (same gender or a couple). The rooms and tents are basic but our single beds are comfortable with bedding provided (duvets and pillows). Showers and toilet facilities are communal and hot water is supplied by solar energy therefore sometimes restricted. Power sockets for electrical items are available in communal areas.

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Three meals are provided on a help yourself basis - Breakfast includes toast and cereal; Lunch includes pasta, wraps, burgers or stir-fry; and Evening Dinners include meat, fish and vegetables with rice, potatoes or pasta. On weekends, we often have a braai (barbecue). Please advise us of any special dietary requirements prior to arrival at the project.

Sound like a great way to visit Africa? Then book your trip now!

N/a'an ku sê is one of those places where some people grow in mind, heart and soul and just plain find themselves. They find their family, their friends, their home and their future here. Many staff members were once volunteers who couldn't quite bring themselves to leave. Many volunteers come back time after time to be together with the animals and people they fell in love with. We'd love to add you to that legacy.

- Visit us on Facebook and Instagram and talk to past and future volunteers at: www.facebook.com/naankuse, www.instagram.com/naankuse_foundation/
- Watch videos of our work on our YouTube page at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0yhR-y0ixMr9_Y-gkCfXGg
- Visit our webpage at www.naankuse.com
- Book your trip of a lifetime or find out more information by e-mailing bookings@naankuse.com

We look forward to welcoming you at the Wildlife Sanctuary and working with you to make a difference to the conservation of African wildlife and people.

Thank you!

Book Now