



"working together for wildlife & people"

TRANS-FRONTIER CONSERVATION PROJECT

SWAZILAND



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Is this experience for you?

Are you wanting to experience African places and cultures in a way that gets you involved? Are you wanting to make a difference by doing something worthwhile on a fun project in need of support? Are you looking to make new friends and gain a new perspective on what's important in life? If any of these things appeal then joining one of our projects is likely to be a rewarding experience for you. If you are not looking to get so involved and want more of a travel experience then consider joining one of our expeditions, or if you just want a place to stay while you do your own exploring check out our accommodation.

Would you like to work on a conservation project in a national park containing big African game? Do you want to learn hands-on wildlife research and conservation management techniques? Are you happy to stay in rustic cottages and cook on open fires? Would you like to help forge new ground in co-operating conservation research and management on either side of an international border? If these things appeal then joining our Trans-frontier project is likely to be a rewarding experience for you. If you would rather join a conservation project focusing on African savanna ecosystems and species see our African Savanna project.



The Trans-frontier Project

In a surprising number of cases, National Parks and conservation areas are situated on the boundary of a country next to a neighboring countries' national park or conservation area. Often these international boundaries simply cut through important ecosystems. In such cases there is a strong need for co-operating conservation management on either side of the international border. Such co-operation provides a serious managerial challenge but can be a vehicle for promoting peace and mutual prosperity through tourism and natural resource benefits. This is what trans-frontier conservation is all about and it has attracted major political and conservation interest and is resulting in some very large conservation areas.

The Malolotja-Songimvelo trans-frontier conservation area is a prime example of where co-operation is taking place across an international boundary in a bid to conserve one of



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Africa's most important mountain ecosystems. This area is a global biodiversity hotspot and falls within the Barberton mountainlands centre of plant endemism and the south east African center of bird endemism. Malolotja-Songimvelo is home to the big four (elephant, rhino, leopard, buffalo) and also contains some spectacularly beautiful scenery.

This project involves research and monitoring to investigate the ecology of threatened species in the Malolotja-Songimvelo trans-frontier conservation area and to help in their conservation. Threatened birds and plants are a focus of this project in particular their reproduction and survival. Rhino and elephant are also monitored to identify activity patterns and home ranges as are Bats and small predators.

In terms of hands-on conservation action this project involves fire break management, alien plant mapping and control, fence patrols and hiking trail marking and maintenance. It also involves community outreach to improve community-park relations and to spread awareness of conservation practices.



Project Activities

By joining the Trans-Frontier Project you may get involved in a number of the following activities depending on the timing of your placement:

- Hiking trail construction and maintenance – clear vegetation, control erosion, construct rock piles and route signs, produce maps and help market trails.
- Threatened bird nest monitoring – visit known nesting sites, monitor the breeding success & ring nestlings where appropriate (blue swallow, bald ibis, vultures & eagles).
- Bat research – catch bats in large mist nets at night to determine the mix of species in the area & track bats at night using a radio transmitter & receiver to find their roosting & foraging movements.



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- Predator monitoring – on night drives make observations of rare predator sightings (jackal, leopard, hyena, aardwolf) & for aardwolf monitor the signs of activity (dens & middens) in known territories.
- Vegetation monitoring – visit threatened cycad populations & record plant condition & monitor the impact of large herbivores (generally antelope but sometimes rhino & elephant) on vegetation cover.
- Fence and game patrols – walk fence lines and game areas and record observations of things requiring management action as well as sightings of rare animals.
- Community outreach – visit neighbouring communities and assist with their needs to build community-park relations and to assist them to improve natural resource management.
- Camp maintenance and construction – assist with fixing broken camp infrastructure, improving old facilities or building new structures.
- Awareness and education – generate awareness about conservation and develop educational materials.



Accommodation Arrangements

Depending on the timing & project needs, you will either stay in a rustic cottage in Malolotja Nature Reserve where there is no electricity, or in a simple cottage in Songimvelo Game Reserve where there is electricity. Both cottages have communal ablution & kitchen facilities with running and hot water. Simple food (3 meals per day) will be provided and facilities are basic but include pots, pans, crockery & cutlery, hot water & parafin lanterns. Occasionally the work may take you deep into the reserve and require you to camp out in a tent for a night or two.

Each volunteer will need to share cooking duties and be responsible for washing his/her own clothes (hand washing facilities will be available). Sleeping bags will be needed but mattresses and pillows are provided.

Transport to the project site will be provided using a project vehicle. Within the project site, large distances may need to be covered by walking.



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Weekends

You have the option of taking part in various weekend activities including white water rafting, mountain biking, game viewing, adventure caving, hiking, horse riding, swimming, golf, tennis, squash, fishing or just relaxing in a sunny climate. Where possible long weekends will be arranged and expeditions to Mozambique, Kruger National Park, St. Lucia and the Natal Drakensberg are on offer. If you are interested in any of these activities let us know and we can let you know the availability and costs.

Organisation

All Out Africa – is a non-profit foundation and our mission is to engage people and resources from around the world in the research and action necessary for a sustainable Africa. For more information about All Out and our team go to www.all-out.org/about_all_out



Your commitment

During your stay we ask that you contribute constructively to your project and behave responsibly. We ask that you uphold our organizational values of integrity, vision, teamwork, discipline and passion.

Some basic ground rules:

- Be considerate of the local people and environment, help with cooking and cleaning up.
- Abide by the laws of the country and rules of the place.
- Pay your way – with things not included above (e.g. telephone, internet, weekend activities).
- Do not drive any vehicle without the permission of the project leader.

Contact Information

All Out Africa (Physical)

Opposite Woodlands Restaurant, Ezulwini, Swaziland,
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Other Information

Malaria – It is advisable to take Malaria prophylactics as most of the research is done in malaria areas.

CHECK LIST

In addition to your everyday clothing, it is essential that you include the following:

Hiking boots	Long trousers (light cotton)
Hat	Sun cream (at least 20 SPF)
Binoculars	Back pack (small day pack)
Water bottle	Sandwich box
Waterproofs	Mosquito repellent
Head Torch + batteries	Camera + films + batteries
Note pad + pens	Sleeping bag
Neutral bush clothing (Khaki)	

Currency: Rands
MasterCard & ATM card is sufficient

Visa: On entry

