

ACCRA ZOO

Location

The Zoo project is located in the capital city of Ghana and it belongs to the Ghana Wildlife Division under the Ghana Forestry Commission in Accra .The Zoo has the following sections- Primate Breeding Centre for the White-nosed Mangabey and Roloway Diana monkeys. Warthog Breeding Centre. Bat Research Centre. Other Zoo exhibits including mix Aviary, large bird cages (Ostriches and Emus), Carnivore (Hyenas and small cats) reptile exhibits (Pythons, Crocodiles) pet rabbits and free ranging exotic ducks.

The range of animals primarily can be classified under Animal Care - Primates, cats (small and large), warthogs, mix aviary, parrots, large birds, camels, bats, orphan babies, quarantined animals, snakes, crocodiles, pet rodents (mice, rats, rabbits). Endangered animals - primates, cats (small and large), parrots, crocodiles, rescued animals - primates, cats, birds, parrots, crocodiles.

Work Activities

Volunteer duties do vary according to the interest, and time of the year but it involves mainly zoo keeping wildlife and veterinary:

- Typical main duties are:
- Keeper work – cage cleaning, cage maintenance,
- Animal enrichment
- Ground maintenance and clearing of footpaths.
- Veterinary interventions – treatment of sick animals, preventive treatment,
- Nursing of orphan wild animal

There are other duties which are more specialized and the volunteers can be engaged in the following and you could be the few lucky ones to join The Endangered Primate Centre (EPC) which is a collaboration between WAPCA (West African Primate Conservation Action) Ghana and Wildlife Division of Ghana Forestry Commission and researchers working with the Primate centre on field trips:

- Conservation Education for communities, schools and monkey search
- Research
- Eco-tourism
- Breeding of Endangered Species

Availability

All year round



KUMASI ZOO

Location

The project is located in the City Centre of Kumasi the capital city of the Ashanti Region.

Brief Profile of the Kumasi Zoo

The Zoo has over 100 individual animal exhibits including Chimpanzees monkeys, lions, small cats, different antelopes, birds such as ostriches, peacocks, parrots, geese, hornbills, doves couraco birds and eagles. In the list of exhibits the zoo has a range of reptiles such as crocodiles and snakes. You will also find camels, horses and several other animals and birds not listed. The range of animals primarily can be classified under, Carnivores lions,- Primates such as, chimpanzee and smaller monkeys cats (small), warthogs, mix aviary, parrots, large birds, Arabian camels snakes, crocodiles, pet rodents (mice, rats, rabbits) Endangered animals – Mainly chimpanzee, giant tortoise, West African dwarf crocodiles Eagles and black kites, rescued animals – Primates and West African dwarf crocodiles. The zoo was the most highly visited tourist centre in Ghana according to the last statistics with over 100,000 plus annual visitors.

Work Activities

Volunteer duties generally fall under care of the animals and will vary according to the time of year but include the following,

- Preparing food for the feeding of both birds and animals.
- Keeper work -cleaning cages and Cage maintenance.
- Animal husbandry such as nursing of orphaned animals at the zoo nursery.
- Tour guiding of visitors to the Zoo.

Other information

The volunteer will be given an orientation of approximately 2 weeks upon arrival at the Zoo and this will involve rotating at the various departments. The departments are Education, Veterinary, Administration and Animal Husbandry (made up of the primate, reptiles, birds, carnivores, and heavy horses). After the orientation the volunteer will be assigned duties depending on the need. The volunteer will work alongside the senior zoo keeper or departmental head. If a volunteer has interest in Veterinary there is an opportunity to assist the zoo veterinary.

Availability

All year round, participants are encouraged to arrive on weekends.



BOABENG FIEMA MONKEY SANCTUARY COMMUNITY BASED CONSERVATION PROJECT

Location

The project is a community based conservation project of Mona and black white monkeys based in Nkoranza-Boabeng-Fiema monkey sanctuary in Nkoranza District of Brong-Ahafo. The location is about 3 hours drive from Kumasi.

Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary is unique. It is the only place where two different species of monkeys, regarded as sacred - the Campbell's Mona and the Geoffroy's Columbus - live together within the same habitat in peace and in harmony with human beings. Monkeys around the world do not enjoy this association there are about 500 Mona monkeys in the Sanctuary. They are brownish and omnivorous. The black and white Geoffroy's Columbus monkeys number about 200. They are vegetarians, living on leaves mainly. Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary typifies traditional African.

Conservation - the Ghanaian way. Here the culture of the people has been fashioned to include the acceptance of the monkeys as part of the society. The two communities came together in 1975 to pass a byelaw, prohibiting harm to the monkeys. They revere the animals with the belief that the monkeys are the children of the God of the twin-community. The origin of the sanctuary animals were the offspring of two shrines, Daworo of Boabeng and Akudwo of Fiema and a cemetery had been created inside the sanctuary for the burial of the sacred animals an age-old tradition.

Eight communities formed the canopy of the sanctuary, namely Boabeng, Fiema, Akrudwa number one, Akrudwa number two, Busunya, Konkrompe, Senya and Yefri.

The major problem has been the encroaching and poaching of the monkeys in the sanctuary .Offenders are arrested and prosecuted. The conservation of the forest sanctuary is being undertaken by both Ghana Wildlife Division Office and the local community and it is also now serving as community based ecotourism site managed by the community. The income helps in providing resources to develop the community.

Work Activities

The volunteer work will involve:

- Protection of the Monkey Sanctuary forest by patrols with the Ghana Wildlife and members of the local community
- Assist in revenue collection from tourists
- Assist in tour guiding
- Compilation of statistics at the tourism office

The volunteer could be very busy over the weekend receiving tourists because weekends are when visitors come to the sanctuary. Sometimes you will work less than 8 hours in day.

Availability

All year round



GHANA TURTLE CONSERVATION AND ECO TOURISM VOLUNTEER

Location

The project is located in Songor Ramsar site, Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission which is about 81 kilometers from Accra.

The objective of this project is Biodiversity conservation (turtles, birds etc), ecological restoration, conservation education, research, law enforcement, ecotourism, alternative livelihood. Some of the highlights of the project include night turtle data collection of both leather bark and olive ridley turtles, protection of nesting turtles, beach patrols, eco tourism education and interaction with the local community.

Work Activities

The Main duties of the volunteer are:

- Night turtle data collection
- Protection of nesting turtles / nest of turtles all year round
- Ecological restoration in communities and degraded areas
- Monthly bird survey
- Beach dynamics survey
- Promotion of ecotourism by being engaged for
- Tour guiding for turtle watch especially during the peak period of September to January ending.
- The volunteer can also be engaged in educational activities such as
- Conservation education in schools and communities
- Educating the communities of alternative livelihood by promotion of options of sources of income to divert attention and over dependence on wetland resources
- Promotion of clean-up with schools and communities

Other activities are performed as they emerge.

Availability

All year round, participants are encouraged to arrive on weekends.

Minimum Stay

2 weeks

