Conservation

High School Special Schedule Kenya | 2 weeks

Welcome to our High School Special Conservation & Environment Project in Kenya! Are you ready for a once-in-a-lifetime experience working in the African savannah and exploring this beautiful country?

Programme Goals:

Conservation of savannah biodiversity:

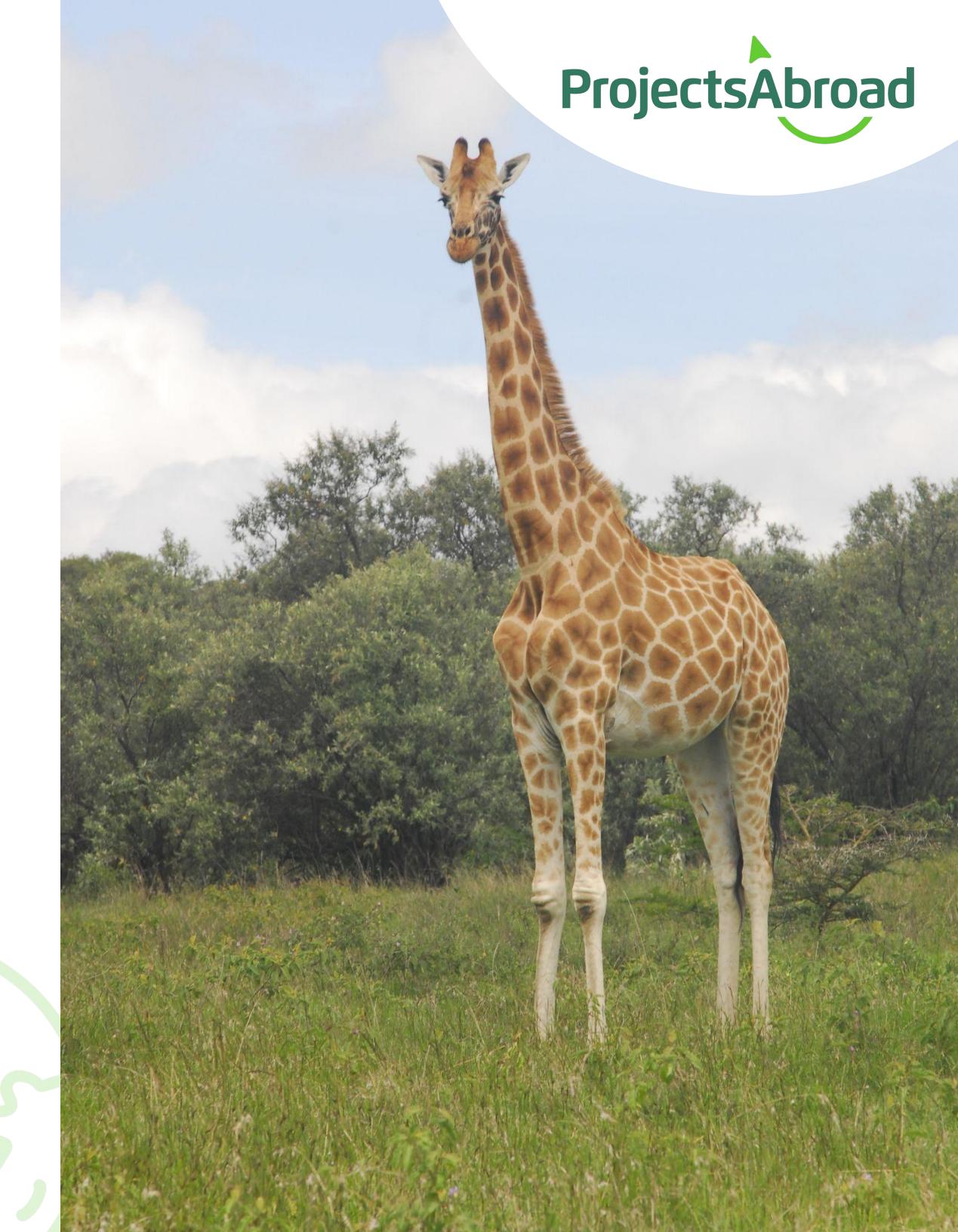
Actively contribute to the conservation of Kenya's biodiversity through research and monitoring. Special emphasis will be on the research of the Rothschild's giraffe and its entire ecosystem, including other fauna such as lions and other predators, birds etc. The work is part of a link up with other reserves. This is pioneering research that could determine the fate of this subspecies of giraffe.

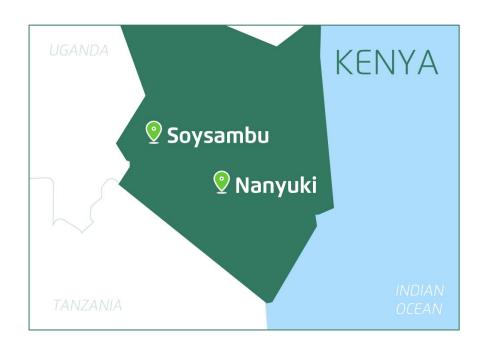
▲ Community Engagement and Social Impact:

Another element of the programme consists of installing eco-stoves for the community neighbouring the reserve, thus contributing to more sustainable livelihoods and a coexistence between human habitats and the wild environment. We will also engage in light building or renovation activities at local schools or community centres. And don't forget your competitive spirit as there will be some intense volleyball matches with your peers in the evenings at the conservancy.

Cultural Immersion:

Immerse yourself in the rich culture of the country. After your volunteer work, delve into the vibrant Kenyan culture by learning traditional crafts, engaging in conversations with locals, and indulging in the diverse flavors of traditional Kenyan cuisine. Explore the country's history and heritage with fellow volunteers, forging lifelong friendships and creating memories as you visit iconic landmarks, and marvel at the awe-inspiring beauty of Kenya, including its stunning wildlife and majestic landscapes.





Highlights

- ▶ 40 Service Hours
- ► Help conserve African savannah wildlife
- ▶ Install eco-stoves in the local community
- ▶ Immerse yourself in Kenyan culture
- ▶ Hike to Menengai Crater
- ► Offset your carbon footprint

Accommodation

Guesthouse

Transport

Jeep and by foot

Meals

All meals will be served at the guesthouse on the reserve and will be prepared by our resident cook.

Timings

This schedule is subject to change, however you will be advised in advance should this happen. You will depart home before 8am and arrive back at around 5pm. However, this may differ from day to day depending on the activity and progress of the volunteer work.

Responsible Travel

We offset 100% of carbon emissions associated with your in-destination transport. We're committed to being fully climate-positive by 2024!

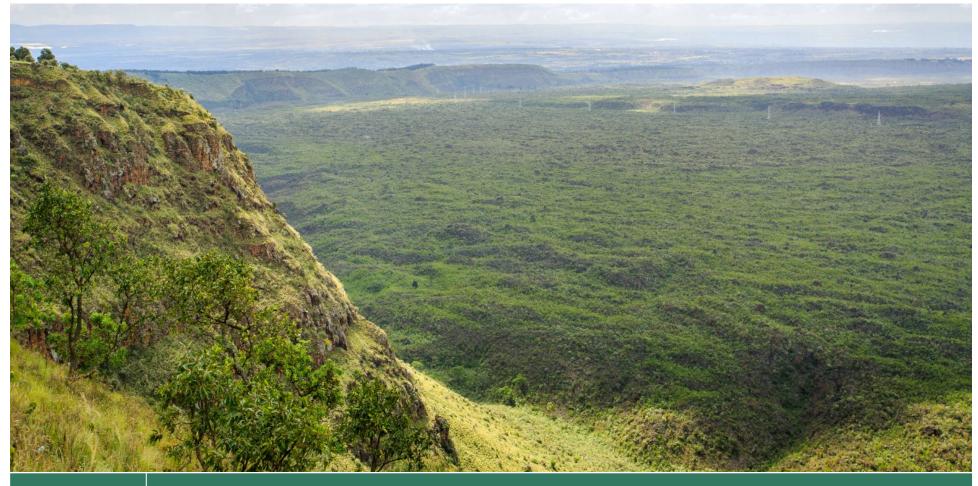
By volunteering with us you're helping reforestation efforts, protecting existing forests and providing employment to local communities around the world.

Day 1	Sunday
All Day	Arrival in Kenya: Once you have landed and grabbed your bags, you will be met by one of our staff members who will take you to the coach. From here it is a very scenic 2.5 hour drive north-west to Nakuru and the Soysambu Conservancy. This will be the perfect time to either catch up on sleep or get your first views of Africa.
	Upon arrival, you'll have a few hours to be shown around the dormitories, the facilities and the camp, meet the staff as well as enjoy a bit of relaxation time before dinner.





Day 2	Monday
Morning	Your true adventure begins with a drive around the conservancy for a glimpse of the beautiful African Savannah and an introduction to the local flora and fauna.
Afternoon	We will take you on a guided tour of Nakuru town to familiarize you with the local area. The tour will include withdrawing or exchanging cash, getting local SIM cards, visiting supermarkets and the food market.
Evening	You'll attend a presentation about the Soysambu Conservation project, and become familiar with the issues the project is seeking to address, its objectives and your role within it.
Day 3	Tuesday
Morning	Rothschild's Giraffe Survey With only 1600 individuals of this sub species left in the wild, it is more endangered than the rhino! Regular surveys are essential for its survival. Survey work is a great introduction to the tools and practices used by conservationists.
Afternoon	Lion / Carnivore Monitoring This monitoring program is designed to document information on population dynamics of lions (Panthera Leo) and other carnivores. We track their movements and levels/patterns of livestock interaction in the conservancy, in an effort to manage the lions in an environment characterized by the presence of livestock.
Evening	Enjoy dinner and fun activities back at the compound.
Day 4	Wednesday
Morning	Wetland Bird Monitoring Soysambu Conservancy and Lake Elementaita are home to over 400 bird species, of which 69 are wetland birds and 29 are Palearctic migrants. Given the alarming, large-scale declines of bird populations and the loss, fragmentation and degradation of native habitats, the need for rigorous bird monitoring programs is greater than ever.
Afternoon	Participate in an introductory Swahili language lesson, covering basic greetings and common phrases. Afterwards, attend a fascinating presentation on Kenyan culture.
Evening	Join an evening presentation about the mammals of Kenya, as well as the current status of conservation efforts in the country.
Day 5	Thursday
All day	Community Day: Installing Eco-stoves in the Local Community We will install energy saving eco-stoves in the homes of local community members neighboring the conservancy. This cooking unit will enable them to use 25% less firewood. This minimizes the impact on trees and is therefore good for the environment. It also translates directly into less pollution from firewood and fewer respiratory infections for the inhabitants.
Day 6	Friday
Morning	De-snaring For half a day, we will find and remove snares that are set by poachers in the conservancy as they pose great harm to local wildlife. Warthogs, buffalos, antelopes and zebras are the main species targeted by these illegal poachers.
Afternoon	Giraffe Surveys We will continue our work in the afternoon with the primary focus of our conservation efforts in Soysambu - monitoring the giraffe population.



Day 7 Saturday

All day

Weekend travel – Menengai Crater hike

Put on your hiking boots! Located on the northern side of Nakuru is the single largest surviving volcanic crater in the world. The Menengai Crater is an extinct volcano that offers striking views of Lake Nakuru, Lake Bogoria and the crater itself.

It is believed that the crater is a historic ground for a battle between different clans from the Maasai community who fought for grazing land and pastures on the slopes of the Rift Valley.

Day 8

Sunday

All day

Visit to Lake Nakuru National Park

On the second day of your weekend trip you will visit Lake Nakuru National Park. Be sure to eat plenty for breakfast as it will most likely be a late lunch today. Once you arrive, you will head out on a short safari to see some of Africa's most famous residents.

This National Park is well known for its huge flocks of flamingos, but you might also see black and white rhinos, baboons, hippos, leopards, zebras, buffalo, Rothschild giraffes and even rare tree-climbing lions!



Day 9	Monday
Morning	Back at the conservancy we will continue to monitor lions and other predators in the area.
Afternoon	The afternoon (as well as the evening) is dedicated again to the giraffe, this most graceful of African animals. Time to perform another survey, thus perfecting your monitoring skills.
Evening	Bring out the popcorn, as it's movie time! Not some drama or romantic comedy, but a documentary about giraffes. The learning goes on!
Day 10	Tuesday
Morning	Community Day: Building or Renovation Work Time to get dirty! Spend the morning doing light renovation or building work at a local school and interacting with the children. You can talk to the kids about environmental preservation too.
Afternoon	The Kariandusi Museum Travel back in time a million years or so at the Kariandusi archaeological site, one of the first Paleolithic discoveries in Africa. Discover and learn about the great hand-axe culture.
Evening	Night Game Drive Experience a once in a lifetime opportunity to glimpse Soysambu's nocturnal life under the stars.
Day 11	Wednesday
Morning	Birds of Prey Monitoring Begin today by continuing to improve your conservation monitoring skills, this time with terrestrial birds, of which eagles, vultures, falcons, goshawks and many others have significant populations.
Afternoon	Take a break from all the hard work and enjoy an afternoon of swimming at the Mbweha Camp, a luxury safari camp with a swimming pool.
Evening	Movie night again: watch the classic 'Lion King' movie right where its location is based upon. Spot the Swahili words used in the film.
Day 12	Thursday
All day	Community Day: Tree Planting Join this all-day initiative to plant indigenous tree species in the Lake Elementaita catchment area. This helps preserve and restore the ecosystem. It mitigates the effects of climate change through water conservation and erosion control.
Evening	Upon return to the conservancy, relax and socialize with your fellow volunteer. Share stories and enjoy a barbecue around the campfire.
Day 13	Friday
Morning	Lake Clean-up Not all park visitors are as considerate as your group. You will spend your morning cleaning the trash around the conservancy, as well as removing invasive species of plants which degrade the local ecosystem.
Afternoon	Colobus Monkey Monitoring You will be responsible for monitoring yet another species of animal. The Colobus monkey population is greatly reduced compared to its former range; slowing biodiversity loss requires urgent conservation initiatives. Habitat loss is widely accepted as the single greatest threat to continued survival of virtually all threatened primate species. Afterwards, enjoy a final farewell meal with your group Don't forget to express your gratitude to our hard-working conservation staff and to provide useful feedback for improvements with our project.



Day 14 Saturday

Group members will likely be departing at different times, therefore the last 2 days may not be the same for everyone.

Your exact departure plan will be communicated with you directly by our local team. If you have longer to wait around, we will ensure you are comfortable and well looked-after.

You will have the continued support of Projects Abroad staff right until you are safely at the airport to board your plane back home.

Student Learning Outcomes

Intercultural Competence

Students will be immersed in different cultures, gaining an understanding of their role within our global community and developing a deeper cultural awareness.

Leadership Development

Students will be pushed out of their comfort zones, experiencing new challenges each day. They will build their confidence and resilience through team activities and new life experiences.

Healthy Active Living

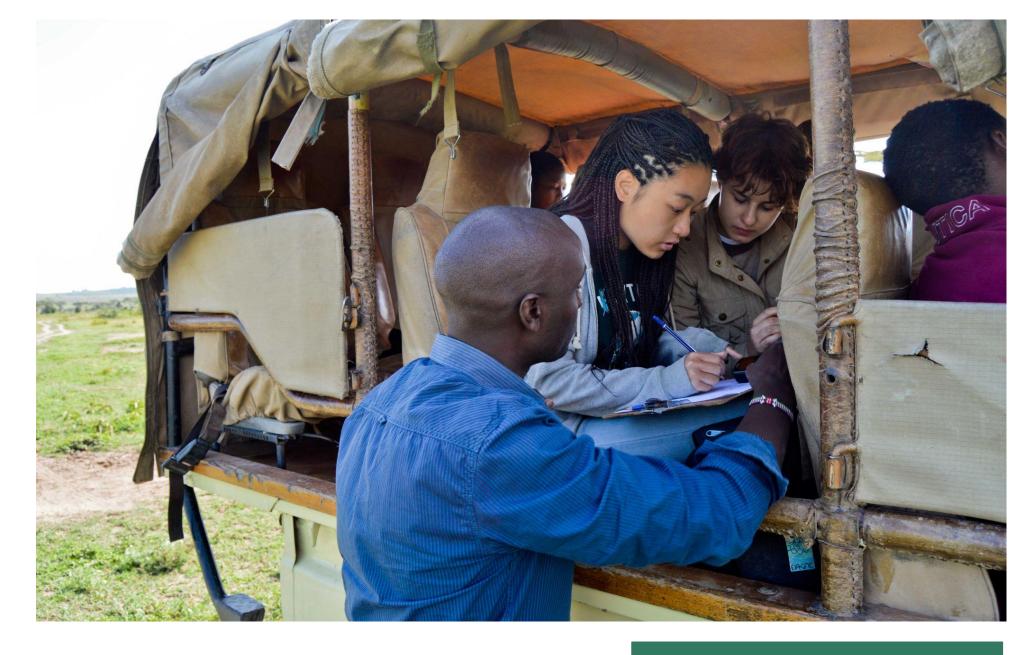
Students will be encouraged to prioritise their self-care, enhancing their physical and mental well-being.

Empowerment

Students will be empowered to think for themselves, challenging the "status-quo" and cultivating transformative decision-making mindsets.

Global Citizenship

Students will be exposed to new perspectives, engage with real-world challenges and contribute to sustainable development initiatives.



From the bustling chaos of inner-city Nairobi to the sweeping tranquillity of its national parks, Kenya has a diverse and wonderful culture. And of course, this is undoubtedly one of the best places to see the world's most amazing animals and contribute to their conservation.

Fun Facts

- ▶ One of the first African countries to ban plastic bags
- Mount Kenya is the second-highest mountain in Africa
- Many of the world's best runners come from Kenya
- The first African woman to ever win the Nobel Prize is from Kenya

Want to learn more?

We'd be happy to talk to you and and and answer any questions you may have. You can call or email our team, or use the 'live chat' feature on the Projects Abroad website.

General inquiries: info@projects-abroad.org

Destination Information

National Language:	Swahili, English
Population:	48 million
Currency:	Kenyan Shilling
Time Zone:	GMT+3
Capital:	Nairobi
Calling Code:	+254
Dominant Religions:	Christianity, Islam
National Dish:	Ugali
National Animal:	Lion
National Bird:	Lilac-breasted Roller

Social Media



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Conservation

High School Special Schedule Kenya | 4 weeks

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Programme Goals:

Conservation of savannah biodiversity:

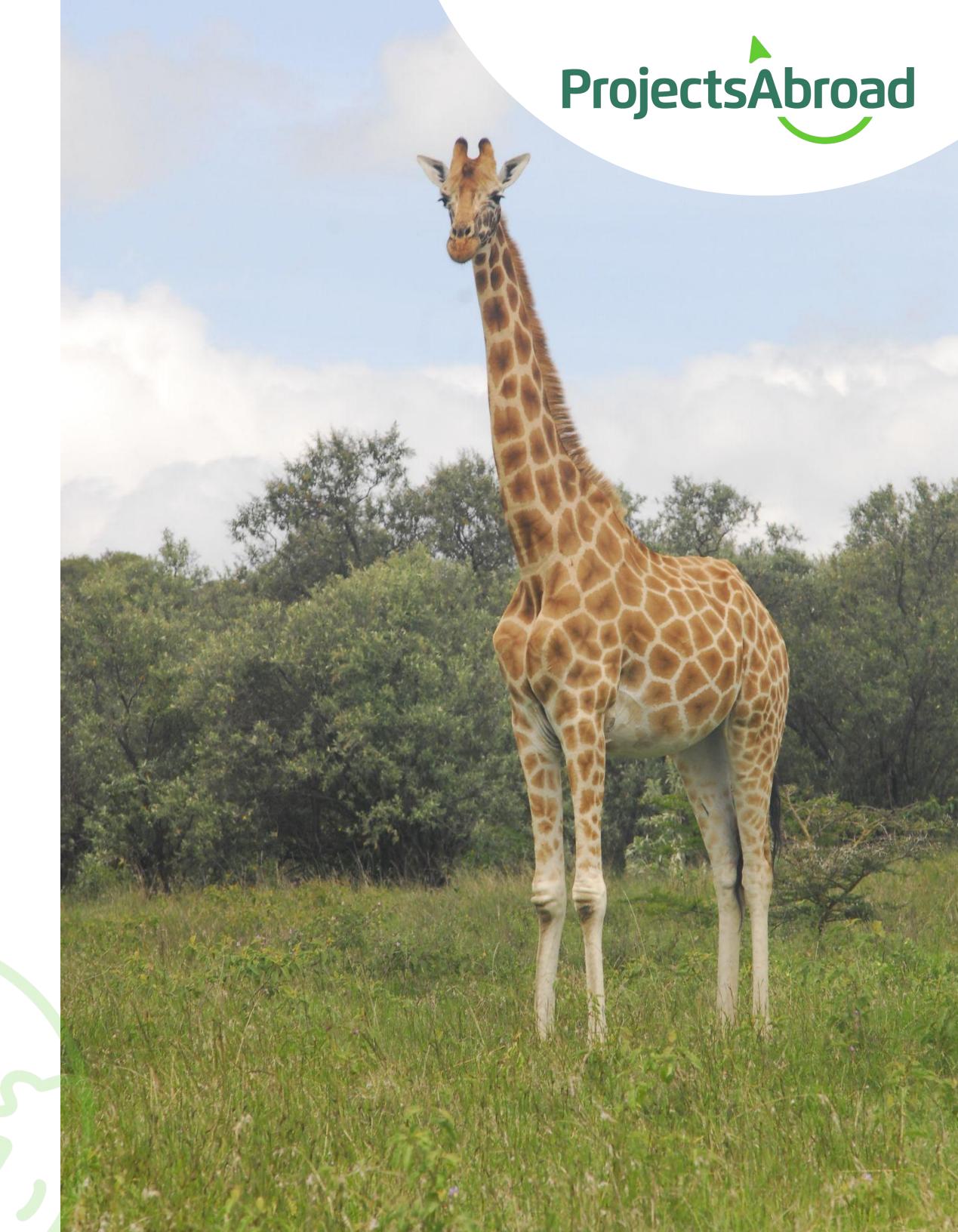
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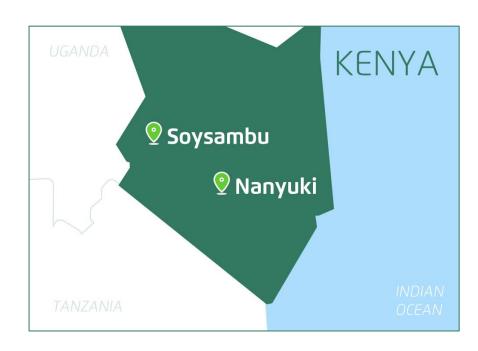
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Another element of the programme consists of installing eco-stoves for the community neighbouring the reserve, thus contributing to more sustainable livelihoods and a coexistence between human habitats and the wild environment. We will also engage in light building or renovation activities at local schools or community centres. And don't forget your competitive spirit as there will be some intense volleyball matches with your peers in the evenings at the conservancy.

Cultural Immersion:

Immerse yourself in the rich culture of the country. After your volunteer work, delve into the vibrant Kenyan culture by learning traditional crafts, engaging in conversations with locals, and indulging in the diverse flavors of traditional Kenyan cuisine. Explore the country's history and heritage with fellow volunteers, forging lifelong friendships and creating memories as you visit iconic landmarks, and marvel at the awe-inspiring beauty of Kenya, including its stunning wildlife and majestic landscapes.





Highlights

- ▶ 80 Service Hours
- ► Help conserve African savannah wildlife
- ▶ Install eco-stoves in the local community
- ▶ Immerse yourself in Kenyan culture
- ▶ Hike to Menengai Crater
- ▶ Offset your carbon footprint

Accommodation

Guesthouse

Transport

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Meals

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Timings

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Conservation 8	k Environment	



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Day 14 | Saturday

All day Sleeping Warrior Hike

Ready for another physical challenge? We will embark on a climb of the Sleeping Warrior Hill, named so because it resembles a sleeping Maasai Warrior.

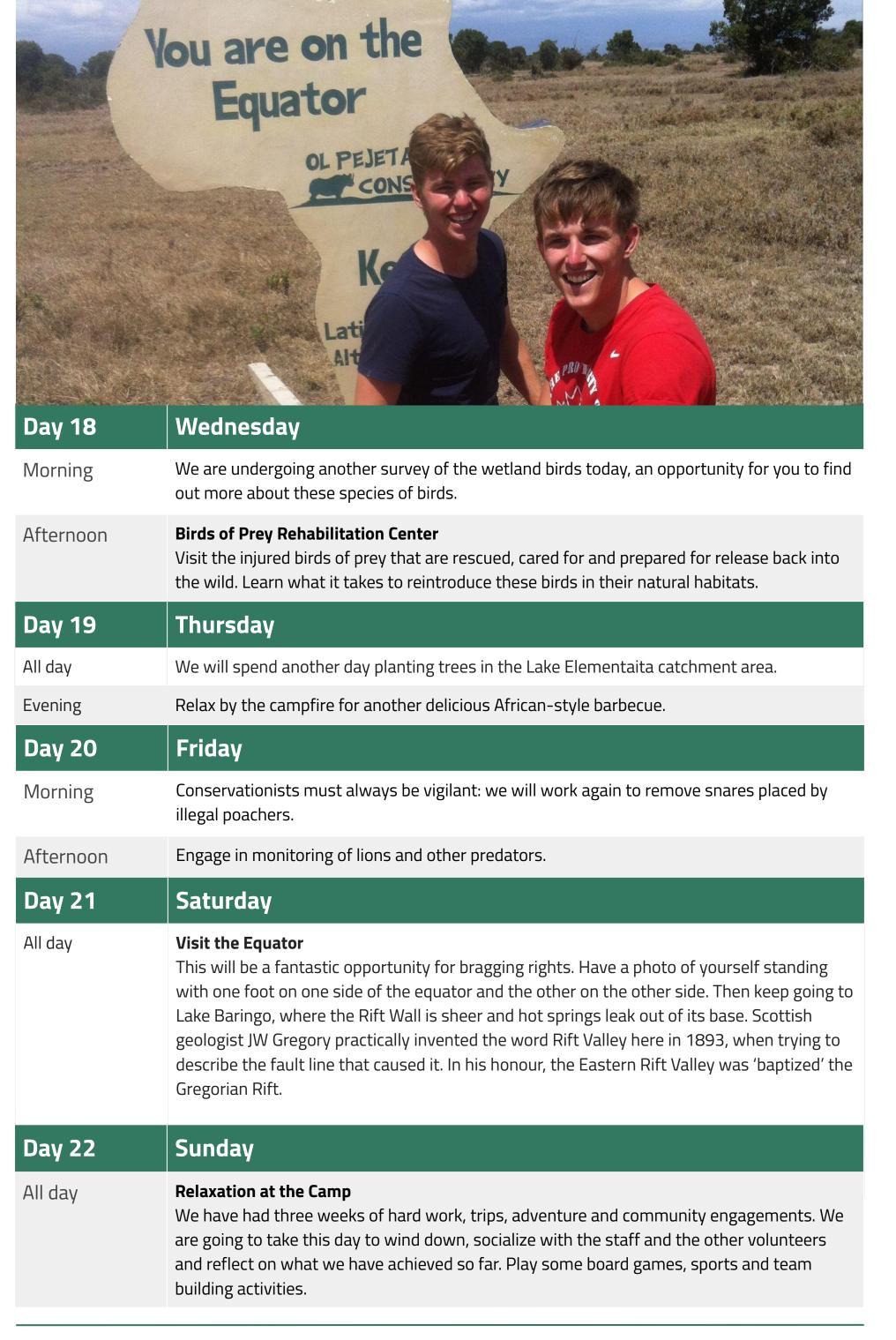
Day 15 Sunday

All day After a

After a tiring hike on Saturday, you deserve some rest and a bit of luxury. We will relax and cool off again by the swimming pool at the Mbweha Luxury Camp.

Water Dam or Hole Maintenance The dams on the conservancy help increase the drinking water storage capacity for wildlife. It falls within our responsibilities to make sure they are kept intact with hands-on manual labour.
Giraffe Survey As the main focus of our efforts in Soysambu, we return to monitor giraffes.

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Day 17	Tuesday
Morning	Invasive Plant Removal Soysambu, among other conservation areas in the Central Rift Valley, has high numbers of invasive plants. A wide range of species can often be found to out-compete indigenous plants. With large areas of land taken up by agriculture and towns, it is very important to keep the wild areas free from these alien plants and allow for natural systems to flourish, protecting genetics and the species that depend on them.
Afternoon	We will conduct another giraffe survey after the hard work in the morning. Some Conservation activities may appear repetitive but they are in fact crucial for what we are trying to achieve.
Evening	Social Event Enjoy a movie or a quiz night with the rest of your group at the Conservancy house.





Monday Day 23

Afternoon

& Evening

Barbecue

Rock Wall Repair Morning

Fences and walls play a crucial role in mitigating human/wildlife conflicts and maintaining them is crucial. That's where you, our volunteers, come in. We follow 5 kilometres of wall, fixing it where the rock has disintegrated.

Afternoon **Colobus Monkey Monitoring**

The Black and white colobus are hunted by humans for their meat and fur. Their striking pelt is traditionally used for wall hangings and for making ceremonial dresses. As a result, their numbers have reduced considerably and so we are responsible for monitoring their population.

Day 24	Tuesday
Morning	Join staff for a de-snaring activity to combat poaching practices.
Afternoon	Monitor lions and other predators. This is crucial in studying and maintaining the balance of the African savanna ecosystem.

Day 25	Wednesday
Morning	Road Maintenance In the middle of the bush, it is the conservationists themselves who are responsible for maintaining the roads. Work alongside staff to fix and repair trails.
Afternoon & Evening	Cooking Class You have been enjoying the delicious Kenyan food, but how about learning how to cook some yourself? Will it taste better made by your own hands?
Day 26	Thursday
Morning & Afternoon	We visit the nearby community again to instal eco-stoves.

Make another campfire to prepare some mouth-watering African barbecued food.



Day 27

Morning

Lake Clean-up

Human activities have intensified around the lake shores and the rivers that flow into the lake carry more litter which ends up in the wetland. This poses a threat to the integrity of the lake and threatens its famous flamingos and pelicans.

Afternoon

Reflection Session, Feedback and Good-byes

The end of such such an amazing experience is always bittersweet. The time has come for you to pack your bags, reflect on the lessons learned, abilities gained and the lifelong friendships you have created. Don't forget to express your gratitude to our hard-working conservation staff and to provide useful feedback for improvements with our project.

Day 28

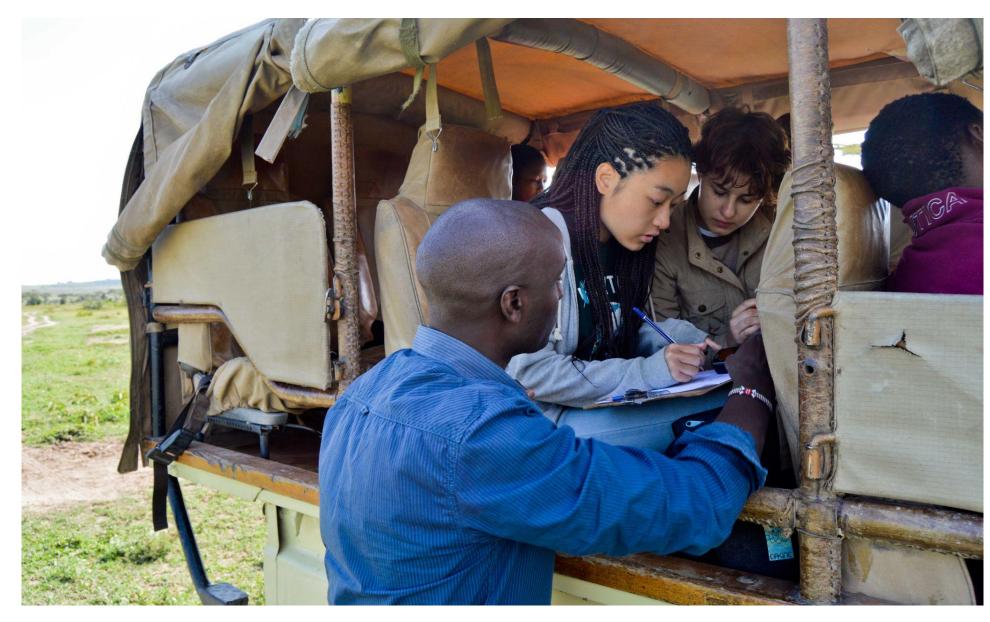
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Leadership Development

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National Dish:	Ugali
National Animal:	Lion
National Bird:	Lilac-breasted Roller

Social Media



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