MUNYA MADZI GAME RESERVE

LUANGWA VALLEY | ZAMBIA

Volunteer Information Packet
About Munyamadzi

Location
Munyamadzi Game Reserve is located in the Lower Luangwa Valley – between the South Luangwa National Park southern boundary and the confluence of the Luangwa and Zambezi Rivers. This is in the Eastern Province of Zambia and the nearest town is Nyimba. Lusaka, the capital, is a 6-8-hour drive away (depending on roads, weather, etc.) or less than hour’s flight.

The Reserve
The Reserve was purchased by the current owners in 2008. The Reserve – which is entirely unfenced - spans 18,500 ha of privately owned and leased land with approximately 20km of the Luangwa River as its western/north-western boundary. Boundaries are shared with two other unfenced private game reserves, communal land and across the Luangwa River is the West Petauke Game Management Area. The Reserve includes Miombo and Mopane woodland, savannah and several other types of vegetation; the terrain is varied with rocky hills to the east and flat sandy areas closer to the Luangwa River. Wildlife includes Big 4 species, hyena, wild dog, roan and endemic Thornicroft giraffe, plus the more common antelope and small mammal species of the African bush. Birdlife is varied withPel's fishing owl, seasonal sightings of carmine bee-eaters, Angolan pita and black stork possible as well as Lillian's lovebirds, Meyer’s parrots, southern ground hornbills and a host of other species.

While the Reserve is starting to invite non-consumptive clients to enjoy the accommodation and safari facilities, the main source of income currently is sustainable trophy hunting. This is carried out by the Reserve manager – Thor Kirchner – who is a licensed Professional Hunter with over 10 years’ experience in the sector and who knows the wildlife populations at the Reserve, having worked here since 2009. Hunting quotas are set by the government Department of National Parks and Wildlife. The Luembe Chiefdom communities receive support from the sustainable hunting through meat distribution, job creation, support to the local schools, etc.

The Reserve is also part of the BioCarbon Partners (BCP) REDD+ carbon credit programme in the Luangwa Valley and biodiversity and carnivore monitoring and research started in 2016.

The People
The Reserve has a staff compliment of 29 locally employed from the Luembe Chiefdom, 17 of which are anti-poaching scouts, 4 are dedicated camp staff and the remainder are drivers, general workers and tradesmen/craftsmen.

The Reserve is managed by Thor Kirchner, the resident Professional Hunter, who oversees anti-poaching, reserve and road maintenance, community-relations and many other matters.

The camp is managed by Nicky Carruthers, who also oversees volunteers during their stay. She is an ecologist and assists with the biodiversity monitoring at the Reserve.

Dr Alayne Cotterill, Founder and CEO of Lion Landscapes, designed and supervises the wildlife monitoring programme at the Reserve and analyses the data.
Purpose of monitoring & the volunteer programme

The purpose of the monitoring programme carried out at Munyamadzi Game Reserve is to

1) monitor and understand trends in the wildlife populations on the Reserve
2) evaluate trophy quality over time at the Reserve
3) evaluate community benefits from commercial hunting carried out at Munyamadzi.

This is in order to provide valuable data for managers to monitor wildlife populations and carry out ethical trophy hunting that will benefit not only the wildlife and habitat but also the communities living adjacent to the Reserve. Knowledge accumulated through this programme will be shared with key stakeholders in wildlife conservation in Zambia.

The volunteer programme aims to

1) provide those interested in conservation and research an opportunity to be involved in field work
2) provide a platform for knowledge exchange on conservation, wildlife management, research and rural development
3) raise awareness of the complicated nature of conservation in African third-world nations
4) expose Munyamadzi staff to new people with new ideas and difference experiences

Requirements

In order to be considered for our volunteer programme, we prefer candidates to have one or more of the following:

- Academic background in biology, conservation, ecology, geography, wildlife management, zoology, etc.
- Previous volunteer experience in a similar field of at least 4 weeks
- Work experience in conservation/wildlife management/field work/orienteering

Other requirements and/or assets:

- It is of utmost importance that volunteers have an open mind when it comes to trophy hunting as a conservation tool in areas not suitable for photographic tourism. The hunting season is from 1st May to 31st December meaning volunteers will likely be at camp during a hunt at Munyamadzi or neighbouring wildlife area. You have to be able to handle this and the hunting clients, who must be treated with courtesy at all times.
- For legal reasons, we do not take volunteers under the age of 18.
- A driver’s license and experience with manual gearboxes and 4x4 driving will be an asset.
- Volunteers should be able to work without direct supervision.
- Volunteers should be able to stay in camp for up to four weeks, with or without management present.
- Candidates are reminded that this is not a holiday – it is work experience.
Volunteer work

Volunteers will be involved in vital monitoring of wildlife populations and species in relation to sustainable trophy hunting as a viable source of income for conservation and community development in third-world African countries. Insight into the complex, multifaceted nature of conservation, field experience in conservation research and management, and an appreciation of applied science are outcomes volunteers can expect from their time at Munyamadzi Game Reserve.

Tasks while at Munyamadzi may involve, but are not limited to, the following:

- Carnivore photograph identification
- Carnivore call-up surveys
- Wildlife diversity transects using distance sampling
- Assessing trophy quality from hunt return forms
- Assessing community benefits from commercial hunting
- Data entry
- GIS
- Community-related work
- Day-to-day reserve management tasks

There is a possibility that you will have to deal with/be around clients, including hunters, and you could be asked to help around camp occasionally.

General work hours are from 07:00 – 17:00 daily with lunch break from 12:00 – 14:00. This may vary and if night work is required, work hours will be changed.

Volunteers may take Sundays off, if desired.
Costs

For 4 weeks: $2,000.00
For 2 weeks: $1,300.00

These fees include:
3 meals per day, fruit, couple of soft drinks per day.
Accommodation, hot water showers, room cleaning and laundry services.
We will register you with Speciality Emergency Services who will be your in-country health emergency contact.
A community donation of $100 which will be used for community development projects in partnership with the Community Resources Board and the Chief.

Your fees do not cover:
• Wi-Fi access for personal use (additional $20)
• Alcoholic beverages and food other than stated above
• Medical insurance (we recommend you purchase medical evacuation cover due to the remoteness of the Reserve; contact Speciality Emergency Services in Zambia for more information about this service)
• Personal toiletries and medication
• Food and drink other than stipulated above
• International and local flights
• BUSINESS VISA - $50 per person at port of entry (valid for 30 days)

* Wi-Fi access is granted on the understanding that it is a tool for Management to conduct business, for this reason use of internet for non-work-related reasons must be kept to a minimum during working hours (07-12, 14-17 daily) and especially Wednesday mornings. Management has priority usage of Wi-Fi at all times and reserves the right to disconnect any device appearing to misuse the service.

Munyamadzi Camp is located on the banks of the Luangwa River
What to bring with

This is a basic list of things you should bring with you. Travelling light is always advised but don’t sacrifice the essentials.

- Trousers, shorts
- A good jumper
- Wind-breaker/rain coat
- Good hat
- Flip flops/sandals for around camp
- Good walking/hiking shoes or boots (try to wear them in first though)
- Socks
- Underwear
- Swimming costume (for the plunge pool/river)
- Personal toiletries (e.g. shampoo, conditioner, soap, etc.)
- Mosquito repellent
- Sunblock (SPF 30 minimum, the sun can be very intense)
- Personal medication (bring enough for your entire trip plus one week extra, just in case)
- Mini first aid kit (plasters, anti-itch cream, afterburn, antiseptic cream, pain killers)
- Epi-pen, if necessary
- Medical insurance card and information
- Camera
- Binoculars
- Torch + extra batteries
- Water bottle/camel pack
- Malaria medication (consult your physician for advice and prescription)
- A good book or two, maybe some Sudoku or crosswords
- Any field guides you may want (but we have the basics)

Work-related equipment will be provided, this includes a laptop on which all your work must be kept. If you would like to bring your own tablet/laptop you are welcome to do so.

All bedding and towels will be provided and, if camping is involved, tents.

Personal toiletries can be replenished in Lusaka or Nyimba.
Travel advice & other things

- Upon arriving in Lusaka ensure you purchase a BUSINESS VISA and that the stamp is valid for 30 days from date of arrival
- We are in a malaria zone – consult your physician about prophylaxis
- We have a first aid kit at camp but do not keep an Epi-pen
- Upon your arrival, we ask that you complete an indemnity form, due to the nature and location of your stay, and to list any medical conditions, blood type etc. so we can respond appropriately in the event of an emergency
- Lusaka has flights to and from the following main airports: Johannesburg, Dubai, Nairobi and Addis Ababa
- Always carry your electronics and valuables in your carry-on luggage
- United States Dollars, South African Rand and British Pound are easily exchanged for local Zambian Kwacha (ZMW) in Lusaka
- There is an ATM in Nyimba and several in Lusaka
- We have a safe in camp and Lusaka where you can keep your passport, etc.
- Try to avoid using a minibus or inter-city buses in Zambia, their safety record is rather suspect
- Military camouflage clothing is illegal in Zambia so please do not arrive wearing it or use it when in Lusaka, once at the Reserve this isn’t a problem
- The Reserve is in a very remote area with venomous snakes, scorpions, centipedes, spiders and dangerous wildlife around, please be aware and prepared for this as camp is not fenced
- Be advised that drones are illegal in Zambia, including personal photography ones

Contact information

If you are interested in our volunteer programme, please do not hesitate to contact us for more information, or have a look at our website and Facebook page:

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