

Dear Sir or Madam,

Global Vision International is looking for volunteers and students to join its South African Wildlife Research Expedition to assist its staff and local partners with predator and large mammal research and monitoring on two different game reserves in the spectacular Limpopo Province of South Africa. There are eight start dates throughout the year for periods of either five or ten weeks, with the possibility of intern placements beyond that. This critical research takes place on the 8000 Ha Karongwe Game Reserve near the western boundary of the Kruger National Park, and on the 34 000 Ha Venetia Limpopo Nature Reserve, part of the proposed Shashe-Limpopo Transfrontier Park on the border with Zimbabwe and Botswana. Those joining for ten weeks will do five weeks at each base.

GVI is particularly interested in recruiting students from the fields of environmental science, zoology, biology and other related degree courses. College credit is available with many North American Universities.

Expedition Focus

Since 2001 this expedition has been assisting Karongwe Game Reserve management and landowners with predator and elephant research, leading to a better understanding of their effective management on enclosed reserves, and improving management protocols on this and similar reserves in the area. In October 2006 the research was expanded to Venetia Limpopo Nature Reserve, following a request from its manager and the then head researcher there for EWT (The Endangered Wildlife Trust, our main research partner on the reserve). Species monitored on a daily basis include **lion, cheetah, leopard, spotted and brown hyena, wild dog (African painted dog) and elephant and rhino**. More specifically, and among others, the research projects include:

- Spatial utilization of predators on enclosed reserves
- Feeding ecology of introduced predators
- Prey distribution and predator-prey balance
- Intra-guild competition among predators, and the effect of this on spatial utilization
- Elephant distribution and feeding impact on vegetation

The expedition also runs a satellite project in the recently proclaimed Blyde River Canyon national Park, part of the Drakensberg Escarpment, where expedition members have been conducting a biodiversity survey for the Mpumalanga (provincial) Parks Board since June 2004. The survey so far has looked at small mammals, reptiles, invertebrates and a specific dung beetle distribution-over-altitude survey.

The expedition also invests considerable effort, and needs further help, in educating the local community in understanding the benefits of large mammal conservation in the area. Staff recognize the futility of predator conservation efforts if other local stake-holders are not onboard.

No experience is necessary as the GVI training program will provide a baseline and holistic understanding of all aspects of the area and research work. Training topics include:

- Use of VHF Telemetry equipment
- Herbivore Identification
- Predator specific ecology and behaviour
- Data recording and input
- Use of survey equipment such as GPS, spotlight, radio
- Emergency First Response
- Comprehensive Reptile certificate Course
- Field safety in 'Big 5' habitat
- 'Spoor' identification and tracking

- Reserve Management

All these skills are utilized throughout the expedition and duties are scheduled on a rota system, so all expedition members gain hands-on experience. The fields of work that these skills and experience help prepare you for include Nature and site guiding (game ranger), Habitat and wildlife management, research across a wide range of biology fields.

Further details are outlined on the relevant webpage at

<http://www.gviusa.com/expeditions/africa/south-africa/wildlife-research-expedition-south-africa/home>

- Detailed expedition brief
- Talks and presentations given by project staff and ex-expedition members.
- Information sessions held in locations around the States
- Detailed expedition brief
- Brochures
- DVD's
- Meeting with academic partnership advisor.

Global Vision International

Critical conservation and humanitarian projects in over 30 countries rely on GVI for volunteers, promotion and direct funding. GVI works locally with its partners to promote sustainable development through environment research, conservation and education. GVI volunteers benefit from exceptional support, training and an internship scheme. For more information about GVI visit www.gviusa.com

Career Opportunities in the field

GVI offers a large range of jobs, internships and other exciting field work placements in the fields of education, research, environmental management and wildlife research alongside its partner organizations in countries across the world. More details can be seen on our website.

I do hope that you can help GVI's work in South Africa by assisting GVI in its search for high quality expedition members. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,



The GVI Team
Global Vision International,
252 Newbury Street,
Number 4,
Boston, MA
02116,
USA
www.gviusa.com
1 888 653 6028 (toll free)