

Lifupa Conservation Lodge and ACT to Protect

The Quelccaya Foundation can be seen as a journey. It started as a personal journey of a few young Dutch professionals who are dedicated to make a difference with regard to poverty alleviation and nature and biodiversity conservation. They started as trainees, became volunteers, started a business and became (project) managers in different fields in Africa as well as South America and The Netherlands. On their way they learned a lot from the indigenous people they worked with and how it is like to operate in the complicated world of development cooperation as both NGO worker and investor/entrepreneur. All these experiences, added with personal careers in different fields of e.g. wildlife rehabilitation, finance & marketing, environmental management and regional development process management, resulted in the establishment of this approach to nature conservation branded as ACT to Protect. The founders of ACT to Protect thought – and still think – that it is time to ACT! ACT to Protect wants to create a movement, a kind of active (professional) community, with which by joint effort the conservation of Kasungu National Park (KNP) and a sustainable region is realized.

Current projects:

With the ACT to Protect approach, the Quelccaya foundation links the conservation of a (vulnerable) nature reserve to tourism and sustainable regional (economic) development. The uniqueness of the approach lies in the fact that it is developed from a holistic view and the core of the approach is the so called Conservation Business Plan. The interlinkages between biodiversity conservation and the livelihoods of the local people and the possibilities for sustainable business development are part of this plan. The Conservation Business plan ensures coherence between all activities of Lifupa Conservation Lodge, the government (e.g. the Department of National Parks & Wildlife and local administrators), volunteers, local entrepreneurs and (inter)national investors. The lodge is where everything comes together; it serves as a local central meeting point.

The volunteer programme of ACT to Protect is called ACT. Since every action of an ACT-volunteer is geared towards making the conservation of Kasungu National Park and a sustainable region a reality, we call our volunteers: Guardians of the region. Two types of Guardians of the region are distinguished: Impact Leaders and Participants, which include Student Participants.

Impact Leaders are defined as: people who are willing, capable and able to set-up a project and to identify and manage multi-stakeholder activities that fit within the Conservation Business Plan and that are Climate-, Nature- and People-friendly. Impact Leaders need to have (long-term) working experience in a relevant study area that fit in our defined programmes, or have a degree. Impact Leaders are given the freedom and challenge to create and to perform their own (research)project, within their own field of expertise, while being part of an enthusiastic team. Other requirements are: mastering the English language (both verbal and in writing), having experience in working in a team, being flexible, and willing and able to use their own (professional and/or social) network to leverage funds (e.g. through grants) for the project (with assistance from ACT to Protect).

Participants are defined as: people who are capable of implementing a pre-defined activity. Experience in the project area is a plus, motivation and character is important.

If you are a student, e.g. in the field of nature and biodiversity conservation, and you are in your last year of your Master's or Bachelor's program we offer you a great opportunity for your internship or thesis. You can join us as a Student Participant. As a Student Participant you are able to work independently, to set up and lead your own project but you still need support from a supervisor.

The Ethical Volunteer

Requirements are: mastering the English language (both verbal and in writing) and willing to use your own (social) network to leverage funds for the project (assisted by ACT to Protect). Student Participants must be registered at a school or university and have clearance from their educational institute to work on this project. You must be above 18 years of age.

ACT to Protect believes that involvement of local people and experts is crucial for success and that local people should be deployed in the programmes. ACT to Protect therefore matches, where possible, local people with Guardians of the Region to work as a team. Together they exchange ideas and knowledge and shape their own personal journey.

ACT to Protect is looking for Guardians of the region for the following projects:

- **Children and Nature:** The Children and Nature project entails the development of children's awareness of nature and biodiversity conservation. In this project, we want to connect children to nature and their natural environment in a creative and active way. We believe that children's awareness of nature and biodiversity conservation is important to ensure a sustainable future for the park and its wildlife. Investing in knowledge expansion and dissemination through education, is investing in the future of Kasungu National Park region, and is therefore indispensable. There are different ways to work on the topic 'nature and biodiversity conservation and awareness' and different (artistic) work methods can be distinguished: Theatre, Arts, Film & Photography and Food and gardening.
- **Business development SHARE:** One aspect of the ACT to Protect approach is the SHARE. SHARE focuses on local economic development based on entrepreneurship. SHARE's intention is to assist local entrepreneurs or cooperatives with funds and knowledge in order to improve their business case and make their businesses more sustainable. Donations for these enterprises are generated via crowd funding. The project focuses on the development small & medium scale enterprises (SME's), e.g. bee keeping, commercial food production or commercial food processing possibilities.
- **Adaptive Agricultural Development:** The strategic objective of this project is regional adaptation of agricultural related livelihoods strategies to the changing environment and at the same time reducing pressure on Kasungu National Park.
- **Renewable Energy:** The strategic objective of this project is to reduce the region's dependence on non-renewable energy sources and finding alternatives.
- **Case Study for Red List of Ecosystems:** Although most people are familiar with the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, this is not the case for the newly started Red List of Ecosystems (RLE). The IUCN Red List of Ecosystems Categories and Criteria will be a global standard for how we assess the status of ecosystems. We will be able to say whether an ecosystem is not facing imminent risk of collapse, or whether it is vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered. This will be measured by assessing losses in area, degradation or other major changes. The RLE is currently inviting people to do case studies, and here in Kasungu National Park we aim to become one of the first examples in Africa.
- **Inventory of flora and fauna:** In the interest of the Kasungu National Park General Management Plan (2013) it is necessary to establish a baseline for Kasungu National Park's populations of

plants, invertebrates, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds. If you are interested in specific species or groups, we invite you to join us for extensive fieldwork so data is gathered on the occurrence of species.

- **Primate Release Programme:** This project is about the re-introduction of Rescued Primates. ACT to Protect is working together with the Lilongwe Wildlife Centre (LLWC). LLWC offers sanctuary and high quality of care to orphaned or confiscated wildlife and, in many cases, rehabilitates them for release back into the wild. The primate release programme includes robust pre-release ecological and behavioural scientific studies and extensive post-release monitoring. Recently (January 2014) a group of vervet monkeys was released in Kasungu National Park, and this group is now being studied during their adaptation to the wild.
- **Responsible & Slow Tourism:** This project is about defining opportunities for local communities with regard to the tourist flow to Kasungu National Park and Lifupa Conservation Lodge and about enhancing sustainable tourism opportunities in Kasungu region. This means for instance that international tourists should not only relax and enjoy and escape the fast pace western lifestyle in Lifupa Conservation Lodge, but should be able to emerge themselves in the local villages surrounding Kasungu National Park as well. This could mean finding connection with the slow tourism and slow food movement. Slow tourism is tourism, which involves making real and meaningful connections with people, places, culture, food, heritage and the environment. In general it implies staying at one place for a week or more. It also means treating food products and production as part of cultural heritage and improving public knowledge of food.
- **Alternatives to firewood:** Wood is used for cooking and heating both at the scout camp (where Department of Parks & Wildlife staff live) and at the Lifupa Conservation Lodge in Kasungu National Park. The hot water supply is dependent on firewood as well. The wood is gathered in the park, which is time consuming and undesirable from an environmental point of view. This project focuses on the alternatives to firewood.

Volunteer opportunities and Requirements

Roles for Impact Leaders:

- **Children and Nature:** Impact Leader Theatre, for which we are looking for an Impact Leader who can work independently and is capable to set-up and create a play and theatre activities, together with local people and children. **Impact Leader Arts:** for the arts expression we are looking for an Impact Leader who is capable of setting-up and creating the whole process from concept development towards an art exhibition and who is capable of leading the process of conceptual thinking with children. **Impact Leader Film and Photography:** we are looking for an Impact Leader with knowledge and experience of all the aspects to make a good film and/or photographs. Photography and film are complex languages and there are many aspects that work together to form a good image. You are capable to work independently and to develop your own methods in this teaching process. You are capable of leading this project and bring it to an exhibition or presentation. **Impact Leader Food and Gardening:** we are looking for Impact Leaders who have knowledge and experience in the fields of nature and environmental education, agriculture, horticulture, permaculture, nutrition or cooking. Depending on your own

background you can put emphasis on certain aspects of the project, as long as the focus points are taken into consideration. For the Children and Nature project there are no specific time requirements. ACT to Protect prefers a long term commitment, either from home or at location.

- **Business development SHARE:** The Impact Leader working on this project will work on the following aspects: the search for potential entrepreneurs or entrepreneurial community groups, co-writing of the business case, the coaching and skill development of the entrepreneurs, the actual establishment of the cooperative and realization of the enterprise. The Impact Leader's role is to write a plan and take the lead in project definition and implementation of the project. For the Business development SHARE project there are no specific time requirements. ACT to Protect prefers a long term commitment, either from home or at location.
- **Adaptive Agricultural Development:** We are looking for people who dare to take on the challenge to create and to perform their own (research)project, within their own field of expertise (fitting within the goals of the organisation and that of the Department of National Parks & Wildlife). The Impact Leader's role is to write a plan and take the lead in project definition and implementation. The first step would be to work on a (series of) pilot project(s), e.g. in the field of increasing yields and alternative crops. For the Adaptive Agricultural Development project there are no specific time requirements. ACT to Protect prefers a long term commitment, either from home or at location.
- **Renewable Energy:**The Impact Leader's role is to write a plan and take the lead in project definition and implementation. The first step would be to work on a pilot project on renewable energy solutions for communities in Kasungu region. The aim is to reduce the region's dependence on non-renewable energy sources and finding alternatives. For the Renewable Energy project there are no specific time requirements. ACT to Protect prefers a long term commitment, either from home or at location.
- **Case Study for Red List of Ecosystems:** The Impact Leader should be capable of looking for data, following the assessment criteria given by IUCN. We are looking for someone who is committed to have Kasungu National Park selected as a IUCN case study and who will guide the further process. A minimum stay of two months is required.
- **Inventory of Flora and Fauna:** The Impact Leader should be capable of performing his/her own research project. We are looking for someone with a long term commitment who is willing and able to raise funds for the implementation of projects geared towards the protection and conservation of the research species. A minimum of two months stay is required.

Roles for Participants and Student Participants:

- **Primate Release Programme:** Participants can now participate in the scientific study and extensive post-release monitoring of the vervet monkeys. Field work will include behavioral observations and group composition of the recently released group of 24 vervet monkeys. A placement is available from the end of March 2014. A minimum of two months stay is required.
- **Responsible & Slow Tourism:** We are looking for Student Participants who are in their last year of their Bachelor's programme in a relevant field to do their internship. The Student Participant

should be enthusiastic about slow tourism and willing to work on the following questions: How could the local communities in Kasungu region profit from slow tourism? What slow tourism opportunities are there for local people? What would it mean for Lifupa's business case when it would target on slow food and slow tourism, and what specific slow tourism products could be developed? How could Lifupa Conservation Lodge source food locally? What is needed to realize this? Depending on the students' own interest a work plan will be elaborated in joint effort. A minimum of three months stay is required; during this period the student could perform a literature study (or in consultation this could be done before departure), field work (e.g. by doing a survey in a few selected villages and a survey among tourists visiting Lifupa Conservation Lodge) and report writing.

- Alternatives to firewood: Within this project we would ask Student Participants to focus on a comparative study of the costs, effectiveness, technical sustainability, labour intensity and environmental impact of alternative systems. We would also like to know about any foreseeable teething problems in terms of user acceptance and skills required for usage and maintenance. We are already experimenting with energy-efficient wood ovens for the lodge's staff. Is this a good option or are there better, more environmentally friendly, alternatives? Various crops are grown in the vicinity of the park, including tobacco. Would waste products from those crops be a viable fuel? A stay of about two to three months is required.

Costs:

- Impact Leaders: E 500.- per month
Impact Leaders bring in a lot of knowledge and experience and – hopefully – enthusiasm with which the realization of the regional goals will be brought one step further. ACT to Protect believes that together with the Impact Leaders we can create the necessary positive process dynamics in the region to make a real change. Impact Leaders are able to make use of their own (professional and/or social) network in order to raise funds (e.g. through grants) for the activities they are going to perform and for the realization of the project. Impact Leaders are such a great asset to the organization and therefore ACT to Protect is of the opinion that they should not pay more than the cost prize of E 500,- per month.
- Participants: E 1250.- per month.
The price for Participants is set at E 1250,- per month. This is the cost prize plus an added amount for the development of the project, project description and definition of activities, for guidance and (partly) for covering of possible project related costs (depending on the project). Since we are dealing with a delicate process of sustainable development, which includes proper stakeholder management, guidance of Participants is essential and will be done properly. Participants are not expected to bring in funds (e.g. through grants) for the realisation of the project that they are part of. The Quelccaya Foundation is not supported through structural (governmental) financing programmes, so it relies on donations to implement its projects. The amount that will be charged to Participants can partly be seen as a donation. Please note that ACT to Protect (Quelccaya Foundation) has a special tax status (ANBI-status), which means that as a Dutch citizen the contribution is tax deductible.
- Student Participants: E 650.- per month.

ACT to Protect wants to provide internships to students and feels that a student discount should be given to allow them to participate. Student Participants are given a discount of almost 50%.

Impact Leaders: Costs included

- Project costs as transport, materials, organisation and communication.
- Social media crowd funding support to raise funds for the project.
- Entrance fee (multiple) for Kasungu National Park.
- A Professional working environment and knowledge exchange within a creative team.
- Accommodation, food (excluding drinks), transfer from and to the airport and in KNP itself.

Participants/Student Participants: Costs included

- Project costs as transport, materials, organisation and communication.
- social media crowd funding support to raise funds for the project.
- Entrance fee (multiple) for Kasungu National Park.
- Support and professional guidance.
- Your contribution for the development and execution of the Conservation Business Plan.
- A Professional working environment and knowledge exchange within a creative team.
- Accommodation, food (excluding drinks), transfer from and to the airport and in KNP itself.

For all types of Guardians of the region: Costs not included

- Tickets, your trip to Malawi
- Visa, medication, vaccination, health and travel insurance
- Your own field equipment and clothes
- Leisure trips or transport outside the project scope
- Own expenses