LILONGWE WILDLIFE TRUST

PLACEMENT PROGRAMME
LILONGWE WILDLIFE TRUST

VISION
A future in which Malawi’s wildlife and wild places can thrive.

MISSION
Lilongwe Wildlife Trust saves wildlife, campaigns for conservation justice and inspires people to value and protect nature in Malawi.
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Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (LWT) started life in 2009 when we opened the doors to what is still the only wildlife sanctuary in Malawi. Most of our first animal residents were rescued from a run-down zoo in the bustling capital city of Lilongwe. Since then we’ve grown into the country’s leading conservation charity with an international reputation for high impact and world-class standards.

We offer six core placements but our approach is flexible. This means that, where possible, we’re happy to tailor what we offer to your skills and passions. So don’t worry if you don’t see exactly what you want - just put as much information in your application form as possible and we’ll get in touch to explore how we can create something special for you!

Please let us know if you have any questions. We hope that you choose to join us in Malawi – the Warm Heart of Africa!

placements@lilongwewildlife.org
Malawi has incredible diversity in wildlife and habitats but faces huge threats, from deforestation and pollution to poaching and climate change. LWT works at the forefront of these issues, so volunteering with us means you'll be part of a much bigger picture. Whether you're working with rescued animals, contributing to research, or supporting our education team, volunteering with LWT is a chance to make a real difference to conservation in a critical context.

We are the only NGO sanctioned by the Government to conduct wildlife rescues nationwide, and the Lilongwe Wildlife Centre is the only sanctuary in the world to hold accreditations from the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, and the Born Free Foundation PAW scheme. Working with us will give you the chance to learn from local and international experts dedicated to the best of practice.

Malawi is in the grip of a conservation revolution. In recent years, the Government has taken tough measures against wildlife criminals and disrupted crime networks. Increased investment in protected areas has led to wildlife populations recovering and returning to areas like the 'Big Five'. This makes Malawi an emerging leader in African conservation. Volunteering with us is a chance to be part of this fascinating story.

From the vast Lake Malawi - with white-sand beaches and colourful cichlids - to the rolling grasslands of Nyika Plateau and the stunning peaks of Mount Mulanje, Malawi is one of Africa's best-kept travel secrets. Although Malawi may not be as well known as its Southern African neighbours, Malawi offers the chance to experience nature in unspoilt areas of true wilderness. It is also renowned as one of the safest countries to travel in Africa.
We do everything possible to give the animals that come into our care a fighting chance of being returned to the wild - where they belong. This means that we operate a strict hands-off policy with regards to our rehabilitation work. So, if you’re looking for somewhere that will let you cuddle baby monkeys, that’s not us.

If you volunteer with us, you’ll be asked to get involved in real conservation tasks - in other words, work that actually makes a difference to the animals we protect. This might not always be glamorous (be prepared to get dirty!) but it’s work that needs to be done. This could involve anything from preparing food and enrichment activities to observing animal behaviours and gathering data. All of our projects tend to be small, which means that your involvement will have more of a direct impact.
It’s no exaggeration to say that volunteering with us will help to save and change lives. Although many of our overheads are funded through grants from international governments and charities, almost all of our animal welfare work is made possible thanks to the donations that are included in our placement fees. That means that your support is helping to fund the running of the sanctuary that keeps our animal residents alive and safe.
The Lilongwe Wildlife Centre is Malawi’s only wildlife sanctuary - widely reputed as one of the best facilities in Africa for its high standards of animal welfare. The Centre is the only sanctuary in the world to have obtained accreditations from the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries and the Born Free Foundation PAW scheme.

Every single animal that comes into our care - whether as a result of abuse, illegal activity or human-wildlife conflict - receives a carefully tailored programme of support from our team of experts. Where possible, we aim to rehabilitate and return animals to the wild. Those that cannot be released are cared for in the safety of the sanctuary. Volunteering at the Centre will give you a powerful insight into the life-changing and life-saving work of wildlife rehabilitation.

**DURATION** 2-12 weeks

**LOCATION** Lilongwe Wildlife Centre

**QUALIFICATION REQUIRED** None

**THE WORK**

**Wildlife rescue & rehabilitation**

Most volunteers choose to spend the majority of their time with the animal care team, where work covers the whole rehabilitation spectrum. Expect to get your hands dirty, work hard and sleep well! Duties include animal husbandry (cleaning, sanitation, feeding and enrichment), orphan care, vet clinic support, observations, integrations and reintroductions. You’ll also get the chance to learn more from lectures and presentations about specialist areas of work such as enrichment, observation and rehabilitation techniques.

**Education & community outreach**

You will also have the opportunity to join our environmental education team at the Wildlife Centre and in schools out in the community. Our outreach team also welcomes help on their adult literacy and fuel briquette projects.

*If you would like to spend part of your placement on our research projects, please see page 13.*
Malawi’s incredible wildlife is facing a number of threats, from deforestation and biodiversity loss to human-wildlife conflict and the illegal trade in products such as ivory and bushmeat.

LWT’s research projects are designed to improve conservation knowledge and practice and include issues such as biodiversity monitoring, One Health and wildlife management. This means that volunteers not only have the opportunity to spend time out in the field learning new skills but also contribute to research that makes a real difference to the knowledge and health of animal populations.

*If you’re looking to carry out your own research project, please take a look at our Internship or Student Research Placement instead.*

**DURATION** 2-12 weeks

**LOCATION** Various wildlife reserves and National Parks depending on time of year and needs of specific projects

**QUALIFICATION REQUIRED** None

**THE WORK**

Our research projects cover a range of issues and locations. Joining a particular project will depend on your specific skills and interests, the time of year and the needs of the project. It’s best to get in touch and have a chat with our team to explore the right fit for you. Below are a few examples of previous research projects we’ve run:

- Monitoring elephant populations to investigate their population density, herd compositions and diet
- Assessing the effectiveness of primate releases by recording pre- and post-release behaviours and other welfare indicators
- Compiling a photo log of zebra herds to help us identify sick individuals, monitor health, inform genetic studies and support anti-poaching efforts
- Studying the risk of transmission of African Swine Fever from wild suids (e.g. bushpigs and warthogs) to domestic pigs
VET EXTERNSHIP

This placement will give you a real insight into sanctuary-based vet work. The specific tasks will vary according to the types of animals we are caring for at any particular time, but you can expect to get involved in a mix of clinical work and wider welfare activities, including enrichment, integrations, observations and animal husbandry.

**DURATION**

2-12 weeks

**LOCATION**

Lilongwe Wildlife Centre, Kuti Wildlife Reserve

**QUALIFICATION REQUIRED**

Most suited to vet students. Please submit any course requirements with your application so we can plan your placement appropriately. Qualified vets and vet nurses are also welcome.

THE WORK

This programme is ideal for those looking to gain broad, real-world experience of sanctuary-based vet work that also includes other aspects of animal rehabilitation (see the responsibilities of the Sanctuary Volunteer on page 11). Clinical work varies but can include diagnostics, lab work and procedures. Externs will also be expected to get stuck into the day-to-day care of our animal residents.

For those people interested in research, you may also be able to also support our ‘Clinical Projects in One Health’ programme at Kuti Wildlife Reserve, which focuses on wildlife health surveillance and veterinary outreach in the villages surrounding the reserve. Please note, participation in the ‘One Health’ programme is dependent on time of year and availability of places.
**INTERNSHIPS**

Because the work of LWT cuts across so many disciplines - from animal rescue and rehabilitation to research and justice - we can tailor an experience that is right for you. An internship with LWT is particularly useful for people looking to fulfil specific requirements as part of a degree or course. So if you’re looking to gain certain knowledge, skills or opportunities get in touch to have a chat with our team (please outline your goals and requirements as part of your initial enquiry).

- **DURATION** 4-24 weeks
- **LOCATION** Various, depending on internship content and structure
- **QUALIFICATION REQUIRED** None. We can tailor your placement if you are looking for specific skills or experience.

**THE WORK**

There is no set template or structure for this opportunity, but your internship experience could cover any - or all - of the following areas of work:

**Wildlife rescue & rehabilitation**

Join our award-winning animal care team where duties include animal husbandry (feeding, cleaning, enrichment), orphan care, vet clinic support, observations, integrations and re-introductions.

**Wildlife research**

Supporting one of our research projects, you will be trained in critical research techniques such as behavioural observations, individual animal IDs, population census surveys, habitat assessments, data entry and GIS mapping. Depending on your specific needs, we may also be able to provide support or supervision with your own research project.

**Education & outreach**

Our environmental education team works from both the Wildlife Centre and in schools out in the community, and also runs small conservation and sustainable livelihood projects such as bee-keeping, briquette making and tree-planting.

**Other disciplines**

You can also apply to spend time working on other areas such as advocacy, campaigns, communications or justice.
Students wishing to conduct their industrial, PTY or professional training overseas placement can apply for a student research placement. This placement is specifically for people looking to do their own independent research as part of a degree. LWT can assist with shaping a research topic, providing access to locations and logistical support, but the research itself needs to be self-directed and you will need to secure your own supervisor. We would encourage you to get in touch and have a chat with our team to explore research ideas as a first step.

If you’re looking for more hands-on support and supervision with a research project, you might want to consider an **Internship** placement with us instead.

**THE WORK**

Your time with us will be directed by your research needs. Below are a few examples of research projects students have done with us in the past:

- Assessment of the release of rehabilitated vervet monkeys (Chlorocebus pygerythrus rufoviridus) in Kasungu National Park.

- Stress and parasitism in translocated vervet monkeys (Chlorocebus pygerythrus) in Malawi.

- Factors influencing presence of blue monkeys (Cercopithecus mitis) in naturally fragmented Afromontane forest patches of Nyika National Park.

- Pre-release enrichment strategies to stimulate natural behaviour in common duiker and common genets.

- Surveillance for African Swine Fever vectors in pig kholas around Kuti Wildlife Reserve.
This intensive seven-day course is designed to give you a hands-on introduction to wildlife veterinary medicine. Vet students can count this course towards EMS (Extra Mural Studies) and can combine this with another placement.

**DURATION**

4-11 August 2020

**LOCATION**

Lilongwe Wildlife Centre, Kuti Wildlife Reserve

**QUALIFICATION REQUIRED**

Ideally studying for or holding a vet-related qualification

**COURSE CONTENT**

Under the instruction of Malawi’s leading wildlife veterinarian, Dr. Amanda Salb, you will be taught through both lectures and wet labs. You’ll also help out with the annual health monitoring programme which includes physical exams, patient monitoring, and sample collection and analysis.

**DAY 1** Arrival, sanctuary orientation and introductions.

**DAY 2** Lectures & wet labs in parasitology, haematology & observations in primate infectious & non-infectious diseases, emergency management.

**DAY 3** Primate health checks. Lecture/lab in avian exams & procedures.

**DAY 4** Primate health checks. Lecture/lab in avian small mammal rehabilitation, pharmacology and medication.

**DAY 5** Primate health checks. Lecture/lab in suture patterns in wildlife.

**DAY 6** Lecture and practical lab in remote capture systems. Travel to Wildlife Reserve. Game drive.

**DAY 7** Conservation roundtable discussion and game drive. Return to Lilongwe.

**DAY 8** Summary and departure.
The sanctuary is located within a 200-hectare reserve, which is home to wild animals such as antelopes, crocodiles, small carnivores and hyenas and over 100 species of bird. There are 4km of walking trails running through the forest and along the river, with a bar and café at the visitor centre. It’s just 10 minutes to town with its restaurants, shops and markets, so you are never too far from ‘civilisation’ if you feel like a change of scene. The team are happy to organise movie nights, talks and nights out.

ACCOMMODATION
Since the accommodation is located in the middle of the sanctuary, you are surrounded by the animals you will be working with. The main house has basic mixed dorm-style accommodation which sleeps ten, a kitchen, lounge area, bathroom and hot showers with mains electricity. We also have two en-suite chalets (a two-bed and a four-bed) should you wish to upgrade.

MEALS
Meals are cooked by our local chef every day except on Sunday. The menu is vegetarian with a mix of international and local dishes. Let us know if you have other special dietary requirements, and volunteers are welcome to buy in other luxuries or meat if they wish.

Kuti is located about 90 minutes drive from Lilongwe and a few kilometres inland from Lake Malawi. The reserve’s habitats are varied, ranging from brachystegia and miombo woodland through to grasslands, wetlands and marshes. There’s diverse wildlife as a result, ranging from large mammals such as zebra, sable, kudu and giraffe through to primates and small carnivores as well as endemic species of butterflies and bats. Due to the lack of elephants and predators, it is possible to walk and cycle in the reserve.

The Kuti sunsets are quite spectacular - expect to spend many evenings on the Sunset Deck with drink in hand. Local communities are friendly, the market town of Salima is a bike taxi ride away and Senga Bay is an easy overnight or day trip.

ACCOMMODATION
The volunteer centre is located in the heart of the reserve. Each chalet can house four volunteers, with two beds in twin rooms. There is also a common area with a kitchen and this shared living space is equipped with solar power, showers and potable water.

MEALS
There is an on-site chef who cooks three meals a day and specific dietary requirements can be catered for.

OTHER LOCATIONS
There are also opportunities to work at other sites across Malawi, depending on the time of year and needs of the project you are working on. These sites include a number of wildlife reserves and National Parks including Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve, Nyika National Park, Dzalanyama Forest Reserve and Namizimu Forest Reserve.
SANCTUARY VOLUNTEER
RESEARCH VOLUNTEER
VET EXTERNSHIP
INTERNSHIPS

2 weeks £1,370 3 weeks £1,775 4 weeks £2,235 5 weeks £2,575
6 weeks £2,885 7 weeks £3,180 8 weeks £3,450 9 weeks £3,705
10 weeks £3,930 11 weeks £4,150 12 weeks £4,350

STUDENT RESEARCH PLACEMENT
for BSc, MRes, MSc and DVM students;
those working on non-LWT projects must self-fund costs that
fall out of existing operations (fuel, equipment, etc).

1 month £1,360 2 months £1,870 3 months £2,380 4 months £2,890
5 months £3,400 6 months £3,910 7 months £4,420 8 months £4,930
9 months £5,440 10 months £5,950 11 months £6,460 12 months £6,970

WILDLIFE VETERINARY MEDICINE COURSE

£1,000

Prices include
- Accommodation (LWC chalet upgrade cost: £12-£20 per person per night)
- All meals, unlimited tea and coffee
- Airport transfers (on a Tuesday) and all work-related transport
- Orientation and full support during your stay
- Local SIM card and t-shirt

Prices exclude
- Flights
- Visas
- Vaccinations
- Excursions, souvenirs, nights out, personal expenses, snacks, etc.
HOW DO I GET TO YOU?

It's best to fly into Lilongwe (Kamuzu International Airport) and we will pick you up from there. The Wildlife Centre is about a 30 minute drive and those working on our bush projects will most likely stay a night there before moving on. Book your flight online through websites like Flight Centre, or directly with an airline - South African Airways (via Johannesburg), Kenyan Airways (via Nairobi), and Ethiopian Airways (via Addis Ababa). There are offices for all of these airlines in Lilongwe. If you are travelling overland get in touch and we can let you know the best way to get here. Arrivals and departures are on Tuesdays.

WHAT ABOUT VISAS?

British, Australian, Canadian or American Nationals and most EU countries are required to obtain a 75 US$ visitor's permit valid for 30 days, with the option to extend for an additional 30 days at roughly 10 US$ up to a maximum of 90 days. For other nationalities, please check online or with us.

VACCINATIONS?

Go to [www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/destinations/africa/malawi.aspx](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/destinations/africa/malawi.aspx) for the latest travel advice. We require a negative TB test and strongly recommend rabies vaccinations. Malaria prophylaxis (e.g. Doxycycline or Malarone) is compulsory for all volunteers and interns.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

You must take out travel insurance that covers your placement activities, as well as emergency treatment, airlift evacuation and repatriation. You will need to send us proof of this insurance before your placement is confirmed.

WORKING HOURS & FREE TIME

Working hours are dependent on the animals we are looking after at the time and on the level of care they need. Wildlife Centre volunteers will work from 8am till 5pm, but during orphan season feeds may be scheduled during less sociable hours, so occasionally there can be long days and night shifts. However if this is unsuitable for you the team can re-arrange your schedule. Those at our bush projects are likely to start their days earlier with a break in the middle of the day.

Staff and volunteers get one day off a week and a long weekend off every month, which is perfect for a safari or a trip to the lake.

*Please see the volunteer section of our website for more FAQs. If you can’t find what you’re looking for please email placements@lilongwewildlife.org*
Download an application form from our website and email it to placements@lilongwewildlife.org.

Please include as much information as possible about your specific interests, goals and motivations so that we can make sure you get the most out of the experience as possible!

We will be in touch to let you know if we have availability and, if so, how to pay your deposit.

Once you’ve confirmed your placement by paying a holding deposit, we will send you a full pack with all the forms and information you’ll need to get ready for your stay with us.