The Chimpanzee Sanctuary, SIERRA LEONE
Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project presentation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific and/or conservation goals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodologies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chimpanzee Rehabilitation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecovolunteers’ usefulness</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species &amp; natural environment</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecovolunteers role</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methods / didactic support</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program schedule</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Useful skills / requirements</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To register to this project</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel information</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internships</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Join the project</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing and equipment</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily chores</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other activities</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Useful information</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currency</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra expenses</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluating your budget</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical information</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific recommendations</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assurance</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passeport and VISA</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congés éco-solidaires</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Project presentation

History
Located just in the Western Area Peninsula National Park, the Chimpanzee Sanctuary was founded in 1995. Initially established to enforce wildlife laws and rescue and rehabilitate orphaned chimpanzees, the project has grown into a diverse conservation organization.

Caring for 83 chimpanzees on-site, the project is also actively engaged offsite in community outreach, wildlife field research, environmental sustainability, conservation education and alternative livelihoods programs. The project is also an eco-tourism hub – home to 6 eco-lodges, and a variety of activities.

Since its inception in 1995, the Chimpanzee Sanctuary has evolved to include several critical components of environmental conservation and community development such as reforestation campaigns, alternative livelihood solutions, habitat conservation and education programs. As a result, the project has emerged as a globally recognized conservation model, combining sustainable eco-tourism, wildlife and rural community preservation throughout Sierra Leone.

Scientific and/or conservation goals
The sanctuary aims to be at the forefront of preserving Sierra Leone’s remaining wildlife through education, community support and eco-tourism.

As Sierra Leone’s primary conservation organization, the project’s mission is to use education and community conservation to eliminate the wildlife trade and safeguard the remaining natural habitats in the country. Through law enforcement, eco-tourism, livelihoods programs, and chimpanzee rehabilitation, it is engaging local communities and multidisciplinary stakeholders to secure the future of Sierra Leone.

Methodologies

Chimpanzee Rehabilitation

Rescue
The project’s primary objective is to enforce the wildlife laws of Sierra Leone and provide a safe and natural haven for rescued chimpanzees with the ultimate aim that in the future they can be released back into the wild.

Most chimps that arrive at the sanctuary are less than five years old and would normally still be suckling milk from their mothers. Many are mistreated by their owners, injured, malnourished or disabled; they have been abandoned or illegally sold as pets. In most cases the mother, and sometimes the family, have been hunted as part of the illegal bushmeat trade or as a result of human-wildlife conflict and their young have been sold as pets by the poachers (researches from the Jane Goodall Institute identified that between 5 – 10 chimpanzees die for every surviving rescued chimpanzee). Due to their small size, the young chimpanzees are worth more alive than as bushmeat. All of the chimpanzees arriving at the sanctuary have suffered some kind of mental trauma as a result of the violent separation from their families and many come with physical injuries such as wounds from shotgun pellets or machetes.

Once a chimpanzee reaches the Sanctuary it passes through several rehabilitation stages.

Quarantine
Chimps share 98.6% of their DNA with humans and are very susceptible to many human sicknesses such as the common cold, polio and TB.

New arrivals have often spent extended periods of time in close contact with people and may have been infected. They undergo an initial health check and then spend a minimum of three months in a quarantine area as some illnesses cannot be detected immediately. It’s important that the project not only nurse its new arrivals back to full health but also that it protects its resident chimpanzees from the risk of infection. During their time in
quarantine the chimps are closely monitored and undergo monthly detailed examinations as well as being inoculated.

A specially trained member of the care staff acts as a surrogate mother for these young chimps – she carries, plays, comforts and help feeds them. Her role is critical in alleviating the mental trauma and stress of our young chimps.

The project also ensure that the chimps are eating a more natural and healthy diet at this stage. Often before rescue the chimps are fed the same as their captors; the staple diet in Sierra Leone is rice with sauces such as cassava or potato leaves. Some chimpanzee arriving at the sanctuary have been fed beer and given cigarettes. Young chimps in the wild would learn what to eat and how to eat from their mother and their family but few of rescued chimps have had this chance. The project starts to teach them what they can eat and provides them with substitute milk.

Once the vet gives the release from quarantine, it’s time for the arrivals to make some new friends!

**Introduction**

Chimpanzees are born into family groups that can range significantly in size from around 15 to over 100 members. As the chimps at the Sanctuary are not related to each other, the project has to take time to allow new arrivals to form bonds and become a member of one of the existing groups. Generally the younger the chimp, the easier it is to integrate.

The surrogate mother introduces the chimps in the quarantine area with each other to form small groups of 3-4 baby chimps. This is where they first start forming friendships and start behaving like chimps again by playing together.

The project introduces chimps to electric fence so that they do not try to touch them when they are in the enclosure. The electric fences in the enclosures are of a high voltage to completely discourage the chimps to attempt an escape.

**Integration**

Once the chimps have been successfully through the quarantine area, the role of the surrogate mother decreases and the project gradually introduce the chimps to peer groups, where the chimps within the group take over the care and comfort function for the new arrivals.

The introduction is done by placing the new chimp behind metal bars in one of the enclosures. Different members of the group then investigate the new chimp. After several days, if the group accept the new chimp the project’ staff then let the new chimp into the enclosure and closely monitors the behavior of the family for days.

Each chimp is introduced to a group depending on its size and age. Chimps are very territorial and do not always welcome new members and hence the newly introduced chimps are closely monitored to ensure they are not bullied or picked on in their new group.

If the project observes that one particular chimp is having a tough time in the group or is disrupting the harmony, then it try to change them into a different group.

**Community Conservation**

Since 2011, the project runs a Community Outreach Program to address conservation outside of protected areas. This program works with rural communities towards achieving sustainable natural resource management and wildlife conservation. It is absolutely necessary to support these key stakeholders to succeed at stopping the loss of biodiversity.

The program targets communities living in close proximity to known chimpanzee populations. Currently the team works in 57 rural and urban communities in 3 districts of Sierra Leone (Western Area, Moyamba and Pujehun). The goal is to achieve sustainable management of natural resources, promote the cultivation of alternative non-vulnerable crops and sensitize people to the need for a respectful coexistence with chimpanzees. Using a multifaceted approach, the program aims to conserve wildlife species and their habitat, while simultaneously meeting the livelihood needs and development of local human communities.
Environmental Education

The project runs an Environmental Education Program who aims to increase sensitization and environmental awareness in primary schools, and give students the life skills to solve the environmental issues of the future.

The program has been successful in 12 urban schools around the Western Area Peninsula National Park (WAPNP) in Freetown and 13 rural schools from Moyamba and Pujehun Districts. Currently the program involves over 800 students and distributes exciting and comprehensive environmental curricula, while also facilitating hands-on learning experiences for the students. The project prioritizes working with rural schools in smaller communities who have traditionally used the forest reserve to support their livelihoods.

The main purpose of the Education Program is to create an understanding of the importance of the forest and generate interest for its protection. The forest plays a crucial role in ensuring clean water supply for Freetown and is coming under increasing threat from excessive human activity such as construction of roads and houses.

The project teaches in accordance to the national curriculum and includes an introduction to ecosystems and habitats, tropical rainforests, the water cycle, pollution, biodiversity and wildlife of the WAPNP, and discusses themes like conservation, logging, hunting and bushmeat trade. The lessons are taught using specially designed workbooks, participatory methods, and fun activities.

Students are encouraged to go above and beyond the curriculum and have opportunities to win scholarships and prizes by displaying exemplary initiatives in conservations within their communities and around their schools. The project aims to facilitate field trips to the Chimpanzee Sanctuary, and hosts conservation events and environmental days to increase appreciation for nature.

Sanctuary Tour

The aim of the tours at the Sanctuary is to educate visitors about the importance of chimpanzees and the forests they inhabit, and spreading the message of environmental conservation. The rescued chimpanzees act as ambassadors for their wild counterparts, and seeing them firsthand helps people bridge the gap between humans and animals. Through informing visitors of the threats to chimps and other wildlife and the laws that protect them, the project is actively engaging new audiences into the conservation movement.

School Visits

The Educational Program’s students participate in a day-long field trip to visit the sanctuary and undertake more environmental learning activities. The project want to teach children about the nature of chimpanzees, the laws that protect them, the threats they face and what we as communities can do about it.

Many other schools in the region also frequent the sanctuary for field trips. The education team is always leading these tours to nurture the next generation of conservationists!

The project also works with local schoolchildren and communities on the peninsula in an effort to try to stem encroachment of towns and settlements into the forest.

Tree nursery

Early 2009 saw the start of the Tree Nursery. The city is rapidly encroaching the countryside, with many houses being built but few utilizing the land to grow food.

The nursery contains a few hundred seedlings, including mango and guava trees, and provides some fruits for the sanctuary while generating local employment. Ultimately, the project wishes to demonstrate the potential for successful small-scale plantations thus encouraging local villagers to plant trees.

The project has now combined the Tree Nursery program with the Education program to teach children the importance of trees and how to plant their own trees. It distributes seedlings in each school and visits the schools to help them with the development of their trees.

Community days

On Public Holidays, local communities are invited for a free sanctuary tour.
This allows those who could not otherwise afford it, and those living in the immediate surrounding villages, to see chimpanzees firsthand and learn about protecting the forest they inhabit. The chimps are a great tool to engage these community members, many who have not seen one in their lives.

The project staff, most of whom are members of these communities, is often leading the tours and educating their friends, family and neighbors about the human activities causing the loss of our forests, water supply and biodiversity, and how we can be better stewards of the nature around us.

Field Research
Since 2012, the Community Outreach Program has been conducting research using camera traps and semi-structured interviews in various districts of the country. The objectives of these studies are to obtain data on the wild chimpanzee population living in human-disturbed habitats, to estimate biodiversity richness, and to learn about the impact of crop foraging by chimpanzees and other wildlife. Field research has been conducted all around Sierra Leone. Camera trap surveys are an essential part of the research program to identify both chimpanzee and other wildlife populations in an effort to estimate the biodiversity in target areas.

In addition, the project has been part of the research team investigating different Environmental Impact Assessments including the Bumbuna Hydroelectric Project or the construction of the highway from Bandajuma to the Liberian Border.

Law Enforcement

Forest Patrol
The project patrol team is actively engaged in forest protection and reforestation in the Western Area Peninsula National Park (WAPNP) and community forests of Moyamba and Pujehun District. The Sanctuary is located in the WAPNP in the vicinity of one of the main water catchments of Freetown, Congo Dam, which faces increasing pressure from illegal human encroachment.

Since 2015, the project has employed 3 Community Patrol Guards as wildlife observers and data collectors. In 2017, 4 NPAA (National Protected Area Authority) forest guards have joined the team to support the project and fulfil the government mandate to take action.

This 7-man team constantly patrols the sanctuary’s area and has access to a rapid response team of 12 NPAA guards, who are stationed nearby and are assigned to cover a larger area along this axis of the WAPNP. Additionally, in the rural areas the project has 10 bio-monitoring technicians patrolling community forest and engaged in the reforestation of its wildlife corridors.

Since 2012, 3 illegal charcoal pits have been dismantled, and 146 snares and 19 shotgun cartridge shells have been recovered in the current range of patrol. Without the presence of the patrol team, the habitat may not be as well preserved as it is today!

Chimpanzee confiscation
Despite the project’s best efforts, the problem of displaced chimpanzees is an ongoing battle. Orphans, often captured to be sale as pets, or victims of the bushmeat trade or other human-wildlife conflict, are often kept in human homes or villages until someone familiar with the law alerts the authorities.

The patrol team, along with the NPAA guards has the authority of the government to confiscate and charge offenders who are trading in endangered species. When alerted of a chimpanzee being held, members of the animal care team, outreach team and patrol guards will often visit the site together to peacefully confiscate the animal. Information about the animal’s history and medical condition is collected, and the community members and offenders are then sensitized as to the issues surrounding the wildlife trade.

Ecovolunteers’ usefulness
The sanctuary’s success is built upon the dedication and commitment of individuals keen on making a difference. The project is seeking specialists or non-specialists, and enthusiasts who are passionate to:

- Learn about Wildlife Conservation
Species & natural environment

The rainforests of West Africa have been lauded as one of the world’s most important hotspots for biodiversity. These forests extend from Senegal to Togo, and are referred to as the Upper Guinean forest block. These are separated from the rest of the African rainforests by the Dahomey gap: an extension of the woodland savannah of the Sahel to the Gulf of Guinea. Because of its isolated position the Upper Guinean forest zone harbors a large number of endemic animal and plant species.

Most of the Western Area Forest is classified as Guineo-Congolian rainforest of the hygrophilous coastal evergreen type. It has a closed canopy at about 30 m or more with emergent trees rising above this canopy. The drier rocky slopes and summits support low shrub forest. The laterite pans are covered by natural grassland, since the soil there is too poor to support shrub or high forest. The areas inland of the Peninsula are a mixture of farm bush and scattered grassland with small remnants of Lophira savannah. Neighboring coastal areas support mangroves. The Western Area Peninsula National Park (WAPNP) contains over 50 species of mammals, of which seven are primates (five of these are threatened species: Western Chimpanzees, Red Colobus Monkeys, Black-and-White Colobus Monkeys, Sooty Mangabeys and Diana Monkeys). Other threatened mammals include Leopards, Jentink’s Duikers, Black Duikers and Maxwell Duikers. There are also at least 316 bird species present on the Peninsula including the endangered species: the Green-tailed Bristlebill and White-breasted Rockfowl (Picathartes Gymnocephalus). The white-breasted Rockfowl was recently rediscovered on the Freetown Peninsula and is considered as one of the most threatened birds in continental Africa. An endemic toad (Cardioglossus aureolli) is also present on the Peninsula. More than 2000 species of plants occur in Sierra Leone, of which about 74 species and one genus are endemic. The mangrove swamps of the Western Area are the plushest in the sub-region.

Ecovolunteers role

Volunteering at the Chimpanzee Sanctuary will give you the opportunity to develop your skills and expertise, understand more of the challenges facing conservation and development, and learn much about this amazing country. While you are here we encourage you to use your initiative to further both your personal and sanctuary development by participating in other aspects of your work. Whilst volunteers work hard, they also have the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the sanctuary and visit the capital city, Freetown.

Most of the chimpanzees are in large forested enclosures, and during daytime you may not see them outside of feeding times. As the sanctuary’s aim is to prepare the resident chimpanzees for release to the wild, volunteers should not expect to have direct physical contact with chimps. You will be expected to assist with all aspects of sanctuary work including:

- chimpanzee husbandry (food preparation and enclosure cleaning);
- community education and outreach projects,
- assisting the vet with routine procedures;
- caring for other wildlife on site;
- administration;
- marketing and data entry;
- maintenance and research (when required).
Available Activities

All activities marked with an asterisk are only available to volunteers staying at least 6 weeks.

If you are specialized any other category not listed below, please send the project your inquiries and it will do its best to enrich your experience.

Animal Welfare

• Food Preparation
• Animal Husbandry
• Vet Care
• Behavior Enrichment

Education & Sensitization

• Workshops, Community & School Visits
• Radio & Newsletter Content Development
• Environmental Education & Awareness Building

Conservation

• Assisting TCS and NPAA rangers with anti-poaching forest patrols
• *Manatee Program Conceptualization & Implementation
• *Forest Protection (running the patrol data collection in the communities)

Ecotourism Development

• Tree Nursery Development
• Natural Trail Development & Maintenance
• Local & International Partnership Development
• * Bamboo Eco Lodge Construction on Jaibui Island
• Hospitality, Housekeeping, Beautification & Landscaping Training

Marketing

• Staff Training
• Artistry & Photography
• Social Media & Advertising
• Event Management & Promotion
• Blogging & Content Development
• Networking, PR & Communications
• Visitor & Guest Experience Optimization

Volunteers can also provide services off-site, such as hosting or planning fundraising or outreach events. The project welcomes the creative and innovative spirit of volunteers!

General Office Work

• Data Input
• Staff Training
The Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Sierra Leone

- Library Maintenance
- Fundraising & Crowdfunding
- Grants & Sponsorship Coordination
- Outreach & Community Development
- Sensitization
- Forest Demarcation
- Waste Management
- Livelihood Monitoring
- Sustainable Farming & Agriculture Development

**Building & Maintenance**
- Painting
- Carpentry
- Electrical Work
- Fence Building
- Cleaning & Maintenance

**Research**
- GPS Downloads
- Data Collection & Entry
- Data Mapping & Analysis
- Census & Biodiversity Surveys
- Camera Trap Setup & Retrieval
- Behavioral Observations & Monitoring
- Species Identification (vegetation, birds, mammals, reptiles)

**Methods / didactic support**

Upon your arrival, the Project’s Manager will provide you with a weekly schedule. You will also have the opportunity to attend an orientation session followed by a sanctuary tour to get acclimatized with your new environment. Volunteers are given a comprehensive induction that includes orientation, sanctuary tour, health and safety briefing and work related training.

Volunteers may have also the opportunity to participate to workshops on the negative impact of bush meat consumption, or on the local ecosystem (species, their identification...).

**Program schedule**

Volunteers work 5 or 6 day a week depending on the sanctuary schedule and volunteer needs. An example of a weekly schedule:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrival day</td>
<td>After collection from airport by driver and rested:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 2</td>
<td>Milk prep Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 3</td>
<td>Fruits prep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 4</td>
<td>Milk prep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 5</td>
<td>Fruit prep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 6</td>
<td>Milk prep</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 - 8:00</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 - 9:00</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30</td>
<td>Orientation of site and induction – rules and policies</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 - 12:00</td>
<td>Ad hoc activities / TKEEP outreach / Inventory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 - 13:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00 - 14:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:00 - 16:00</td>
<td>Health and Safety Briefing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:00 - 17:00</td>
<td>Sanctuary tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>18:30</td>
<td>Dinner and Rest</td>
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<tr>
<td>21:00</td>
<td>Milk prep*</td>
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<td>* If staying 2 weeks or more</td>
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**Useful skills / requirements**

- 18 years old minimum,
- English is the working language on site.
- **You’ll have to send a CV to the project when booking** to allow the project to know your motivation, your prior experience or any details that can help him to organize your arrival.
- The sanctuary is located in a remote place, in the middle of the forest. Volunteers have to be able to deal with wild animal proximity such as chimps, snakes and spiders...

**To register to this project**

You have to provide the results of tuberculosis screening (within 1 year) as well as tetanus, yellow fever vaccination and a negative TB test.
Veterinary volunteers/interns are required to submit full vaccination record.

**Location**

The Sanctuary is located in the Western Area Peninsular National Park in Sierra Leone, 30 min. drive from Freetown.

The Western Area Peninsula and the adjacent Banana Islands have lush rainforest, pristine beaches, breathtaking, steep mountains, a unique and long-standing culture and great history. The Western Area Peninsula, which is part of the Upper Guinean Forest Ecosystem, is located on the west coast of the country. The Western Area Peninsula National Park (WAPNP), occupying the center of the peninsula, covers about 17,000 hectares of closed forest. Hosting a range of hills with a highest peak at 971 meters, the forest vegetation can be described as still 60% pristine and has a manifold wildlife bordering directly to the coastline, making WAPNP truly unique in West Africa. The Reserve is one of the eight biodiversity hot-spots of the country and hosts 80-90% of Sierra Leone’s terrestrial biodiversity. Being a non-hunting reserve, rare animals are found such as Jenkins duikers and chimpanzees. Furthermore, to its crucial role as a biodiversity hot spot, the peninsula creates an inspiring image as the ocean meets the mountainous forest. Beaches in shining white colour are an attraction for national and international visitors. In addition to the natural significance the Western Area Peninsula has also been host to a dynamic and interesting human history when Freetown, Sierra Leone’s present day capital city, was founded there as a settlement for black people freeing from slavery in England and America. The Western Area Peninsula holds many tangible and intangible cultural resources around this history.

Sierra Leone is a safe country to travel and very stable. The people are friendly and helpful. You will be treated as a welcome guest by the whole country.

The sanctuary is located at elevation in the national park. July to August is rainy season. Day temperatures average 27°C year round.

**Travel information**

**Dates**

The project is open to ecovolunteers all year round. The minimal participation length is 2 weeks, this will allow you to witness the fruits of your labour as well as observe some of the results from your direct contributions.

**Internships**

The project accepts internships. The minimum length for an internship placement is 1 month (4 weeks). Agreement of learning objects is decided upon before arrival and interns have a bi-monthly meeting to ensure they are working towards the objectives and are comfortable in their work.

Students studying veterinary science, conservation biology, wildlife conservation, environmental science, zoology, education or a related degree will benefit from participating in the sanctuary internship programs. The minimum recommended duration for an internship is 4 weeks but ideally students will stay for 8 – 12 weeks. Students can apply for a Wildlife Conservation Internship, a Veterinary Internship or a Marketing & Communication Internship.

Please Note: All Internship Students will be provided with regular reviews and feedback reports as required by their affiliated University. Students do not have to be affiliated with a university to do an internship but must have an appropriate background/experience in their chosen internship subject.

**Wildlife Conservation Internship**

Interns split their time between the different sections of the organization, including the chimpanzee sanctuary, the education and outreach department, the veterinary department and the administration department. Interns will learn about and assist with many aspects of chimpanzee husbandry provisioning i.e. cleaning, feeding, enrichment provision, enclosure maintenance and animal welfare assessment. Additionally, interns will actively
participate with community education, wildlife sensitization, and reforestation projects on and off site, as well as research and wildlife surveying in surrounding areas and islands.

**Veterinary Internship**

For students in veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing/technician.

Under the supervision of the project’s veterinary staff, interns will learn about chimpanzee medicine including: physiology, anatomy, pharmacology, and pathology; laboratory and diagnostic tests; nutrition; ethology; welfare; anesthesia; preventive medicine; one health medicine; and in some cases surgery. Interns will also learn about handling and restraint such as dart preparing for blow pipes and dart gun. Interns will attend weekly academic discussions and twice monthly presentations (case reports/specific topics relating to the species). Veterinary interns will also assist with other sanctuary tasks when required, such as: chimpanzee husbandry (food preparation, den cleaning and enrichment preparation); record keeping; community outreach and education; anti-poaching patrols with forest rangers, research, administration, and maintenance tasks.

Please Note: Veterinary interns are required to have evidence of recent negative HIV and TB testing, and the following vaccinations: Tetanus, Yellow fever, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Rabies, and Polio. Extra vaccinations may be required depending on the country of origin. Vet interns will undergo a 2 week quarantine period before contact with the chimps is allowed. Following that, protective face masks will be provided and must be worn at all times.

**Marketing & Communication Internship**

Interns will learn about all aspects of sanctuary marketing, promotion and fundraising related to wildlife and habitat conservation. Interns will also develop communication skills by assisting with on-site education activities via leading education sessions and providing guided tours to members of the community and tourists. Interns will assist with community outreach and school education sessions and gain valuable skills in public speaking and providing classroom based and outreach education. Students will visit a number of local community groups and participate in theory based learning tasks as well as practical sessions to gain valuable knowledge of different education and communication methods and approaches. Interns will also gain hands on experience of wildlife rehabilitation theory and practice by volunteering with animal husbandry tasks. These may include preparing animal food, cleaning enclosures, designing and collecting environmental enrichment, assisting with animal introductions, record keeping, general maintenance and various research and data collection tasks.

**Children**

The project doesn’t accept children.

**Capacity**

The project can accept a maximum of 6 volunteers at the same time.

**Join the project**

You’ll have to organize your fight to Lungi Airport, Sierra Leone. From there, you’ll take a Ferry to the town of Freetown (40 $) – 25 min. A pick-up will be organized for you at the ferry terminal to the Sanctuary – 45 min. drive (10$).

**Language**

Working language: English

**Communication**

Local mobile phone companies are working at the sanctuary. You may bring your phone, provided it is not locked by your current mobile service provider. (SIM cards are cheap ($3) and easily obtainable). The project also recommends you to bring rechargeable batteries for your head lamps and other devices.
If you have a smartphone, there are some useful apps you can download before coming (the internet at the sanctuary is too slow for downloading anything big): - “Viper” (seems to work better than Skype to make international calls) – “Converter” - “Maps with me” (download Sierra Leone kortet).

The project has internet in the office and limited access in the volunteer house during the day. This is only for emails, facebook... as there is limited data. You should limit your use and only download work related stuff and for emergencies.

**Clothing and equipment**

The project provides a mosquito net, towels and bed linen.

**Clothing & Accessories**

- Rain gear
- Swimwear, hat, sunglasses, water bottle
- Hiking shoes/sandals
- Long sleeved shirts/t-shirts
- Long trousers for the evenings
- Cropped trousers (short shorts are not appropriate in Sierra Leone)
- Towels – quick drying
- USD currency to change upon arrival (large notes get a better exchange rate)

**Toiletries**

You can buy most toiletries e.g. shampoo and deodorants, in the supermarket in Sierra Leone. They also sell sanitary pads and tampons.

**Medication**

You must bring all essential medication with you, for the duration of your stay.

Useful items to include in your personal first aid kit include:

- Antihistamine tablets
- Anti-diarrhea tablets
- Insect repellent (at least 45% DEET)
- Sun burn cream
- Plasters and band aid
- Multi vitamins
- Throat lozenges
- Sunscreen (high factor i.e. 30+)

**Other Items**

- Headlamp/Torch
- Water Bottle
- Adapter (English three pin plugs)

**Accommodation**

The volunteer living quarters are located in the earth of the sanctuary. The quarters can be shared by up to 4 volunteers at a time. Each volunteer has his/her own room. The quarters have 2 shared bathrooms (with a cold shower), a kitchen and a dining room.
The sanctuary runs on solar panels. The project don’t have constant electricity and it is important to always think to minimize your electricity use. Please switch of lights when not needed and the power outlets, when not in use.

Food
All the meals are held in the volunteer’s house.
Volunteers prepare their breakfast (the project provides the materials). Lunch and dinner are cooked by the project staff.
Meals usually consist of rice, fish and various leaves/vegetables/salads. Some western dishes will also be provided. Imported food items can be found in Freetown and the project can provides a supermarket run for volunteers to buy supplies in addition to the food provided.
Vegetarians and vegans are welcomed.
The water from the tap is not safe for drinking, but fine for cooking, dish washing etc. The bottled water is fine for drinking. Volunteers have to be careful not to waste water as it is a limited supply.

Daily chores
The house is cleaned once a week by a staff member, but it is the volunteers’ responsibility to make sure that the house tidy and clean all the time. Please remember that you share the place with other people, so be considerate of others.
If anything in the house is not working, please inform management in order to have it fixed.
Laundry service is available for a small fee (otherwise hand washing is possible).

Other activities
The project is located 30 minutes’ drive from Freetown and about a 45 minutes’ drive from some of the most beautiful beaches in Africa.
Depending of project timelines, volunteers are given 1-2 day off per week. There are plenty of places to explore while volunteering in Sierra Leone, here’s some of our suggestions:

- Lumley Beach
- Bureh Beach (Surf Club)
- River Number Two Beach
- Arts & Crafts “Big Market”
- Gola Forest National Reserve
- Banana Island (Scuba Diving, Snorkeling)
- Bunce Island (Historic 18th Century Slave Trading Post)

Useful information
Currency
Leones.
It is difficult to get change; you should bring USD or Leone with you when coming to Sierra Leone.

Extra expenses
Volunteer may spend between 50$ - 100$ per week for their extra expenses (leisure).
Volunteer will spend 50 $ (100 $ two-way) for the Ferry and Car transportation the first day.
Evaluating your budget

- a meal in a restaurant: 50,000 – 100,000 Leones
- a 1.5 litre bottle of mineral water: 10,000 Leones
- a packet of cookies: 15,000 Leones
- international prepaid phone cards: 40,000 Leones per month

Medical information

Before departure

Please consult your doctor (and dentist if needed).

For medical details please refer to the French Foreign Affairs Ministry website:

http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/conseils-aux-voyageurs/

Additional information can be found online on the World Health Organization website:

http://www.who.int/countries/en/

Malaria

Although Sierra Leone is a high risk Malaria area, the Sanctuary itself has low risk due its altitude.

In the case of an emergency

There is always first aid qualified staff on site. The nearest hospital is at 30 minutes’ drive from the sanctuary.

Specific recommendations

Security measures

Volunteers have no direct contact with chimpanzee - for safety, animal welfare and medical reasons. The project works with potentially very dangerous animals and you must follow safety protocols and be able to react quickly at any times.

Volunteers are not allowed to be drunk or using drugs on site.

Be aware of wild chimpanzees and other wildlife at all times – always use a torch at night!

Assurance

Cybelle Planète is covered by a MAIF insurance plan (Contract n° 3100988H). All of our ecovolunteering sessions are insured automatically by this contract for: civil liability, repatriation, and accidents. This insurance is included in our membership.

No matter which program you chose, you’ll have to subscribe a cancellation, loss or damage of luggage, flight delay insurance as well. Neither Cybelle Planète nor its partners can be held responsible for the fees that could have been covered by cancellation insurance. You can find more information about insurance on our website: www.cybelle-planete.org.

Passeport and VISA

Volunteers need a 90 days visa to stay in Sierra Leone. The VISA must be obtained by volunteers before their departure, at the Sierra Leone Embassy in Belgium. For stay duration of 90 days and more, see with the Sierra Leone Embassy in Belgium before your departure.

For border regulation details please refer to the French Foreign Affairs Ministry website:

http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/conseils-aux-voyageurs/
Congés éco-solidaires

The project can welcome employees as ecovolunteers, thanks to the financial support of their employer*, within the framework of their agreed upon annual vacations. To enable this, the employer must have first established a Ecotime-off partnership (congé éco-solidaire) with the non-profit Cybelle Planète. The employers sponsorship donation** will allow the project to finance the necessary material and manpower to sustain itself as well as the hosting of the ecovolunteers. Thus one or more employees can participate. You can find more information about Ecotime-off partnerships on our website: www.cybelle-planete.org

By going to these projects alone or as a group, the employees will be able to bring their skills and motivation as well as learn new skills and know-how. It is a sustainable process that allows employers and their employees to implement their commitment towards biodiversity and the planet.

If you want to establish an Ecotime-off partnership please contact us : info@cybelle-planete.org or + 00 33 4 67 65 25 60.

* Every legal form of establishment can create an Ecotime-off partnership with Cybelle Planète: private business, business Foundation, non-profit or public establishment.

** Every donation made to Cybelle Planète gives the right to a tax deduction (for all establishments or people who are taxable in France).
Formulaire d’aptitude médicale écovolontaire

Ce formulaire doit être impérativement rempli, signé et renvoyé scanné à info@cybelle-planete.org

NE PAS IMPRIMER CETTE PAGE SVP

Toutes les informations contenues dans ce formulaire sont exclusivement réservées au traitement de votre dossier d’inscription et pourront être éventuellement utilisées en cas de nécessité médicale. Ces informations sont confidentielles et ne seront pas divulguées en dehors de cet usage.

Vous allez participer à une mission d’écovolontariat. Lors de cette mission, vous allez prendre part à des travaux de terrain (repérages dans la nature, maintenance des infrastructures, ou soins prodigués aux animaux sauvages...) dans des conditions parfois difficiles. Vous allez peut-être séjourner dans un lieu très isolé, où les conditions climatiques sont extrêmes (fortes températures et humidité), et où les conditions de vie sont basiques (électricité sporadique, pas d’eau chaude ni de toilettes « occidentales » ...). Votre expérience se fera au sein d’un groupe, constitué le plus souvent par des personnes venant d’autres pays et avec des cultures différentes de la vôtre.

Bien que l’écovolontariat soit une expérience enrichissante et passionnante, il est important d’y prendre part dans des conditions optimales pour vous et pour le projet qui vous accueille. Votre condition physique et mentale va impacter les autres membres de l’équipe et le projet d’accueil, dans le sens où tous les participants partagent les travaux quotidiens et vivent ensemble. **Afin de pouvoir éviter d’éventuelles difficultés,** nous vous demandons de bien vouloir nous décrire, le plus honnêtement possible, votre état physique et émotionnel.

Les conséquences de déclarations médicales mensongères et/ou omises peuvent s’avérer très contraignantes pour toute l’équipe impliquée dans la mission, voire dangereuses dans certains cas (missions en haute mer, dans des sites très isolés...).

**A savoir :** Le participant n’a aucun intérêt à dissimuler ou travestir la réalité de son état de santé. Quelle que soit leur situation médicale, tous les projets ont vocation à accepter un maximum de participants. Pour cette raison, ils restent à l’écoute et se montrent très compréhensifs quant aux divers problèmes de santé que peut connaître un candidat. Toutes les solutions sont envisagées pour permettre au candidat de participer au projet, quel que soit son état de santé et dans la mesure du possible.

**AVERTISSEMENT :** Toute fausse déclaration, omission ou information mensongère pourra être sanctionnée par l’exclusion immédiate et définitive du participant à ses frais et sur décision exclusive et unilatérale du projet.

S’agissant de la vie en collectivité et de la sécurité des personnes, le participant est dans l’obligation juridique et morale de communiquer clairement à Cybelle Planète toutes les informations nécessaires liées à son état de santé.
Medical questionnaire

(To be filled by the ecovolunteer)

Last name, First name:
Name of the ecovolunteering project:
Country:
Participation dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Blood type</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Allergies? (if yes please explain)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Describe your allergic reactions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you have a regular medical treatment to take?</td>
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<td>If yes for what medical condition?</td>
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<td>Do you often take prescription drugs (without needing to mention birth control and malaria prevention treatments)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you have respiratory conditions (such as asthma)?</td>
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<td>Are you a smoker? How many cigarettes/day?</td>
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<td>Do you have high cholesterol?</td>
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<td>Do you have heart problems?</td>
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<td>Do you have abnormally high blood pressure?</td>
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<td>Do you suffer from a chronic disease?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are you diabetic (even if only controlled through dietary adjustments)?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you have gastro-intestinal problems?</td>
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<td>Does your health require a specific kind of diet?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you have an eating disorder?</td>
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<td>Do you have Crohn disease?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Question</td>
<td>Answer</td>
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<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are you anemic?</td>
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<td>Are you epileptic? If yes do you take a specific treatment for it?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you have neurological problems? If yes are you taking a specific</td>
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<tr>
<td>treatment for this?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have you had any head trauma or other head injury with loss of</td>
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<tr>
<td>consciousness in the last 5 years?</td>
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<td>Do you have arthritis?</td>
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<td>Do you have orthopedic problems?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you have frequent back problems?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you have the capacity to do moderate physical exercise (such as 10</td>
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<td>km of walking)?</td>
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<td>Have you had any complications following surgery, an injury or fracture</td>
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<tr>
<td>of your back, arms or legs?</td>
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<td>Do you have any notable skin problems?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have you had one or more surgical operations in the last two years?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have you been hospitalized in the last two years?</td>
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<td>If yes, please explain the reasons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is there a specific detail about your health that Cybelle Planète</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>should know?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Please rate your degree of aptitude in terms of the criteria below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Weak</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>View (including correction if needed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hearing</td>
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<td>Capacity to walk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capacity to walk on difficult terrain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>State of your back</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capacity to carry</td>
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<td>Energy and vigor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agility</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance and coordination</td>
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</table>
Psychological and emotional evaluation

Do you suffer from psychological or mental problems? (Anxiety attacks, depression...)
Do you suffer from Claustrophobia or agoraphobia?

Are you currently taking a medical treatment for psychological symptoms or following a continued psychotherapy?

If yes what effect could this have on your participation in a work team or in your general communal living?

How would you globally rate your overall mental stability?
A remplir par votre médecin traitant

Depuis combien de temps suivez-vous votre patient ?

Date:

J’atteste avoir bien examiné (nom et prénom du patient)…………………………………………… aujourd’hui. Nous avons évalué ensemble la compatibilité émotionnelle et physique entre mon patient et la mission d’écovolontariat dans laquelle il/elle souhaite s’engager. Compte tenu des réponses apportées je pense que mon patient est tout à fait qualifié pour participer à ce genre d’expédition.

Nom du Médecin:

Signature

Tampon/cachet
Engagement médical écovolontaire :

Je soussigné(e) …………………………………………… atteste avoir pris connaissance des informations fournies à propos de la condition physique et mentale requise pour participer à la mission………………………………………………

Je déclare sur l’honneur que toutes les informations sur ce formulaire sont correctes et qu’en cas de changement relatif à ce formulaire d’ici le début de ma mission, j’en informerai Cybelle Planète.

Je déclare avoir bien informé mon médecin sur les activités auxquelles je serais susceptible de participer ainsi que sur le pays et les conditions de vie sur place.

Je déclare avoir fait et être à jour de tous les vaccins obligatoires, conformément à mon pays de destination, et avoir bien pris connaissance des traitements préventifs recommandés.¹

Je déclare avoir pris connaissance des exigences et recommendations de la mission d’écovolontariat à laquelle je compte participer.

Je comprends que si j’ai pris la décision de ne pas faire les vaccins et/ou les traitements recommandés que je suis le seul responsable en cas de problèmes de santé lié à ces derniers. J’accepte en conséquence les éventuelles limitations posées par le projet et comprend que ses dernières visent à me protéger ainsi que les autres écovolontaires ou les animaux sauvages.

Je déclare avoir compris qu’il est de ma responsabilité d’informer ma compagnie d’assurance voyage de mon état de santé physique et mental avant mon départ.

Je donne mon accord aux membres de la mission et à Cybelle Planète de transmettre les informations contenues dans mon questionnaire, en cas d’urgence médicale ainsi qu’à mon assurance de voyage si nécessaire.

Signature __________________________ Date _________________________

¹ http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr
http://www.who.int/countries/fr/