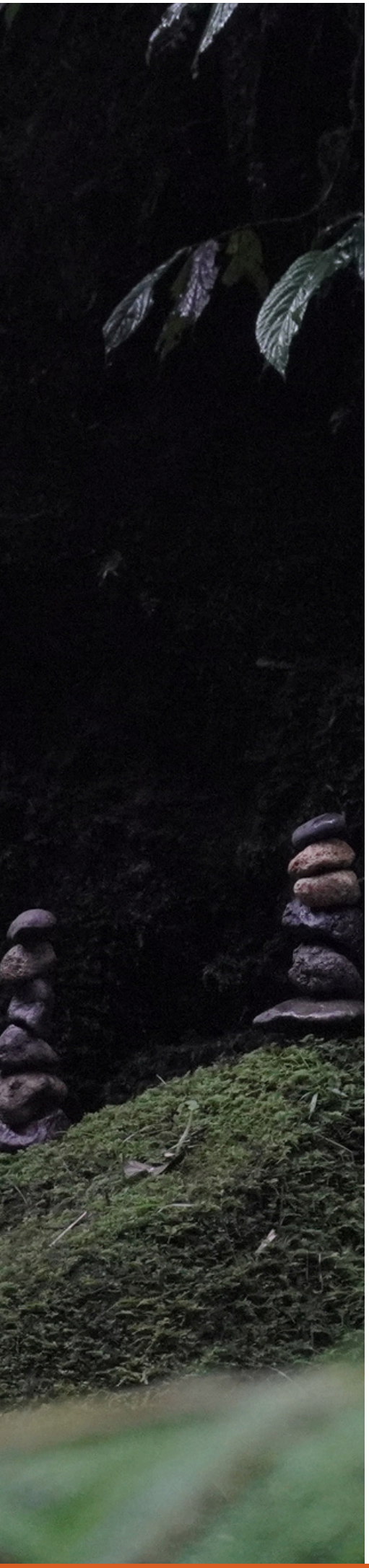


CHD
CONSERVATION KENYA

PEOPLE CENTERED CONSERVATION

ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME HANDBOOK



Table of Contents

Welcome to CHD Conservation Kenya	2
About Us	3
Volunteer Programme Overview	4
Communication	9
Programme Completion	9
Gallery	10
Contacts	11

Welcome to CHD

On behalf of the entire team at CHD Conservation Kenya, we extend our warmest welcome to you! We are incredibly excited and grateful that you have chosen to dedicate your time, skills, and passion to our Environmental and Community Outreach programme in the vital Amboseli ecosystem.

Your contribution is invaluable to our goal of cultivating public participation in conservation, weaving together education, awareness programmes, citizen research, and enterprise development to pave the way for a sustainable future for wildlife, habitats, and the people of Kenya. We believe that lasting environmental impact begins with empowered people, and your role in engaging communities and inspiring environmental stewardship is central to this belief.

This handbook is designed to provide you with essential information, guidelines, and expectations to ensure your time with us is both productive and rewarding. Thank you for joining our family and for your commitment to conservation!

Sincerely,
The CHD Conservation Kenya Team



ABOUT US



CHD Conservation Kenya is a grassroots conservation organisation working in the Amboseli landscape to strengthen coexistence between people, wildlife, and ecosystems. Founded in 2012, CHD operates from the conviction that conservation can only succeed when local communities, especially youth and women, are empowered as leaders, stewards, and beneficiaries of natural resources. Our work centres on Maasai girls and women as powerful agents of change. Through environmental education, tree growing, mentorship, and community engagement, we are nurturing the next generation of conservation leaders while protecting the ecosystems they call home.

OVERVIEW OF CHD'S PROGRAMMES

a. Tupende Mazingira- The program aims to green the Amboseli Ecosystem through our tree nursery- Amboseli's First Indigenous Tree Nursery- to produce Indigenous trees and supply them to schools where, through the outreach program, students learn to nurture the environment. The teachers who are taken through our training program then create a ripple effect by sustaining green environments within schools.

b. Girl's Mentorship Programme- The program aims to empower young Maasai girls in Amboseli, giving them a voice in environmental conservation amidst the challenges of climate change. In addition to mentorship, we offer education scholarships to ensure that these girls have a consistent source of school fees, removing financial barriers to their academic success.

c. Conservation Education- The initiative integrates both theoretical and practical approaches to enhance ecological literacy among learners. We employ various educational techniques, including PowerPoint presentations, hands-on activities, and interactive field classes to deliver knowledge on key environmental themes namely: Habitat Conservation, Soil Conservation, Water Conservation and Wildlife Conservation. As part of the program, we organise educational excursions for school children- **Mazingira Trips-** to various national parks, featuring a one-day game drive. Students observe wildlife, explore habitats, and learn about biodiversity, complementing their classroom education through hands-on experiences.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Programme description

The program is a 4-8-week program designed to expand the reach and impact of CHD Conservation Kenya initiatives by leveraging the support of dedicated individuals. It aims to create a symbiotic relationship where volunteers provide crucial support to our conservation and community-building efforts while gaining valuable hands-on experience and a deeper connection to the Amboseli ecosystem.

Why we need you

Volunteers can make a significant difference in these programs by providing hands-on support, mentorship, and educational assistance. Their involvement would help us grow each initiative — planting more trees, empowering more girls, and teaching more students about important conservation topics. Every bit of support counts and brings us closer to our goals!

Goals

1. Enhancing Programme Capacity: The volunteers' primary purpose is to supplement the efforts of our staff. This allows you to reach more schools, plant more trees, and support a greater number of girls than would be possible otherwise.

2. Fostering Community and Connection: This program is designed to be more than just a task list for volunteers. By immersing them in the daily operations of our projects—from planting trees with students to guiding educational safaris—it builds a strong, passionate community of individuals who are personally invested in the success of our goal.

3. Providing a Meaningful Experience: The program is structured to give volunteers a clear role and purpose. They are not just observers; they are active participants who receive guidance and have the opportunity to make a tangible difference. This ensures their time is spent productively, allowing them to develop skills, learn about conservation, and feel a sense of accomplishment.

Objectives

1. To increase the environmental literacy scores of 100-150 students in partner schools by at least 30% through our school outreach and Mazingira field trips by the end of the academic year.
2. To provide leadership mentorship and conservation training to at least 40- 60 Maasai girls and facilitate school fee support for scholarship recipients to ensure a 100% school retention rate each academic cycle.
3. To support environmental stewardship initiatives within schools and the community, by achieving annual indigenous tree-planting and survival targets through the "Tupende Mazingira" school and community outreach programs.

Key Activities Volunteers will be involved in

- **Tree Nursery Work:** Planting seeds, potting seedlings, propagation, labeling and daily watering.
- **School Outreach**: Assist with tree-planting events and educating students on environmental care.
- **Mentorship:** Guiding and supporting young Maasai girls.
- **Fundraising**: Assisting with efforts to secure more scholarships.
- **Classroom Instruction**: Assisting with presentations and hands-on activities.
- **Field Trips:** Guiding students during educational excursions to national parks such as Amboseli National Park.
- **Logistic**s: Helping with the organisation and supervision of trips.
- **Citizen research projects**: Assist in data collection on subjects such as tree survival monitoring and community knowledge surveys
- **Community engagement:** Participate in community events, storytelling sessions and intergenerational dialogue

Volunteer Profile

We welcome volunteers who:

- Are 18 years and above
- Have a passion for conservation, community work, education and mentorship
- Are open to learning, culturally sensitive, and adaptable
- Can commit to 4–8 weeks of immersive fieldwork



Volunteer Responsibilities

As a volunteer, your dedication and support are vital. We expect you to:

- **Commitment:** Adhere to your agreed-upon schedule and tasks.
- **Active Participation:** Engage enthusiastically in assigned activities and contribute ideas.
- **Learning & Adaptability**: Be open to learning new skills and adapting to changing circumstances in the field.
- **Communicatio**n: Communicate openly and promptly with your supervisor regarding progress, challenges, or any concerns.
- **Safety:** Prioritize your safety and the safety of others at all times.
- **Respect**: Show respect for all staff, community members, local customs, and the environment.
- **Confidentiality**: Maintain confidentiality regarding sensitive organizational or community information.

Reporting Lines: You will primarily report to the **Conservation Officer** or the designated **Program Support Lead** for your specific activities. For camp-related logistics, you will liaise with the **Camp Manager.**

Transport Services/Logistics

- **Accommodation:** Volunteers will typically be accommodated at the Oldonyo Musa Camp. This is a basic but comfortable bush camp designed to support our field operations. Details on room assignments and camp facilities will be provided upon arrival.
- **Meals:** This will be provided at the camp. Please inform us in advance of any dietary restrictions or allergies.
- **Transportation:**

1. **To/From Site:** Details regarding your initial travel to Oldonyo Musa Camp (e.g., pick-up points, timings) will be communicated by the Program Manager before your arrival.
2. **Local Travel:** Transportation for program activities within the Amboseli region will be provided by CHD Conservation Kenya vehicles.
3. **Movement to Kimana or other nearby town (Oloitoktok) for personal purposes**: One should inform the camp manager, and transport arrangements using a local taxi can be arranged.

Health and Safety

Your safety is our priority. While Amboseli is generally safe, it is a wild environment. Below are a few guidelines to help you navigate the area:

- **Wildlife Awareness**:
  - Wear close shoes while at the camp.
  - Always be accompanied by a designated staff member or guide when outside the immediate camp area.
  - Listen to and follow all instructions from camp staff and guides regarding wildlife safety.
  - Do not walk alone outside the camp after dark.
  - In case of an encounter with a wild animal, never approach wild animals, maintain a safe distance
- **Emergency Procedures**:
  - In case of any emergency (medical, security, or other), immediately inform your supervisor or the Camp Manager.
  - Emergency contact numbers will be provided upon arrival.
- **Health Considerations:**
  - Water: Drink only bottled or filtered water provided at the camp.
  - Sun Protection: Amboseli can be very hot. Wear hats, sunglasses, and use high-SPF sunscreen.
  - Hydration: Drink plenty of water throughout the day.
  - Malaria: Consult your doctor about anti-malarial medication before travel. Use mosquito repellent, especially at dawn and dusk. Sleep under mosquito nets provided.
  - First Aid: A basic first aid kit is available at the camp. For serious medical issues, you will be transported to the nearest appropriate medical facility, such as Kimana Health Centre, Kimana Ultracare Hospital and Cedar Medical Clinic
- **Travel Safety:**
  - Always travel in designated CHD Conservation Kenya vehicles and with authorised drivers.
- **Personal Belongings**:
  - Keep your valuables secure. CHD Conservation Kenya is not responsible for lost or damaged personal items

What Volunteers Should Bring

- Personal health Insurance **(Mandatory)- AMREF flying doctors /SHA**

Clothing items:

- Light, breathable clothing (khakis, cotton shirts)
- Long sleeves/trousers for sun/mosquito protection,
- Raincoats for rainy seasons,
- Shoes- Comfortable closed-toe shoes for walking, hiking boots for field work and sturdy sandals
- A light jacket/fleece/shawls or shukas chilly for evenings
- Hat for sun protection

Personal Items:

- Toiletries
- Towel
- Prescription medication
- Band-Aids,
- Antiseptic cream,
- Anti-diarrhoea,
- Antacids,
- Aspirin/ Pain killers
- Sunglasses,
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Lip balm
- Reusable large water bottle
- Small backpack for day trips.
- Torch/flashlight/headlamps

Optional items:

- Laptop
- Camera
- Binoculars
- Notebook
- Books
- Power bank

What We Provide

- Bed
- Linens/Beddings
- Toilet paper



Programme Contribution and Fees

To sustain our conservation efforts and cover the operational costs of your stay (including accommodation at Oldonyo Musa Camp, meals, and local project transportation), we require a program contribution.

Contribution Structure

Programme Duration	Programme Contribution (USD)
4 weeks	$1250
6 weeks	$1800
8 weeks	$2300

What Your Contribution Covers

Your contribution is vital for the operational success of the program and covers:

- **Accommodation**: Your stay at the Oldonyo Musa Camp.
- **Meals:** Three meals per day and access to filtered drinking water.
- **Local Logistics**: All project-related transportation within the Amboseli ecosystem.
- **Project Materials:** Seedlings, tools for the tree nursery, and educational materials.
- **Support:** 24/7 on-site guidance and orientation from the CHD team.

NOTE

A one-time, non-refundable Registration Fee of $250 is required upon acceptance of your application to secure your placement and cover administrative setup.

Additional Project Donations

While the programme contribution covers your essential costs and basic project needs, volunteers often choose to further support specific causes. If you wish to make an additional tax-deductible donation toward a student scholarship or the purchase of indigenous trees, please reach out to the Project Lead. Every additional contribution has a direct, measurable impact on the communities we serve.

Payment Timeline and Methods

To facilitate proper planning and resource allocation, we observe the following schedule:

1. **Deposit:** The $250 registration fee is due within 7 days of receiving your official acceptance letter
2. **Final Balance**: The remaining program contribution must be settled at least 30 days before your scheduled arrival date.
3. **Payment Method:** Payments can be made via International Online Payment or Direct Bank Transfer (SWIFT/Wire Transfer). Detailed banking instructions will be provided in your welcome pack.

Communication

- **Preferred Method:** All official project-related communication will primarily be through your dedicated email account, which you will share with us.
- **Emergency Contacts:** Ensure your emergency contact details are on file with us**.**
- **Internet/Network:** Be aware that internet and mobile network coverage in Amboseli can be intermittent

List of Important Contacts:

- Program Support Lead and Camp Manager contacts- To be shared upon arrival
- Emergency Contact (General): 0736 389 044

NOTE

Upon arrival, individuals will be required to **sign an indemnity (waiver) form;** CHD Conservation Kenya does not accept any responsibility or liability for any loss, injury, or other damages incurred during activities at Oldonyo Musa Camp



Programme Completion

Key elements of this section include:

- **Debriefing**: A scheduled meeting one week before departure to gather feedback on the program and discuss the volunteer's experience.
- **Handover of Tasks**: A requirement to ensure all projects, data, and organisational property are returned to the designated staff member.
- **Final Clearance**: A brief administrative check to finalise logistics.
- **Recommendation Letter:** Volunteers receive an official document to recognise their service formally.
- **Reference Requests**: We are happy to provide references for future employment or academic endeavours.
- **Staying Connected**: You will be added to a dedicated mailing list to remain part of our community and continue advocating for conservation in the Amboseli region

GALLERY


























Contact us for further inquiries

www.conservationkenya.org

info**@conservationkenya.org**

+25473638044

© 2026



Our Partners