



## WILDLIFE PARTICIPATION



Elephant Monitoring at TDC



Lion Tracking at TDC



Elephant Monitoring at TDC

**Activities:** Conservation, Community Participation, Education, Gap Year

**Location:** Tsavo, Kenya

**Duration:** 1 month (minimum)

### **COSTS**

#### **ex Nairobi**

£1350 per person for the first month (or part of)

£315.00 per week thereafter (or part of)

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### **Day 1 Nairobi**

New arrivals are met on arrival and transferred to the meeting point for the Varan Bus departing at 10am, arriving in Maungu Village at 3pm. You are met on arrival in Tsavo and taken on a short drive across the Kasigau Trustlands to the Taita Discovery Centre. 1 Overnight Taita Discovery Centre (full board)

### **Day 2 onwards**

Your field study topics will vary according to personal interest, length of stay and resources available. We will give you a full induction and/or guidance on some simple research methods and skills ; assistance in identifying a topic to study if needed; regular observational field visits into our surrounding environment; support and help from our highly experienced field staff and access to our laboratory and library resources.

Choose from one or more of the following activities:

### **1. Elephant Research**

Monitoring & identification of different tree/shrub species in a given area

Calculating the number/density of trees with 5cm diameter trunks at breast height (1m)

Monitoring the consumption and browsing patterns on trees/shrubs by elephants

Elephant dung count studies aimed at calculating elephant numbers/density

GIS mapping of conflict hot-spots

Running questionnaires

### **2. Lion Research**

Space-use patterns

Interactions

Food habits

Habitat

Social context

Proximity of water

Proximity and abundance of native prey and livestock

Daily and annual routines and cycles of lions

Response to the extreme climatic conditions of this region

In addition to observing lions and their sign (especially tracks), faeces and hair samples are collected for hormonal and genetic analysis.

### **3. Entomology Research**

Participation in an ongoing survey to:

a) establish a detailed inventory and database

b) train local "outreach wildlife officers" in observing, collecting, labeling and preparing arthropods. Seasonal surveys enhance knowledge of the seasonal fluctuations of different species of invertebrates.

c) Systematically collect all groups of arthropods/insects, with the main focus on:

Lepidoptera

Odonata

Coleoptera

Hymenoptera

Diptera

Spiders

Millipedes

#### **4. Waterhole usage monitoring**

Data collection:

Name and number of wildlife species

Sighting times

Arrival departure times

Number of females, juveniles and adult males in a group.

Number, size and structure of other groups & group associations

Presence and identity of fresh dung and tracks.

Plant diversity and abundance studies.

Plant biomass studies

Degree of vegetation utilization by Elephants etc

#### **Final Day: Depart**

You say farewell to the Taita Discovery Centre and the team and are transferred to catch the 11am departure Varan Bus to Nairobi, which drops you off at JKIA Airport.