

The Volunteer Projects (TVP) Kilimanjaro Conservation Project:

What is TVP?

The Volunteer Projects (TVP) is a registered Irish charity, international Development NGO and volunteer-sending organisation that believes in 'Development through Volunteerism'. We recruit and train volunteers for overseas work Placements in Tanzania and Cambodia in a number of partner Projects. We also fund, manage and implement local Development and human rights initiatives within these partner Projects and help volunteers and donors who wish to contribute to these Projects using their time, skills and/or money.

Introduction

Agriculture plays a vital role in the lives of millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa where many rely on commercial farming for their livelihood and many more rely on subsistence farming to feed their families. This is very much the case in Tanzania in East Africa where over one-third of the population (13 million people) live in extreme poverty. While Tanzania boasts the second largest economy in East Africa, agriculture accounts for almost 40% of GDP despite the fact that only 4% of the land is arable and suitable for farming. It also employs 80% of the workforce. For these reasons it is vitally important that all arable land is protected. A Conservation Project has been established in the town of Moshi in the Kilimanjaro region of northern Tanzania where local tree species are grown and nurtured. These trees are then taken to rural villages that are suffering from soil erosion, deforestation and loss of natural water sources which can dramatically affect the village's ability to farm.



Summary Project Description:

Kiviwama is located just outside Moshi town centre in a blissfully cool tree covered enclave. The conservation project is a community based initiative, established in 1999, with the aim of conserving the Njoro Juu spring. The spring provides safe water for 12 villages in the low land area of Moshi principality. The aim of the project is to ensure that this spring remains intact and is not threatened by soil erosion, lowering water tables or urban sprawl.

In addition, they maintain a nursery for trees, seedlings and flowers which are planted and distributed throughout the locality. There are currently 10 local people working full-time at Kiviwama. The process of planting is a long one and so the project is surrounded by trees at every stage of development. They also make organic paper which is sold in the town to create more revenue and help to cover the running costs.

The project is also aiming to create a botanical garden uphill from the spring both to protect the spring, by providing a buffer zone for the water to filter through, and to create another source of revenue for the project, thus make it more sustainable in the future. As Kiviwama is a community run project, all profits go back into the community; more revenue means they can afford to employ more local people and therefore improve livelihoods in the local area. The botanical garden will house more than 100 indigenous plant species, all of which will be labelled with their name and uses written in both Swahili and English. Thus, it will serve as a tourist attraction as well as a learning centre for local school children.

The Volunteer Projects (TVP) Kilimanjaro Conservation Project:

Volunteers at Kiviwama work alongside the local workers on all stages of the project from planting to paper-making. Seed collection in Rau forest, sorting the soil, mixing the soil, filling the plastic containers for the seedlings, removing dead seedlings, weeding, watering, visiting the local school to teach about the importance of environmental conservation, planting at the planting sites and helping with paper making at all stages

Connecting Communities in Ireland and Africa:

We believe that both the host community and the volunteer should benefit from our Placements in the following ways.

The community benefits from the work of the volunteers by increasing productivity and by helping to ensure that the project maintains the water supply to the 12 outlying villages. Psychologically, it also provides a boost for those working at the project as it shows that others are willing to support them in this worthwhile endeavour.

The volunteers from Ireland gain valuable experience, using their skills and abilities in a practical way, while also learning about a different culture and witnessing the effects of global poverty first hand.

Overall Aims of the Programme

There are three overall aims to the Project which is a mutually beneficial partnership:

1. Increasing sustainability of the Kiviwama Conservation Project
2. Protect soil and water sources in the Kilimanjaro region
3. Provide Irish students and other groups with a valuable overseas work experience relevant and beneficial to their field of study/interest
4. Increase volunteers' personal skill sets

The Volunteer

- Minimum age of 18 years
- Interest in horticulture/environment conservation
- Enthusiastic, innovative and flexible

The Placement

- Duration: 2 weeks – 1 month
- Capacity: 20 volunteers
- Location: Moshi Town, Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, East Africa
- Dates: Year-round
- Cost: €565 (2 weeks), €95 per extra week



What's Included

- Meals (breakfast & dinner)
- Accommodation
- Pre-departure training
- Fundraising assistance
- Advice on flights, VISA and vaccinations

TVP and The Volunteer Projects are trading names of the registered Irish charity C oir Projects (CHY19211)

The Volunteer Projects (TVP) Kilimanjaro Conservation Project:

- Ongoing support before, throughout and after Placement
- Airport pickup
- 24 hour in-country support
- Certificate of Achievement
- Future role with the charity (optional)

Accommodation

- Hostel-style Volunteer House
- TV, radio, electricity, hot water, kitchen facilities, Western Bathroom and Shower facilities
- In-country team including house manager, guard, cleaner, cook and 24-hour support



Meals

- Breakfast and dinner are prepared daily by two local '3-star' chefs in the Volunteer House
- All meals are served in a communal style and are made from locally sourced ingredients
- Vegan and vegetarian diets can be catered to

Additional Projects

In addition to working on the Conservation Project, volunteers can also work in the following:

- Orphanage
- Sports Coaching
- Young Offenders Centre
- Musical Outreach

The Role of Development Education in the Programme

Development Education aims to raise awareness of the causes and effects of poverty in the Developing World.

We believe that, due to the nature of this Project, Development Education occurs throughout the process and that this learning becomes integrated into the fabric of Irish society once the participants have returned home.

By identifying mutually beneficial initiatives/projects we can increase inter-cultural awareness and understanding while simultaneously improving the lives of everyone involved.

In short; we all have something to gain by working together.

Interested parties should contact us at the following:

Email: info@thevolunteerprojects.com

Phone: (01) 8774477 / Mobile: 087 615 1782

Post: TVP, Grattan House, City Junction Business Park, Dublin 17, Ireland

Web: www.TheVolunteerProjects.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/tvp.charity

