



19th October 2017

To whom it may concern,

It is that time of the year again. While some students are looking for volunteer positions to develop their Curriculum Vitae, others are searching for projects for their thesis. Colobus Conservation can offer a range of opportunities to undergraduate and post graduate students studying environmental conservation, biology and anthropology related degrees.

Students, as volunteers, can gain valuable hands-on practical primate rescue and rehabilitation experience at our center, where we operate an on-site veterinary clinic and have a 24/7 emergency response team. There are opportunities to learn conservation outreach skills by assisting with our community work to reduce the human-primate conflicts of the area, and gain habitat management skills by working on our forest restoration projects.

Students can also conduct undergraduate or postgraduate research on a variety of biological and ecological topics. Our center is unusual as Diani has a high density of habituated primate species that live in an anthropogenically altered environment. This habituation provides unique opportunities for students to conduct pioneering research into this under-studied field of conservation biology. Inhabiting species include the Nationally Threatened Angolan colobus (*Colobus angolensis palliatus*) which is soon to be upgraded to *Vulnerable* on the IUCN Red List, as well as yellow baboons, Sykes, vervets and two species of galago. I have attached a document that lists possible research topics though students may also suggest research ideas of their own interest. The topics list can also be downloaded from our website: <http://www.colobusconservation.org/index.php/research-opportunities/research-topics>. We also have options for botanical studies as the area is recognized by Conservation International as one of the top 25 *Global Biodiversity Hotspots*.

As a scientific organization, we are interested in developing collaborative research opportunities with universities. We can host group field trips that are tailored to specific module learning outcomes incorporating captive and wild primate management. Previous students have gained a range of interesting conservation jobs after volunteering and conducting research with us. Here at Colobus Conservation, we provide a safe and secure environment to students, which is easily accessible by air from Nairobi and by road from Mombasa. Diani has excellent nearby amenities, including shops, banks, hospitals and restaurants. We are located within easy reach of a range of National Parks, marine conservation initiatives and community development projects.

I have attached more information and would be very grateful if you could make it available to environmental department leaders, lectures and students. I have also attached a research and volunteer poster for you to display on your student opportunities board. If you require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Fredrick Mackinnon
Conservation Manager