

Information for prospective A Rocha Kenya Marine Researchers, Interns, and Volunteers

Application process



1. Make sure that you meet the following requirements

Minimal requirements for Marine applicants:

- Ability to swim long distances – this can be waived if you are primarily working in the intertidal habitats.
- Ability to use spreadsheet programs for data entry and analysis
- Are comfortable working in and around boats

Preference will be given to candidates who:

- Have an internationally recognised SCUBA certification
- Have previous experience in tropical marine environments
- Have a degree in a marine science
- Experience analysing scientific data
- Are from East Africa



2. Fill in a volunteer application form on the A Rocha website.
3. Research Kenyan marine parks and write a one page essay on the following topic: Describe one threat to Kenyan marine parks and discuss possible solutions to that problem. Submit this to the Director of Marine Conservation and Research, Robert Sluka – bob.sluka@arocha.org.
4. A Rocha Kenya is a Christian environmental organisation. In light of this, how does your own faith motivate your desire to work in conservation and how do you hope your time at A Rocha will enrich this. Submit this to the Director of Marine Conservation and Research, Robert Sluka – bob.sluka@arocha.org.

5. Your application will be assessed and we will advise you on whether or not you have been accepted as an intern. This may take up to 1 month. Note that if you are not accepted, this doesn't reflect poorly on your ability, it may be that we simply do not have the space or there is no one who can supervise you during the time period you during which you would like to be an intern.

6. Once accepted, you will need to work with the Director of the Marine Conservation and Research Programme to determine a project which has the following components:
 - Research. A specific project that fits within ARK's marine research themes. This should result in a report can either be submitted to a journal or contribute a portion to a paper.
 - There may be additional costs associated with your research project. If you are wanting to do a particular type of research, for example diving that requires boat access or if you need SCUBA gear, you will need to work with the Director to determine if there are funds available for these types of activities or determine if you can raise these funds yourself. Researchers and interns are encouraged to seek funding, either grants or gifts, to cover research costs.
 - We require that all interns and researchers purchase a pass for the marine park, which KWS have graciously granted us resident rates for at KSH 10,000 for a year pass.
 - You will need to comply with our developing water safety standards, including purchasing dive accident insurance (such as from DAN) if your research project involves SCUBA.
 - Education. Collaboration with ARK's Education programme is expected. Ideally, researchers should help design a simple activity and resource that can be used with local community outreach. This could be a ppt, a citizen science research activity, or other product that will contribute towards a toolbox of marine educational resources.
 - Library resources. In the course of studying a particular topic, any published resources that are found should be uploaded to ARK's electronic library.
 - Photographic guide. When identifying species, ideally a photograph should be taken and suitably labelled to add to ARK's photographic library. This will aid future researchers. Should there be time, a photographic guide to a particular taxon would be appreciated.
 - Communications. Each researcher will be expected to submit at least one short blog on their topic that can be uploaded to the ARK blog. Additionally, at least one Facebook post should be submitted for uploading to the ARK FB site.

- Faith. We want each researcher to reflect on how their research is impacted by their faith. Minimally, this will entail attendance at Bible study each week and a Sunday night gathering to reflect on the week. We would also encourage, though not require, you to produce something (reflection, poem, video, photo-essay,??) which could be shared on our faith and marine conservation webpage. We recognize that not all interns will be Christian, but feel that the minimal requirements will help you to enter into the life of our community.
6. During your time in Kenya you will be expected to complete a required reading list. These papers will be available electronically and in the marine library. You are expected to supply your own snorkeling gear (mask, fins, and snorkel).
 7. During your time in residence at Mwamba, you will be expected to participate in our journal club, contribute to the life of the community through service, and be open to participating in other research projects.

