



ALERT Facilitated Research Programs

wildlife • environment • community



African Lion & Environmental Research Trust

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Zambia

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ALERT is a registered charity in the United Kingdom and Zambia

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It has been a dream and life-long ambition for me to work

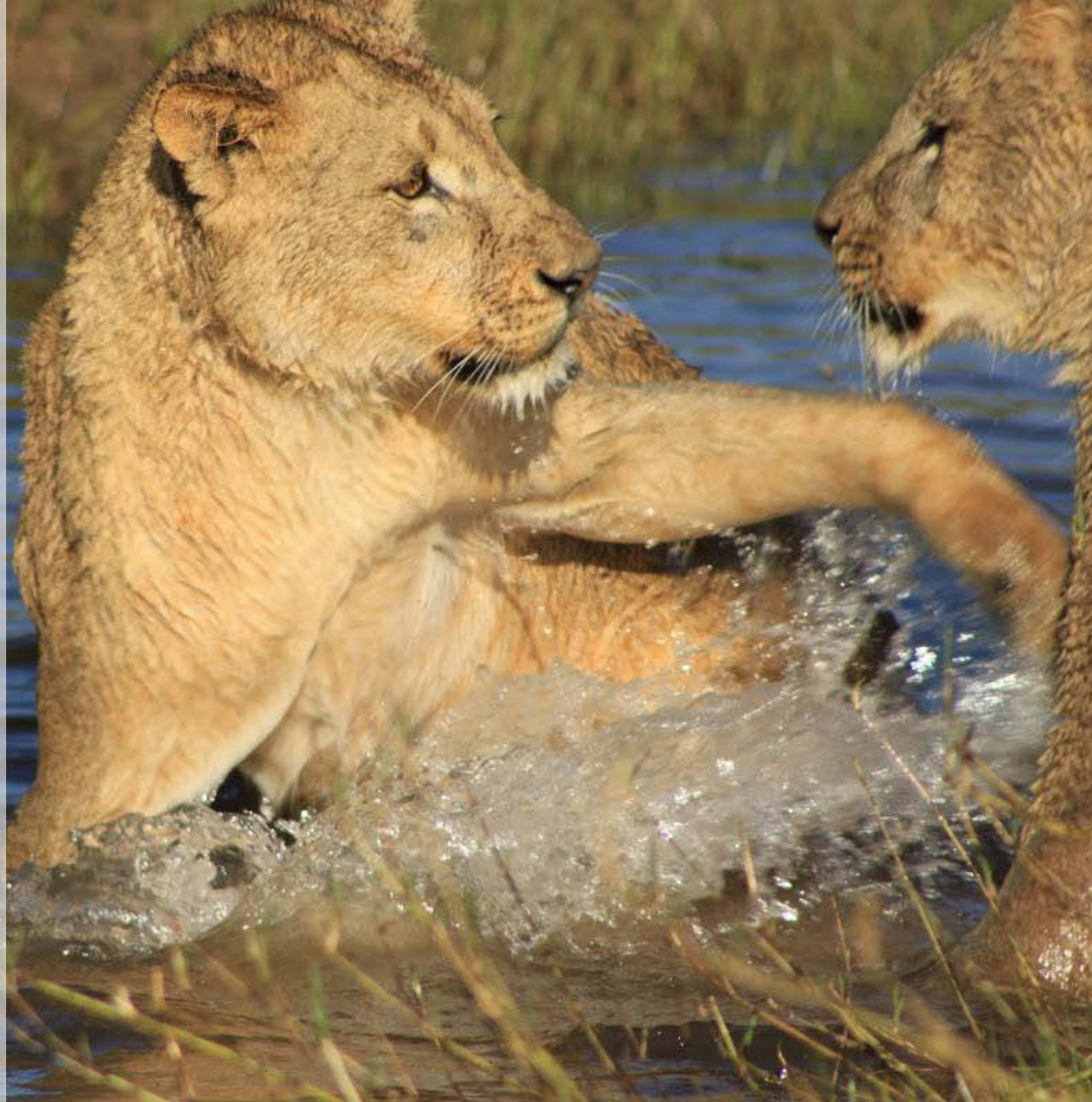
with lions in the African bush. Even before starting my post-grad I knew I wanted to conduct my own lion behavioural study, so when I was told about ALERT's Facilitated Research Program, I was over the moon.

Working in the pristine Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park felt **like a scene from *Out Of Africa***. I was lucky enough to carry out my study on three groups of cubs at the project, and spent numerous cherished hours with them. **The data I collected was invaluable; nowhere else would I have had access to such important raw behavioural data.** It was also very humbling to know that my work would eventually be in aid of a pioneering conservation project, and to see the passion of the people working there was inspirational.

Every day staff and volunteers were raring to go, smiles all round.

I would not hesitate for a second to recommend ALERT's Facilitated Research Program. If someone is looking to pursue an education or career in conservation, this is the program for them.

Hannah Rae Kokes, MSc
Manchester Metropolitan University



The ALERT Facilitated Research Program (FRP) offers unique

opportunities for study. We are able to facilitate undergraduate or graduate students from a wide range of disciplines; providing support throughout your research process.

To date ALERT has facilitated research by students in the fields of:

- Psychology
- Biology
- Animal Ecology
- Animal Behaviour
- Environment & International Development
- Tropical Resource Ecology
- Forest Resources and Wildlife Management
- Development Studies
- Zoology

from universities including:

- Princeton, USA
- Denver , USA
- Wageningen, Netherlands
- Oslo, Norway
- Exeter, UK
- East Anglia, UK
- Manchester Metropolitan, UK
- Newcastle, UK
- University of Zimbabwe
- Science and Technology, Zimbabwe



Livingstone, Zambia

On the banks of the Zambezi as it topples over Victoria Falls lies the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park. Though only 66km², it is home to abundant wildlife including giraffe, warthog, buffalo, zebra, and numerous species of antelope, as well as hippo and crocodile along the river. Also resident are a herd of white rhino, under 24-hour protection by the Zambia Wildlife Authority from poaching. The Park is occasionally visited by predators such as the endangered African wild dog. Birdlife abounds, as do a variety of reptile species.

Just north of the Park is another ALERT project site known as the Dambwa Forest; an uninhabited indigenous forest with undulating open savannah grasslands. At present it is mostly denuded of game species, though elephant are regular transient visitors when they cross the river in the dry season from the Zimbabwean side.

The National Park and adjacent Dambwa Forest are surrounded by rural communities and the city of Livingstone itself. As such, this location offers a multitude of development based research opportunities in addition to plentiful conservation and environmental based studies.

Studies facilitated here include:

- *Differences in hunting success and prey preference in African lions; effects of group composition*
- *Exploring the Motivations of Participants in Volunteer Conservation Tourism and their Understandings of Biodiversity Conservation*
- *Voluntarily Ending Aid Dependence*
- *Economic Impacts of Tourism in the Livingstone Area, Zambia*
- *Influence of human presence on play behaviour and development in captive bred lions cubs*

Victoria Falls or Gweru, Zimbabwe

The 56,200ha Zambezi National Park, wild with bush and big game, stretches along the Zambezi River for 40km. It is contiguous with the Kazuma Pan–Matetsi-Hwange complex, forming a total conservation area of over 1,846,700ha excluding forest reserves. Game includes mega fauna such as elephant, buffalo, lion, and larger antelope species (including greater kudu and waterbuck); also present are smaller mammal species such as common duiker, small-spotted genet and honey badger.

The Victoria Falls National Park is home to a unique floral community. A relic of a rainforest that closely resembles that of a true equatorial rainforest the vegetation is supported by a seasonal spray of water from the Falls themselves.

The town of Victoria Falls and the surrounding rural communities are located within the National Park, and this interaction between people and wildlife provides many opportunities for study.

Antelope Park is a private game reserve of mixed Acacia and Miombo woodland on the banks of the Ngamo Dam. Besides game species such as zebra, impala, giraffe, kudu and hartebeest, the birdlife is prolific as water-birds frequent the dam. Most importantly, the Park provides refuge for a variety of vulture species – six have been recorded – including White-backed (*Gyps africanus*), Cape (*Gyps coprotheres*) and Lappet-faced vultures (*Aegypius tracheliotos*).

Antelope Park is near the city of Gweru and next to the township called Mkoba. As such, a wide variety of socio-economic studies are also possible at this site.

Studies facilitated here include:

- *Behavioural Sequencing and Character Development in Lion Cubs*
- *Is social influence a better promoter of conservation attitudes than education alone amongst communities affected by conflict with wildlife*
- *Influence of Social Upbringing on the Activity Pattern of Captive Lion (Panthera leo) cubs: Benefits of behaviour enrichment*





No need to feel alone!

From the moment you contact us with your research idea a network of support and guidance is available to enable you to complete your study to the highest possible standard.

Our experienced staff will assist you in the process of turning your concept into a workable proposal based on their first-hand knowledge of our project sites and to ensure that your proposed study is viable given the resources and available at each site.

Some proposals may require cooperation with regional wildlife management authorities and the purchase of a study permit. In such cases ALERT will facilitate this acceptance and permit application process, but please be aware that these processes can result in significant delays.

Advance planning and preparation are keys to success. Materials and equipment may not be available on site or even in the country, so it is necessary that you plan comprehensively, with our assistance, for the needs of your study.

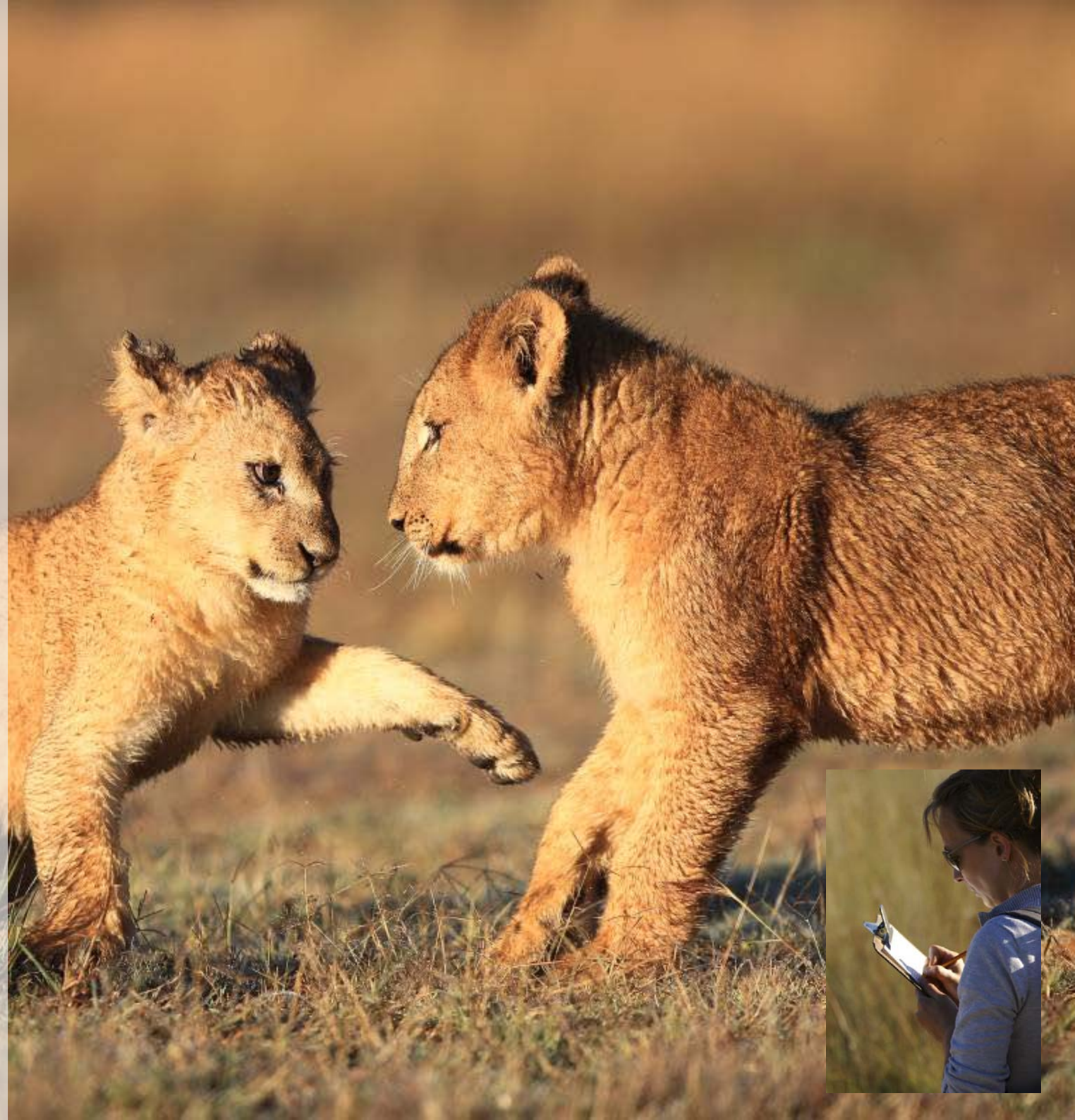
On arrival, you will meet our project-based research staff who will provide you with logistical support to ensure your data collection is carried out effectively. They will also give you an introduction to your project sites' available facilities and give you any necessary safety and procedural training.

"Deciding to undertake a postgraduate thesis was a huge life decision for me and the whole process seemed quite overwhelming at first. I had an idea of what I wanted to do, but turning that into a viable research study was a daunting prospect. Given that my field work was to take place in Africa **my university was limited in how much support they could provide.**

The team at **ALERT** were **hugely helpful** as I prepared for my study. Their thorough understanding of the animals that they work with and the environment that they operate in was incredibly useful to me in establishing my methodology and making sure that it would really work on the ground. They handled all the logistical arrangements for me and have been incredibly supportive as I have embarked on this journey.

I would highly recommend ALERT to anyone interested in carrying out a research study in Africa."

Lisa Clifforde, MPhil,
Exeter University





Program fees

GB£ 1595 / US\$ 2870 per month

Your fee includes collection from the nearest airport to the project site, shared accommodation and three meals per day.

If you require additional resources over and above what is available at the project site additional charges will be incurred in arranging these for you.

How to apply

Contact us at research@lionalert.org to discuss your placement. Your application should be accompanied by:

- An outline of your area of research
- A letter of reference from your university (or equivalent) supervisor confirming your course title and qualification level (for example BSc, MPhil, etc).

IMPORTANT NOTES

We do not accept applications simply asking us what research you should do.

ALERT will prioritize placements for any study that provides an independent review of our existing programs or that adds to the effectiveness of those programs. Priority will also be given to new and/or applied research.

It is important to note that the success of each study is largely dependent on the individual undertaking the study. Comprehensive consideration of your research concept and planning before arriving at your study site is the most important element to a successful project.

The Fine Print

1. Your program fees

- a. Your fee includes comfortable but basic accommodation in shared rooms (twin / triple) with communal shower and bathroom facilities.
- b. Three meals per day are provided, as are water and cordials; we can cater for most dietary requirements.
- c. Your laundry will be washed, ironed and folded for you during your stay.
- d. Collection from the nearest airport to your project location is provided.
- e. The cost of flights, travel insurance, optional trips and activities and items of a personal nature are not included in the program fees.

2. Payment schedule

- a. An administration fee of GB£200 / US\$360 must be paid on acceptance onto the Program, and is strictly non-refundable. The administration fee will be deducted from your final program fee payment.
- b. The balance of your program fee is payable no later than 90 days prior to arrival. Should your placement involve multiple stays, the program fee for each period of placement is payable 90 days prior to arrival for that period.
- c. ALERT reserves the right to cancel the placement if there is non-payment without prior arrangement.
- d. If booking less than 90 days before placement starts, payment should be made within one week of presentation of an invoice.

3. Cancellation

- a. Refunds exclude all travel and/or extraneous expenses of your trip plan.
- b. Cancellation up to 90 days prior to commencement will be 100% refunded for cost of program. Cancellation between 61-90 days of commencement will be 75% refunded. Cancellation between 31-60 days of commencement will be 50% refunded. Cancellation within 30 days of scheduled arrival cannot be refunded. Any refunds due will be less the less the administration fees.
- c. In most cases ALERT will permit the deferment of your arrival date to an alternative agreed upon arrival date. However, should any costs be incurred by ALERT as a result of deferment these will be passed onto you for payment.
- d. In the unlikely event of ALERT cancelling your placement (due to circumstances beyond our control) we will, if possible, offer an alternative location. If this is not acceptable to you, all program fees will be refunded.
- e. If your placement is terminated by ALERT during your placement due to circumstances beyond our control and alternative arrangements are not acceptable to you, all fees from the date your placement is terminated will be refunded.
- f. If your placement is terminated by ALERT as a result of infringement of the code of conduct, you will not be entitled to claim any refund.
- g. If you terminate your placement at any time during your placement, you will not be entitled to claim any refund.
- h. You will not be entitled to claim any other costs applicable to your placement, and/or any charges relating to change in travel plans. All travel expenses is for your account.

4. General Terms

- a. ALERT will not be held liable for any incidental expenses incurred as a result of your placement, such as vaccinations, visas, non-refundable flights.
- b. Travel insurance is a pre-requisite for placement and should include adequate cover for baggage, medical expenses, the cost of repatriation and a cancellation clause.
- c. Should you not have adequate cover prior to the commencement of your placement, you may not be allowed to continue on the program and will have no right to a refund.
- d. Any claims concerning matters for which you are insured must be directed to your insurers.
- e. In a medical emergency, ALERT or its designated agents, will put forward the costs of medical expenses.
- f. You are required to sign an agreement that ALERT, or its designated agents, has the right to claim from your insurance for any expenses that ALERT may incur on your behalf.
- g. Any information provided by ALERT on matters such as visas, vaccinations, climate, clothing, baggage, for example, is given in good faith. We cannot take responsibility for obtaining any necessary visas and travel documentation required for your placement, unless otherwise agreed and confirmed in writing as part of our service agreement to you.
- h. Your booking is accepted on the understanding that you realise the potential hazards that may arise in this kind of travel, including injury, disease, loss of or damage to property, inconvenience or discomfort. Please allow for flexibility in this kind of travel. Changes in itinerary may be caused by circumstances beyond our control. No refunds will be issued on services not utilised.
- i. When booking your flights you might consider booking a changeable return ticket. If circumstances arise which lead to extra expenses because you have purchased a non-changeable ticket, you will be solely responsible for the expense.



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Zambia Charity Registration Number ORS/102/35/3583