

Manda Wilderness Community Trust

**Aquaculture Experienced Project Supervisor
Manda Wilderness Community Trust
Lago District, Niassa Province, Mozambique**

The following is a volunteer position requiring a commitment of at least 3 months.



Manda Wilderness Community Trust:

The Manda Wilderness Community Trust (MWCT) helps some of the poorest and least supported communities in a corner of northern Mozambique and one of Africa's last true wildernesses. MWCT actively involves over 20,000 local Nyanja people in 16 villages spread throughout the region in sustainable development projects to improve their today and give hope for their tomorrow. The Manda Wilderness Project combines responsible tourism, grassroots practical help for the war-weary people of Mozambique and a last chance to protect a pristine corner of real Africa. It aims to support conservation and community development through the engines of a successful tourist lodge (Nkwichi Lodge) and a UK-based charity (The Manda Wilderness Community Trust).

“Manda is like a three-legged African cooking pot. Only with all three legs of conservation, community development and high-level tourism can it be really useful.”

-Patrick Simkin, Co-founder of the Manda Wilderness Project

As the first tourism development in a region of extreme poverty, the Manda Wilderness Project

was created to address the needs of the local Nyanja people. It aims to:

- put control of one of Africa's last true wildernesses into local hands
- improve local livelihoods through employment, trade and business mentorship
- develop local people's skills to the point the Project can be handed over to them

The Litanda Fish Farm Project:

The Fish Farm Project in Litanda is well underway due to funding through the United States Embassy in Maputo. The Litanda Community Association, comprised of 18 members, have been hard at work digging two fish tanks, designing an office and store room, making and burning bricks and engaging community members to improve the living conditions of this rural, inland village. The benefits of the project are numerous and they include the empowering of community members, the transmission of leadership skills, team work, sharing resources and ideas and most importantly, the capacitation and improved nutrition for rural villagers in Litanda and surrounding villages. The Association hopes to someday become a government sanctioned association and use the revenue they receive from selling fish to fund community project in their village. Please join us to support this project that means so much to the Litanda Community Association and the beautiful inland village of Litanda!

Description of Role:

- Manage and organize the work schedules and progress of an 18 member community association
- Design and adjust short-term and long-term plans on a grassroots and rural aquaculture project
- Take frequent camping trips to the picturesque village of Litanda
- Learn and improve Portuguese and Nyanja language skills
- Help bring improved nutrition, capacitation and leadership skills to the community association, Litanda village and surrounding communities

Requirements:

- Applicants should have a background in aquaculture or other related field
- Experience in agriculture would be a plus
- Willingness to work in a rural environment with limited supervision
- Tentative project plan for the volunteer's time here should be thought out before arrival

Desired skills:

- Fluency in Portuguese and/or Nyanja or Chichewa would be a plus
- Previous experience working in developing nations
- Flexibility and creativity in adapting to a new culture and environment
- Excellent organizational skills and experience in project planning
- Ability to plan effectively and self-manage
- Motivated to learn and take initiative in planning and envisioning programs

Who will you be working with?

During the project you will be working alongside an enthusiastic, international and local team of volunteers and staff who will be running other sustainability focused projects in the Manda

Wilderness area. In the office, you will be working independently the majority of the time but with the support of the Community Projects Manager. In addition, you will be working in the beautiful Manda Wilderness region specifically with the Litanda Community Association, the Project Coordinator and the village Chief.

How will you be living?

You will be staying in the volunteer village of Nkwichi Lodge with other volunteers working on related Manda Wilderness Community Trust projects. Accommodation includes your own private hut with an open-air shower and a composting toilet. All meals are prepared by the chefs at Nkwichi Lodge, incorporating fresh produce from the Manda Wilderness Agricultural Project and catering to all dietary requirements. During your stay you are also welcome to try out the activities offered by the lodge including snorkeling, canoeing, swimming, bird watching tours and remote village visits.

In addition to spending time at Nkwichi Lodge, a significant amount of time will be spent in Litanda village. Litanda is a beautiful inland village set in the heart of the Manda Wilderness region of northern Mozambique. With a total population of 484 people, 98 of which are men, 66 of which are women and 320 of which are children, it is roughly 25 kilometers from Cobue, the last immigration entry point between Mozambique and Malawi on Lake Niassa. The nearest settlement to Litanda is Mandambuzi Village, roughly a one hour walk away, with a population of 365. A large majority of people in these two communities depend primarily on farming their maize fields for food. There is one employed member of Litanda Village, at the Manda Wilderness Agricultural Project and three others run small shops. Roughly ten people have fishing nets. Besides government pensions, these are the only known income sources in Litanda. Lake Niassa is approximately a two hour walk away. On average, the people in Litanda eat dried fish twice a week; it reaches the village by fisherman who go to the lakeshore and haul the fish up the escarpment to the village. This process is time consuming and difficult, often resulting in an unpredictable and aged supply. They primarily rely on *nsima* (made from maize or cassava) and vegetables grown in their gardens for their food source, with little protein. The Manda Wilderness Committee in Litanda identified the need for a fish farm as a top priority to improve nutrition and local livelihoods.

Where will you be living and working?

Manda Wilderness is in the remote Lago District of Niassa Province. The area was ravaged by the civil war with most of the local population relocating to Malawi or Tanzania, only returning home in the early 1990s. For those who did return, it has been to a life of extreme poverty and limited prospects: most people survive on less than US\$100 per year. Livelihood activities include subsistence farming, cultivating cassava, maize, and rice, fishing, hunting, harvesting firewood, bamboo, hardwood, grass; and petty trade. Infrastructure and communication is extremely limited (with fewer than 17 kilometers of paved roads in an area that covers over 6,400 square kilometers), educational and health services are rudimentary, and there are very few formal employment opportunities.

How will your days be spent?

While at Nkwichi Lodge, your day will begin to the chorus of lake birds and the African sun peering through your hut roof. Breakfast centers around the big meeting desk with the other volunteers and staff. You will then divide your time planning your projects in the office at Nkwichi Lodge and out in the field in Litanda village working closely with the Litanda Community Association. The day ends as the sun sinks towards the western shores of the lake. As the temperature drops you are free to take a swim, share a drink, take a bite to eat or swap stories around the fire with other volunteers and guests staying at the lodge.

Please note that long term stays are preferred. All stays will involve a minimal contribution to cover the costs of food and accommodation.

This a perfect opportunity for a recent graduate to get experience after their studies. Upon request, it may be possible to arrange coursework or internship credit.

We look forward to welcoming you to the beautiful Manda Wilderness region!

To apply for this position, please send a covering letter and CV/resume to Lily Bunker at mwct@mandawilderness.org.

www.mandawilderness.org