



MADAGASCAR

Biodiversity Partnership

Volunteer Release Forms

Name:

Cohort:

Email:

Arrival Date:

Departure Date:

No Liability Clause

I, the undersigned, recognize that the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium (OHDZA), Madagascar Biodiversity Partnership (MBP) and their employees, cannot not be held responsible for any expenses incurred by myself. I understand that I have been accepted as a volunteer and that I have no claims to any type of reimbursement for services that I provide.

I further understand that the MBP has shared ownership of any data / photograph / materials I collect during my volunteer term as well as anything I publish based on the above during and after my volunteership. Anything I publish is to be approved by the OHDZA Conservation Genetics Lab and/or the MBP Director prior to being published (Publish includes dissertation papers)

I understand and accept that wild animals are dangerous and unpredictable. I also understand and accept that by entering Madagascar, I am taking a risk of incurring injury or even death as a result of my activities involving wild animals and hiking, and limited development/accessibility of local medical facilities.

I understand and accept that neither MBP or OHDZA, its directors, employees, agents or independent contractors will undertake any responsibility whatsoever from my accidental death or any injury or loss which I may suffer caused by the act of any animal or by any act of omission of any staff member at any time. I therefore waive and release MBP-OHDZA, its directors, employees, agents or independent contractors from all responsibility or liability whatsoever arising from death, injury, damage or loss I may suffer. I waive and release MBP, OHDZA, its directors, employees, agents or independent contractors from responsibility or liability whatsoever arising from any loss I may suffer as a result of theft or act of God during my volunteership at MBP's field station.

I understand that should my volunteership be terminated either by choice of myself or by MBP and OHDZA, due to non-compliance or misconduct, I forfeit all money paid by me for my volunteership with the MBP.

signature

date

Confidentiality Clause

I understand that in the course of working with the Madagascar Biodiversity Partnership (MBP), I may have access to confidential information about MBP and its affiliates. I agree that I shall not disclose or otherwise make use of any such confidential information during my time with the Project or at any time thereafter.

As used in this paragraph, the term “confidential information” shall mean and include but not be limited to, all materials, strategies, plans, practices, functions, activities, data, financial information, or other information of MBP or any of its affiliates which are not known to the general public, including, without limitation, donor/membership lists and information material relating to MBP campaigns, and information and materials relating to MBP or any of its affiliates’ strategic or tactical plans and operations.

I understand that I shall be liable for any breach of this release form. I understand and accept the above conditions of my placement with the MBP.

signature

date

Code of Conduct

We believe that it is necessary to have certain rules to safeguard yourself, your fellow volunteers (present and future), the staff at KAFS, the property itself, and also to protect the integrity of the MBP. Our volunteers must behave appropriately and respect local standards of dress and behavior. If any of the rules are broken, then the on-site MBP representative may request the volunteer(s) to leave the program and KAFS immediately.

Volunteers are expected to be professional both on and off the job, reflecting the best of the MBP. Your work ethic strongly influences that of your Malagasy colleagues – make sure you show up to work on time with a positive attitude, thus inspiring your colleagues to do the same. Be willing to take on new challenges and share in the workload for the greater good of the team. But remember that your role is not to be a boss, rather a partner in helping the community to become active participants in protecting the wildlife and habitat around them.

Reporting Requirements

Every volunteer is required to submit regular reports, at least bi-weekly frequency. Reports should include data, interpretation of the data and situation on the ground along with one blog per team every week (one from lemur monitoring team / one from reforestation team). Your role in facilitating communication through the bi-weekly submission of data, reports and pictures is essential to the success of our program, thus it is paramount that you take this component seriously. Please send your blogs with photos attached to brittani.robertson@omahazoo.com.

Please Note: We will not post any blogs with distorted images. To prevent that from occurring, avoid placing your photos inside of any document (i.e. word, ppt, pdf, pages etc.). They must be attached as a separate file from your blog. Preferably in a jpg or png format.

Travel

For safety reasons, independent travel is only permitted from the field site to the field station during daylight hours. Otherwise, independent travel, even day/weekend trips or to/from the local bar. Volunteers must always travel in groups, always have your cell phone, and you must communicate your travel plans with the site supervisor ahead of time.

Vehicles

No unauthorized motorized vehicles are allowed on the KAFS grounds. Volunteers are not permitted to ride a motorcycle or scooter while with the MBP program.

Alcohol Policy

Alcohol is not permitted on grounds as KAFS is a dry field station. There are small "bars" in town that serve beer and have friendly people. If you go you must act appropriately and be mindful, as you are representing the MBP's organization as a whole. Never allow yourself to become overly intoxicated and absolutely never buy alcohol for the locals.

No Drugs

Absolutely no illegal drug usage of any kind during your volunteership.

Relationships

No romantic and/or sexual relationships are allowed during your stay. Volunteers must maintain only professional relationships with both MBP staff and members of the local communities at all times. Overly casual relationships can, and have been, misconstrued, thereby giving reason for those who gossip. So please be mindful and do not give anyone the opportunity to misinterpret your actions.

Sample Collection

All of MBP's field operations are conducted under strict permitting guidelines which set boundaries for our research methods and procedures. We must have permits to do any type of collection including fecal, blood or tissue samples from specific species of lemurs and explicit plant samples. and blood or tissue from any species. Because of this, volunteers must follow the established operation procedures like sample collection.

If you have not been requested to collect something from the field – do not take it out of the forest. Doing so will jeopardize MBP's operations and future permits. And absolutely no collecting of samples that are not MBP-approved.

Wildlife Procedures

As part of MBP's field operations, occasionally individual lemurs or other wildlife will be immobilized for collar changes and biomedical investigations. These activities are conducted under strict permitting guidelines. Accordingly, volunteers are not permitted to interfere with the procedure in anyway. If approved by the on-site supervisor, you may be permitted to watch with the understanding that: 1) you may not hold or touch the animals and 2) not take any photos of the animals during the procedure.

Biomedical Waste

There have been instances where volunteers have generated biomedical waste, such as needles from diabetic insulin injections. To ensure that these materials are safely contained and disposed of properly, we routinely burn wastes from our biological sample collection. If you should have any please coordinate with MBP personnel at KAFS.

Local Visitors

Volunteers must not invite anyone, either from the local community or from outside the local area to come to visit them or to stay at KAFS. Anyone from the local communities with whom volunteers are working on a project may visit them at KAFS during working hours but not at their tent site.

Local Dogs

Although many of us involved with conservation are animal lovers at heart, we must take care when dealing with local dogs in Madagascar. Please do not feed stray dogs while at KAFS and use caution when around the dogs. The Malagasy culture does not treat dogs well, therefore a dog's behavior is not predictable; even dogs who have become accustomed to the operations at KAFS and are seemingly friendly may become scared, protective or reactive, and may bite. However, there is a SOS rescue organization in Antananarivo that the MBP has worked with before. If there is a dog of special interest, please contact the MBP director and Omaha staff so we can make arrangements with the rescue group.

Goodbye Parties

Due to past behavior of outgoing volunteers during such events, we are prohibiting goodbye parties for the outgoing cohorts, both at KAFS and at the local bar.

Before Leaving

Volunteers must clean their tent site, both within and outside, before departing. Volunteers may donate equipment to the MBP, which should be brought to the main office in Antananarivo.

Acknowledgment of Understanding & Commitment of Compliance

I, the undersigned hereby declare that I have read, fully understand, agree with and undertake to comply with the Code of Conduct of Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium/ Madagascar Biodiversity Partnership as part of my Volunteer Agreement. I accept and agree that I cannot dispute the measures taken by Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium/ Madagascar Biodiversity Partnership should I not comply with the Code of Conduct.

I fully understand that should my volunteership be canceled due to breach of the Code of Conduct or this agreement, I will not be refunded any money paid by me to Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium / Madagascar Biodiversity Partnership for my volunteership.

Full Name:

Signature:

Date:

