



50 Treasures of Kenya Trust
P.O. Box 1331-00208
Ngong Hills

Nairobi, 12th February, 2024

Offer for a research stays and internships in Nairobi and the Rift Valley, Kenya

Dear HNEE students,

we are offering the opportunity for exciting research stays and internships in Kenya!

Who are we?

The 50 Treasures of Kenya Trust (www.treasuresofkenya.com) is a Kenyan non-profit organization committed to nature conservation, community development and sustainable tourism. Our HQs are in Ngong, on the western fringes of Nairobi metropolitan area.

For the time being, the Trust works primarily with Kiplombe Community Conservancy, a nature reserve in the central Kenyan Rift Valley. The Conservancy's most valuable assets are its indigenous forest and the heartfelt, committed people who live in its vicinity. A peaceful and sustainable coexistence of nature and people are the basic values of this cooperation.

What is the collaboration between Kiplombe Community Conservancy and the Trust about?

The 50 Treasures of Kenya Trust supports and advises Kiplombe Community Conservancy on following levels:

- Nature conservation and cultural preservation
- Self-empowerment of the community and improvement of its living conditions
- Development and marketing of sustainable tourism
- Strengthening of the Conservancy's management & infrastructure
- Research and capacity building

How do HNEE and its students come into play?

HNEE and the 50 Treasures of Kenya Trust entered a formal cooperation in 2023, after which three students of the master study program “Sustainable Regional Development” spent ten weeks with us in the Kenyan Rift Valley to collect data for their master’s thesis.

The students significantly supported the work on site and helped strengthening the basis for a trustful cooperation with the community which is an important prerequisite for jointly achieving change. The students’ research fell in the fields of ecology, infrastructure and socio-cultural interactions, setting the base for future research projects.

Since the experiences with HNEE’s students were positive throughout, we would like to continue the research collaboration in 2024. Three to four students from various disciplines are highly welcome to join us in the Kiplombe project and do a field research for their master's thesis, or alternatively a practical semester.

Which research fields are of interest to the Kiplombe project?

In Kiplombe, there is need for research in the fields of ecology, forestry, social science and sustainable tourism. In specific, we are looking for support concerning the following research topics:

- The nature reserve in Kiplombe is owned communally. Although formally protected, it is severely degraded by the illegal felling of trees for charcoal burning, uncontrolled grazing, and other unmanaged uses. Which alternative practices, whether in tourism, forestry, or pasture management, would be more sustainable than the current forms of use?
- What could sustainable management of the nature reserve look like – under ecological, forestry, social, and economic aspects? Some key points deserving specific attention are participation and ownership by the local people; benefit sharing; avoiding disparities within the community; balancing regulations and restrictions with creating better alternatives and incentives
- Which innovative tools, approaches and strategies can be applied to bring various players together, develop a common vision, and make them join forces to achieve the agreed targets?
- What opportunities and possibilities do agroforestry systems and tiny forests offer to reduce the pressure on the resources of the protected area, while improving the living conditions of the local people? What could implementation-oriented planning look like?
- How could local tree nurseries (an area for a pilot tree nursery already exists on-site) be set-up best to support the development and implementation of a reforestation strategy with particular attention to valuable, overexploited native tree species (African Cedar, African Olive, Podocarpus, Sandalwood)?
- Which low-impact tourism products for which markets and target groups could become part of a sustainable, participatory tourism concept in Kiplombe? And what would be a favourable approach to its implementation?
- Which sustainable technologies and practical solutions (e.g. sustainable building materials, compost toilets, biological wastewater treatment, solar energy for hot water) could be used when building the tourism infrastructure, offering the opportunity of improving the living conditions (e.g. hygiene, cost saving) of the rural population, too?

Key info for those who are interested to come to Kenya

Duration and months of stay:

- October to December 2024, alternatively November 2024 to January 2025
- 8 weeks minimum stay

Accommodation and costs:

- At Ngong HQs near Nairobi: Accommodation in double rooms
- In the project area: Simple cabins at the Conservancy's HQs or in safari tents at the nearby base camp
- Costs: Approx. € 1,000 per person and month, covering food, accommodation, domestic transport, infrastructure, and local assistance by the Treasure Team throughout the entire stay

Preparatory and follow-up workshops:

Expect to make truly impressive experiences in rural Kenya. To prepare you for your field stay best, we offer a two-day preparatory workshop dealing with intercultural communication, regional studies, and the development of a research strategy, besides other topics. Also, it includes a one-day visit to the City of Nairobi.

In order to digest and put into context what you have seen and encountered during your stay, we also hold a one-day follow-up workshop towards the end of your stay.

Last year, both workshops were kindly funded by the Stiftung Nord-Süd-Brücken (cost: approx. € 2,000 for the whole group).

Which are the most desired qualities of applicants?

In addition to good qualifications in their study field, the following soft skills of applicants are seen as important:

- Good to very good English skills, both in writing and speaking
- A curious and cosmopolitan mindset
- A reliable and honest communication behaviour towards the Treasure Team and our partners
- To be self-reliant and proactive
- To be flexible in terms of living conditions, planning & timing
- A driver's license and driving experience
- And last but not least: a healthy sense of humour – it always helps! 8)

Where should the letters of expression be sent to?

If you are interested, send your letter of expression, including your research interest, your CV and a brief explanation of why you would like to work with us, to our contact at the HNEE:

Prof. Dr. Katja Arzt, Chair of Sustainable Regional Development and Social Processes,
Katja.arzt@hnee.de

Who answers your questions?

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us, preferably by email: hardy@treasuresofkenya.com

Welcome to Kenya and Kiplombe!

The Treasure Team is looking forward to all applications for the joint research adventure. Welcome to Kenya!

Yours sincerely,

Hardy Fiebig
(Chairman to the Board)

Ali Lempaso Lepalo
(Secretary to the Board)

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50TOKT HQS



Workshop



Departure



Strategic planning

KIPLOMBE COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY



Team



Fire-Tower



Nature



Official opening Baraza



Culture



Traditional setting

IRONG COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY



Research



Lake Bogoria



Irong base



Land of Biodiversity