

Les Amis des Bonobos du Congo (ABC)
Friends of Bonobos
Conditions for resident visitors at « Lola ya Bonobo » Sanctuary

Context and general principles:

- √ D.R. Congo is a country that is still emerging from years of war; political instability cannot be ruled out; the country is relatively expensive; public transport is all but inexistent; the tropical climate is favorable to infectious diseases, in particular malaria: in brief, it is not a typical tourist destination. Visitors should make a fully informed decision; they should also take **refundable tickets or travel insurance** in case political developments impose changes of plans at the last moment.
- √ The Sanctuary is **located 25 km from town**; it is in a beautiful forested environment, but quite isolated. While the housing conditions are fairly comfortable at Lola ya Bonobo, the association does not have the staff or the logistics to “take care” of visitors during their stay. This is not the place for those who want to “have a good time” during their holidays. Visitors should be **self-motivated** and **self-sufficient**.
- √ The association does not have special need for volunteers: all the work at Lola ya Bonobo is handled by a great team of Congolese staff. We however accept **“paying volunteers”** under the same conditions as other resident visitors. The purpose of our association in admitting resident visitors or paying volunteers is to allow interested people become more familiar with conservation and education work conducted at a Sanctuary, and with bonobos in particular. We therefore accept visitors even if they do not always contribute much to the Sanctuary’s work, due to their lack of familiarity with local conditions and/or specific work at a Sanctuary. However, visitors who can contribute special skills or experience are certainly appreciated!
- √ In return, **all visitors, regardless of their qualifications, must contribute to their lodging and cover all food and other miscellaneous expenses**. We have several options for lodging, outlined below. Standard accommodation is set at \$250 per person per week, plus \$50 for any extra day. Food costs are \$25 per person per day (1 April 2007).
- √ Because of high demand on the Sanctuary’s limited accommodation, we limit all first visits to a **maximum of 3 weeks**. There is no minimum duration of stay.

Medical updates & no liability clause

- √ Visitors are required to update his/her **vaccinations** prior to arriving at the Sanctuary. In addition to yellow fever, compulsory for entering DRC, ABC requires up-to-date immunizations against tetanus, polio and measles. ABC also recommends a TB test or radiography. In case of prior travel to a country with high meningitis incidence, visitors must also undergo relevant vaccination.
- √ To protect the bonobos’ health, visitors are not allowed to approach the bonobos if they have a common cold or any (confirmed or suspected) contagious illness of any kind.
- √ Visitors are required to take all **medical and travel insurances** that may be applicable, including medical assistance or evacuation in case of an emergency. By submitting the application form attached to this document, the visitor acknowledges that (1) he/she is aware of the security conditions in the country and « travel advisories » of several governments against traveling to the DRC; and that (2) ABC does not accept any responsibility in case of accident, illness or any other incident that may occur, whether it results from the visitor’s presence at the Sanctuary or not.
- √ Visitors are required to conduct all necessary administrative and visa requirements of the Congolese authorities. ABC cannot take responsibility for assisting the volunteer in visa extension, changes in plane reservations or any other administrative task that would require a trip to town.

Respect of work & security rules at Lola ya Bonobo

- √ Visitors must **respect** the Sanctuary’s work, that is, not to interfere in any way with the usual operations of the Sanctuary or staff’s work; respect the Sanctuary’s schedule and internal rules; give priority to Sanctuary staff in all matters (e.g. internet use, access to equipment and facilities, etc.).
- √ Visitors must **comply** with any instruction that may be given any by Sanctuary staff, including night duty personnel, for their own, the bonobos’ or the staff security.
- √ Visitors **do not have any authority** on any aspect of the Sanctuary’s work or any other matter, unless they have been explicitly requested by the Sanctuary direction to take on specific responsibilities in exceptional situations.

Intellectual property

- √ All written documentation, photos, films or other, produced during a visitor’s stay at the Sanctuary remains **property of ABC**. Even in the case of documents produced at the visitor’s initiative, ABC may request that the originals or copies be left at the Sanctuary when the visitor leaves.
- √ Visitors are not allowed to use any such document for any commercial, advertising or other public purpose **without prior written agreement of ABC**. Special conditions apply for media or other visitors producing media of any kind for public or commercial use; please request the **media conditions** if applicable.
- √ Researchers and students interested in using data from their stay at Lola ya Bonobo for an internship or research purposes must fill a **research application**. Please request the research application guidance if applicable.

Financial conditions, accommodation and other expenses

- √ Visitors commit to take charge of their contributions to ABC and any other expense that may occur during their stay. Accommodation fees must be received by ABC at least **one month prior to the visitor’s arrival**. Visitors should come with sufficient cash (US dollars) to cover all additional costs of their stay as well as possible unexpected expenses. Credit cards, debit cards, checks or travelers’ checks cannot be used in Kinshasa.

I have read and understand the above conditions. How should I apply ?

Please send to friendsofbonobos@yahoo.com and abc_visiteur@yahoo.fr

- A written request, for instance a letter of motivation and a *curriculum vitae* or any other relevant document. Explain your objectives in coming at Lola ya Bonobo and any special skills that you have that you feel may be relevant to our work.
- Fill in and return the enclosed form, confirming your acceptance of the terms and conditions outlined above and detailing your request.

If your request is accepted, we will send you another form confirming lodging options and requesting more specific logistics information. Please allow 3 to 4 weeks for a response.

Lodging options and conditions

A. Standard accommodation - “Kivu” house

- *Conditions:* Collective living, with private bedrooms and shared living room, bathroom and fully equipped kitchen.
- The building currently also houses Lola ya Bonobo’s office, which means that the living room is used as an office and the facilities are shared with the direction. The office is expected to move by end 2007.

Alternative dates: _____

Indicate alternative dates as applicable, in case your requested period was not available

Special skills or expertise _____

Do you intend to conduct research during your stay: Yes No

Do you intend to produce anything for public use out of your visit? Yes No

If yes, please specify _____

If you answered 'yes' to either of these questions, special conditions may apply.

Other documents submitted with this application:

Motivation letter curriculum vitae

Other (specify) _____

I have read and understand the above conditions. By signing this application, I commit to all the clauses of the visitors' conditions, including the no-liability and the intellectual property clauses.

Date _____ **Signature** _____

For approval, Lola ya Bonobo Sanctuary Director _____