



## GAME RANGER COURSE HEAD INSTRUCTOR - RALF KALWA



### Background

It is with good reason that Lex and Anton the Directors of EcoTraining decided to join forces with Ralf Kalwa to conduct and instruct our Game Ranger Course. With reference to Ralf's experience and expertise below, you have no doubt your Instructor on this course will deliver information and a great understanding to the contents of this course. With total passion and enthusiasm for a Game Ranger's life!

### Educational qualifications

Pretoria University:

B.Sc. (1981) Zoology and Botany

B.Sc. Hons (1985) Wildlife Management

Integrated Environmental Management Short Course (1997) University of Cape Town

Resource Management Course (1989) Potchefstroom Agricultural College

### Employment History:

- 1. Regional Ecologist (Waterberg Subregion) Chief Directorate of Nature- and Environmental Conservation, Transvaal  
February 1986 – October 1990**

I was responsible for the scientific management of five nature reserves, which specialized in the breeding of rare antelope (roan-, sable-, and tsessebe). My tasks included the development and execution of vegetation monitoring programs; veld management monitoring (erosion, reclamation; population dynamics; burning programmes, etc).

From time to time ad hoc projects were undertaken as required. These included impact studies (Motar ranges; gravel pits; roads and riverine bush). Above mentioned work was summarized in the form of a resources management plan or sub-unit plans, which were used by reserve staff as working documents. The knowledge and experience gained during reserve management was simultaneously applied during a game farming advisory service to game farmers in the Waterberg. This service was supplied verbally during farm visits and subsequently followed up by an extensive management guideline report. Alternatively the information was provided during Game Farm Study Groups.

## **2. Senior Environmental Education Officer: Kruger National Park (1990-1994)**

I was responsible for all the activities regarding environmental education and interpretation north of the Olifants River. This included planning and establishing the world famous Elephant Hall at Letaba Restcamp; co-ordinating the establishment of the Thulamela Historical Site in Pafuri; managing the ba-Phalaborwa Iron Age Site at Masorini; guiding and lecturing at monthly executive bushcamps, ecology courses and tour guide courses.

## **3. Senior Section Ranger: Kruger National Park (1994-July 2000)**

A Section Rangers responsibility lies in the field of environmental integrity protection and management. This includes implementing resource management tasks including water point management; fire control; game capture; anti-poaching operations; control of alien vegetation; field ranger training; erosion control; game census and monitoring; vegetation monitoring and research; compilation of Environmental Management Plans (EMP's); problem animal control and culling; riparian management; personnel management and the implementation of law and order within the framework of the National Parks Act.

I was also instrumental in establishing the principles of Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) within the daily tasks allocated to a rangers workload and became involved in many cross boundary impact assessments adjacent to the Kruger National Park e.g. the N4 toll road; Primkop Airport; Maputo/South Africa gas pipeline etc. For this active involvement I was awarded the Achiever of the Year Award for Outstanding Performance in the Work Place in 1998.

## **4. Manager: IEM: Kruger National Park (July 2000-December 2001)**

Environmental Legislation and a commitment by SANParks in 2000 to the principles of NEMA required the creation of this post in July 2000. Previous experience and involvement on a wide front of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) field resulted in a transfer to this newly created post. All aspects of the IEM process in the Kruger National Park became my responsibility and I established a sound operational framework for the implementation of this process in the park. Internal Environmental Management Plans were required for all forms of construction and development, including that not listed in the regulations. Cross Boundary Impacts e.g. airports; developments in the riparian zone etc. continued to receive attention.

The advent of commercialization and the establishment of concession areas and lodges in the Kruger National Park required regular input from this office and all EIA documentation is evaluated and examined by this office.

The retrenchment programme in the Kruger National Park has however affected this post drastically and the post of Manager: IEM has been declared redundant as of November 2001.

## **5. Ecological Consultant: Malelane (December 2001-present)**

I established Rhengu Environmental Services in the Malelane area. Rhengu strives to provide a hands-on, practical service in all fields of wildlife-and environmental management with special emphasis on Integrated Environmental Impact Assessment. Furthermore, Rhengu remains involved in the field of guiding through the Lebombo Eco Trail (where I am a trails leader) Kruger National Park.

## **6. List of Project Completed since 2001**

### **6.1. Environmental Management**

1. **Environmental Guideline Document** for the Letaba Concession, Kruger National Park Bid Process.

Client: African Pride, KNP, (Pty) Ltd,  
July 2001.

2. **Planning & Monitoring, Committee Member:** Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport; Implementation of EMP.

Client: SANParks, KNP,  
November 2001 – October 2002.

3. **Planning & Monitoring, Committee Member:** Mmbombela Waste Management Strategy Initiative.

Client: SANParks, KNP,  
November 2001 – February 2003.

4. Report Back Session **Report for the Hazardous Waste Site Implementation** of the Environmental Impact Report, April 2002.  
Client: Kruger National Park, SANParks;  
April 2002.
5. **Specialist Report and Survey:** An Ecological & Soil Investigation of the Jock Concession Area, Kruger National Park.  
Client: Strategic Environmental Focus CC,  
May 2001.
6. **Research and Infrastructure Sites Survey** for the Organisation for Tropical Studies: Kruger National Park; April 2002.  
Client: SANParks, Kruger National Park and University of Witwatersrand;  
April 2002.
7. **Best Practice Manual:** Kruger National Park; July 2004.  
Client: SANParks.  
July 2004.
8. **Environmental Motivation Report:** Register Business Rights, Portion 1: Farm: Doringkop: Malelane/Hectorspruit.  
Client: Mr. Colin Rhodes.  
October 2004.
9. **Land Use Zonation Plan:** Lodwichslust 163 JU.  
Client: Luggedlane Project: HANROB: Mr. Hennie Joubert.  
June 2005.
10. **Environmental Impact Assessment.** Development of Eco-Tourism Infrastructure in the Mpanamana Concession Area in the Kruger National Park.  
Client: Faranani Consortium.  
August 2001 – March 2002.
11. **Environmental Impact Assessment.** Proposed Development of Eco-Tourism Infrastructure in the Mdluli Trust Area.  
Client: Mdluli Lodge Investments (Pty) Ltd.  
March 2002 – October 2002.
12. **Environmental Impact Assessment.** Proposed Development of a Shopping- and Office Complex; Tourist Information Centre, with associated facilities for transport infrastructure, Extension 13, Malelane, Mpumalanga.  
Client: Ginalex (Pty) Ltd.  
March 2002 – October 2002.
13. **Environmental Impact Assessment.** Change of Land Use from Natural Bush to Irrigated Agriculture on Portions 3, 4, & 5 of the farm Helena 400JU Komatipoort, RSA.  
Client: Sonoma Investments (Pty) Ltd.  
August 2003.
14. **Environmental Impact Assessment:** Lions Walk Wildlife Estate.  
Client: Lions Walk (Pty). Ltd.  
August 2005-pending.
15. **Environmental Impact Assessment:** Malelane Citrus Co-Op, Portion 9 of Farm: Mhlathi No. 169 JU, Change in Land Use.  
Client: Malelane Co-Op.  
August 2004.
16. **Environmental Impact Assessment:** New Sewerage Purification Works and Associated Infra-Structure for the Satara Rest Camp, Kruger National Park.  
Client: SANParks (Kruger National Park).  
September 2004.
17. **Environmental Impact Assessment:** New Day Visitor Centre, Entrance Gate and Associated Infra-Structure for the Satara Rest Camp, Kruger National Park.

Client: SANParks (Kruger National Park).  
September 2004.

18. **Environmental Impact Assessment:** New Inlet Facility and Associated Infra-Structure for TSB Malelane Pump Station.  
Client: TSB (Malelane).  
March 2005.

19. **Environmental Impact Assessment:** Use of BANTAM B22J Light Aircraft in the Kruger National Park for Operational Purposes in the field of Wildlife Management.  
Client: SANParks (Kruger National Park).  
May 2006.

20. **Environmental Impact Assessment:** Sand River Fly Camp, Jakkalsbessie Concession, KNP.  
Client: Tinga Private Game Lodge (Pty) Ltd.  
December 2003.

21. **Environmental Plan:** The Production of Charcoal in the Phalaborwa Industrial Area.  
Client: Bakgat Environmental Services,  
May 2001.

22. **Environmental Plan:** The Disease Free Buffalo Breeding Camp at Satara, Kruger National Park (KNP).  
Client: SANParks, KNP,  
September 2001.

23. **Environmental Plan:** The Mooiplaas Rare Breeding Antelope Enclosure in the Kruger National Park.  
Client: SANParks, KNP,  
December 2001.

24. **Environmental Management Plan:** Implementation and Monitoring Reports Mluwati Concession, Kruger National Park: Report 1 - 9.  
Client: Three Cities Hotels;  
March 2002-present.

25. **Environmental Management Plan:** Specialist Surveys Mluwati Concession, Kruger National Park: Reports 1 and 2.  
Client: Three Cities Hotels;  
March 2002-present.

26. **Environmental and Operational Management Plan** the Mountain Biking Activities conducted from the Olifants Rest Camp in the Kruger National Park, June 2002.  
Client: Northern Business Unit: Kruger National Park;  
June 2002.

27. **Environmental Management Plan** for the Construction of Exclosure Plots To Study the Tree-Grass Dynamics in the Kruger National Park.  
Client: Department of Botany: University of Cape Town;  
July 2002.

28. **Environmental Management Plan:** Implementation and Monitoring Reports Jakkalsbessie Concession, Kruger National Park.  
Client: Client: African Pride, KNP, (Pty) Ltd,  
August 2002-present.

29. **Environmental Management Plan:** Implementation and Monitoring Reports Mpanamana Concession, Kruger National Park.  
Client: Faranani Consortium.  
December 2002-present.

30. **Environmental and Operational Management Plan** for the Self Guided 4 x 4 Eco Trail Activities conducted in the Kruger National Park.  
Client: SANParks, Kruger National Park.  
February 2003.

31. **Environmental Management Plan:** Implementation and Monitoring Report Mluwati Concession, Kruger National Park: Final Audit Report.  
Client: Three Cities Hotels;  
May 2003.
32. **Environmental Management Plan:** Implementation and Monitoring Reports Mdluli Safari Reserve, Mpumalanga, RSA: Report no. 1.  
Client: SHAW PROJECTS  
June 2003-present.
33. **Environmental Management Plan:** Implementation and Monitoring Reports Jock Concession, Kruger National Park.  
Client: Mantis Collection (Boutique Hotels and Game Reserves),  
July 2003-present.
34. **Environmental Management Plan:** Implementation and Monitoring Report Mluwati Concession, Kruger National Park: Results and Findings of Final Audit Report.  
Client: Three Cities Hotels;  
July 2003.
35. **Environmental Management Plan:** Environmental Audit: Bi – Annual Reports. Mluwati Concession, Kruger National Park.  
Client: Three Cities Hotels.  
July 2003-present.
36. **Environmental Management Plan:** Implementation and Monitoring Report Tenbosch Weir: Crocodile Bridge, Komatipoort, RSA.  
Client: Transvaal Sugar Limited (TSB).  
August 2003.
37. **Environmental Management Plan:** Implementation and Monitoring Report Leopard Creek Weir: Crocodile River, Malelane, RSA.  
Client: Leopard Creek Country Club (LCCC).  
September 2003.
38. **Environmental and Operational Management Plan** for Operation Bushbaby: Lower Sabie, Kruger National Park.  
Client: Mr. Bob Thornley.  
September 2003.
39. **Environmental Management Plan:** Crocodile Farm: Gazebo Ranch.  
Client: Mr. Jaco Grobler.  
October 2005.
40. **Construction Management Plan:** Implementation and Monitoring Report: Leopard Creek Discharge Pipeline.  
Client: Leopard Creek Country Club (LCCC).  
June 2006.
41. **Environmental Management Plan:** Crocodile Farm: Lovedale, Portion 32: Lows Creek.  
Client: Mr. Johan Mouton.  
June 2005.
42. **Environmental Audit Report:** Self Guided 4X4 Adventure Trail activities conducted in the KNP.  
Client: SANParks (Kruger National Park).  
November 2004.
43. **Environmental Management Plan:** Implementation and Monitoring Report: Upgrading of Staff Facilities including Changes to Donor Unit, Jock Concession, KNP. Also Specialist Report: Implications of Averaging Out Guest Bed Numbers.  
Client: Mantis Collection.  
March 2005 –June 2006.
44. **Operational Management Plan:** Jock Concession, KNP.  
Client: Mantis Collection.  
February 2004.

45. **Environmental Management Plan:** Traders Rest, KNP.

Client: Mr. Duncan McNellie

May 2004.

46. **Environmental Management Plan:** Construction of Staff Facilities: Mluwati Concession, KNP.

Client: Three Cities Hotels.

September 2004.

47. **Operational Management Plan:** Mluwati Concession, KNP.

Client: Three Cities Hotels.

February 2005.

48. **Environmental Management Plan:** Construction of Shawu Camp Main Building. Mpanamana Concession, KNP.

Client: POPCRU

June 2006

49. **Environmental Exemption Report:** Upgrading of Fuel Storage Tanks and Associated Infra-Structure: Mascor Malelane, Caltex Filling Station.

Client: CALTEX MASCOR.

August 2006

50. **Environmental Control Officer:** Jakkalsbessie Concession Area, Kruger National Park.

Client: African Pride, KNP, (Pty) Ltd,

December 2001 - present.

51. **Environmental Control Officer:** Mluwati Concession Area, Kruger National Park

Client: Imbali Safari Lodge, (Pty) Ltd,

March 2002 – present.

52. **Environmental Control Officer:** Mpanamana Concession Area, Kruger National Park.

Client: Faranani Consortium.

October 2002 - present.

53. **Environmental Control Officer:** Mdluli Safari Reserve, Mpumalanga, RSA.

Client: SHAW PROJECTS

June 2003-present.

54. **Environmental Control Officer:** Jock Concession Area, Kruger National Park.

Client: Mantis Collection (Boutique Hotels and Game Reserves),

July 2003-present.

55. **Environmental Site Officer:** SASOL Natural Gas Project Mozambique to South Africa. Temane- and Inhassoro flowlines, access roads and well heads.

Client: Impacto, Maputo Mozambique.

November 2002 – March 2003.

56. **Environmental Site Officer:** SASOL Natural Gas Project Mozambique to South Africa. RSA Pipeline Komatipoort to Secunda.

Client: GLMC RSA.

January 2003 – October 2003.

57. **Environmental Site Officer:** SASOL Natural Gas Project Mozambique to South Africa. RSA Pipeline Komatipoort to Secunda.

Client: Mark Wood Consultants, RSA.

May 2003 – August 2003.

58. **Environmental Management Assessment:** Sanbona Game Reserve, Cape Province.

Client: Mantis Collection.

July 2006.

59. **Ecological Report:** An Ecological Assessment of the Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecosystems of the Proposed Limpopo River Bridge Crossing and Associated Access Routes Pafuri-Mabilingwe-Matshakatani Area, Limpopo, South Africa.

Client: TRIVIRON and SANParks.

November 2007.

60. **Environmental Impact Assessment.** The transformation of land for mixed commercial and retail use, Remainder of Portion 53 of the Farm: Malelane 389 JU, Malelane.  
Client: Ginalex (Pty) Ltd.  
July 2007.

61. **Environmental Impact Assessment:** The Transformation of Land in the Hectorspruit Area: Portion 62 of the Farm: Tenbosch 162 JU, for Cultivating Citrus as a Sub-tropical Crop.  
Client: Greyvan Investments.  
April 2008.

62. **Operational Management Plan:** Roads Network: Jock Concession.  
Client: Mantis Collection.  
August 2008.

63. **Environmental Audit:** Skukuza Weather Station (Radome).  
Client: SA Weather Services.  
July 2008- present.

64. **Environmental Impact Assessment:** Residential and Township Development, Malelane.  
Client: Sean van Veijeren.  
August 2008.

65. **Biodiversity Report:** An Ecological Assessment of the Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecosystems of the Proposed New Zamokuhle Distribution Substation site and the New Kingbird Power Line near Hendrina, Mpumalanga, South Africa.  
Client: Cleanstream Biological Services.  
February 2009.

66. **Action Plan:** Cross Border Law Enforcement Regulation in Sensitive Areas Workshop.  
Client: DEAT (National).  
November 2008.

67. **Action Plan:** Cross Border Off Road Driving Vehicles Regulation in Sensitive Areas Workshop.  
Client: DEAT (National).  
November 2008.

## **6.2. Wildlife Management**

1. An **Appraisal of Environmental Legislation and Possible Implications for Hunting Operations.**  
Client: Timbavati Private Nature Reserve,  
December 2001.

2. Proposed **Veld Intensification Programme** at Shambala Private Game Reserve, Limpopo Province , RSA.  
Client: Charter Wrapmaster (Pty) Ltd,  
August 2001.

3. An **Environmental Management Programme** for Luciti Game Farm: MOZAMBIQUE.  
Client: Piet Uys;  
August 2001.

4. An **Environmental Management Programme** for Brosdoringhoek Game Farm, Limpopo Province, RSA.  
Client: Bakgat Omgewingsdienste,  
December 2001.

5. An Ecological Study and Environmental Management Programme: **Joanda Game Farm and Safari Lodge: ANGOLA.**  
Client: José Récio and Carlos Lages.  
August 2002.

6. **Financial Plan:** Joanda Game Farm and Safari Lodge: ANGOLA.  
Client: José Récio and Carlos Lages.  
August 2002.

7. **Fencing Project:** Joanda Game Farm and Safari Lodge: ANGOLA.

**Client: José Récio and Carlos Lages.**  
**October 2002.**

8. An **Environmental Management Programme** for The Oaks & Ingifell Game Farm, Mpumalanga Province, RSA.  
Client: Mr. Tom Robson.  
July 2003.

9. An **Ecological Study and Management Programme**: Diepkloof Game Farm.  
Client: Mr. Johan Grobler  
January 2004.

10. **Environmental Perspective**: Manyeleti, Andover and Associated Farms, Limpopo Province, South Africa.  
Client: WINDEV.  
November 2004.

11. **Woody Vegetation Surveys** at artificial Waterholes in the KNP Concession Areas.  
Client: Scientific Services (KNP).  
February 2004.

12. The Possibilities of **Fly Fishing** as Sustainable Product in the Sehlabathebe National Park: Lesotho.  
Client: Clean Stream Biological Services.  
March 2007.

13. A **Rare Species Management Plan** for Khirtar National Park, Pakistan.  
Client: Van Riet and Louw Landscape Architects and Sind Wildlife Department.  
October 2003.

14. **Rapid Veld Condition Assessment**: Farm: Doornkop.  
Client: Mr. Willie Joubert.  
October 2007.

15. **Monthly Auditing, Monitoring, & Training Reports** No. 1 and 2: Oaks & Ingifell Game Farm, Mpumalanga Province, RSA.  
Client: Mr. Tom Robson.  
August-September 2003.

16. **Monitoring Report: Aeromag Survey**. Dumaneni Game Reserve, Malelane.  
Client: Mr. P. van Rooyen  
April 2008.

17. **Environmental Management Plan**: Croc River Mountain Conservancy, Uitkyk-Mara Area, Mpumalanga.  
Client: Croc River Mountain Conservancy.  
March 2008.

18. **Environmental Management Plan**: Buffalo Breeding Project, Wakkerstroom, Mpumalanga.  
Client: Martin Krog.  
June 2008.

### **6.3. Community Development / Social Ecology**

1. **Environmental Plan**: The Production of Charcoal in the Phalaborwa Industrial Area.  
Client: Bakgat Environmental Services,  
May 2001.

2. **Application of the Guidelines** in the nature-based Tourism Sector: **Case Study** Assessment, Pretoriuskop Camp, Kruger National Park.  
Client: Institute for Natural Resources,  
February 2002.

3. **Facilitation of Public Meeting and Compilation of Minutes** of the Interested and Affected Parties Meeting with reference to the Crocodile River Barrier Project held at Malelane Country Club; June 2002.  
Client: Nkomazi Town Council;  
June 2002.

#### **6.4. Training**

1. **Tender** for the Field Ranger Selection, Kruger National Park.  
Client: SANParks, KNP,  
January 2002.

2. **Protected Area Management Plan**: Module 5 for Certificate Course: **Trainer & Course Leader**.  
Client: South African Wildlife College,  
March 2002.

3. **Environmental Development Plans**: EIA's for Diploma Course: **Trainer and Course Leader**.  
Client: South African Wildlife College.  
April 2005-2007.

4. **Organisation for Tropical Studies: Survey and Report** on Suitable Research Sites and Logistical Support Infrastructure, Kruger National Park.  
Client: SANParks, KNP,  
March 2002.

5. **Ecology Course**: Tinga Guides  
Client: Tinga Concession, KNP.  
January 2006.

6. **Practical**: University of Pretoria: **MPhil. Wildlife Management**.  
Client: University of Pretoria.  
September 2007 to present.

#### **6.5.Guiding**

1. Lebombo Eco 4 x 4 Trail, Kruger National Park. **Trail Leader**.  
Client: SANParks, KNP,  
July 2001 - present.

2. **Specialist Guide** to Dr. Lindsey Gillson (Oxford University): The Spatial and Temporal Scale of Vegetation Change, in Kruger National Park. Collecting sediment samples, Kruger National Park.  
Client: SANParks, KNP,  
November 2001.

3. **Relief Wilderness Trails Ranger**; Kruger National Park.  
Client: SANParks, KNP.  
Ongoing.

**We are sure you will enjoy your course!**

