



# ECOTRAINING PROFESSIONAL FIELD GUIDE COURSE

## DURATION

12 months

## LOCATION

- Makuleke Concession, northern Kruger Park, South Africa
- Karongwe Game Reserve, South Africa
- Selati Game Reserve, South Africa
- Mashatu Game Reserve, Botswana
- Pridelands Conservancy, Greater Kruger, South Africa

## PREREQUISITES

- Fit and able to walk for at least 5km.
- Be over the age of 18 years and older unaccompanied by an adult.
- Be in possession of a valid driver's license (preferred manual gear shift).
- Learner must be able to communicate effectively in spoken and written English.



FGASA and CATHSSETA are the two bodies primarily responsible for regulating standards within the guide training industry in South Africa. For the One Year Professional Field Guide course, EcoTraining will register students with FGASA and CATHSSETA. Students need not arrange this themselves before coming on the course. PFTC (Professional Firearm Trainers Council) firearm proficiency (theoretical and practical) will take place during the Rifle Handling section.

**NOTE:** PrDP (Professional Drivers Permit) most lodges require that students have a PrDP as this allows them to transport groups of people in a company vehicle. Please understand that participants under the age of 21 years and foreigners without a study visa are not eligible to apply for a South African PrDP.



Mashatu Camp



Makuleke Camp



Karongwe Camp



Selati Camp



Pridelands Camp

## ABOUT THE COURSE

*This comprehensive and unique one-year course has been designed to supply the safari industry with high-caliber FGASA and CATHSSETA qualified professional field guides*

Students live and learn at four different wilderness camps giving them exposure to diverse ecological and geographical terrains, wildlife species, climates and more. These remote wilderness camps may include the Makuleke Concession (Kruger), Karongwe Reserve, Selati Reserve, Mashatu Reserve (Botswana) or Pridelands Reserve. The unfenced bush camps provide a consistently stimulating environment in which to learn, supported by highly qualified and experienced instructors, each with their own unique way of training and guiding that will enhance the overall student training experience. There is no other course that offers this breadth of wildlife immersion and knowledge.

This course comprises of approximately 5 months of theoretical and practical training with highly qualified instructors, in which participants will complete various separate certificate courses. Following this is a placement programme period of 5 - 6 months which will make up the second half of the course. Students are placed at a lodge where they will work with professional lodge staff and management in order to develop their newly acquired skills. At the end of the course the student will not only have potentially gained qualification/certificates, but will have also gained substantial practical working experience.

### OVERVIEW OF MODULES

Wilderness First Aid	Field Guide (Nature Site Guide NQF2)	Basic Birding	Advanced Birding
Tracking	Rifle Handling (PFTC)	Trails Guide	

### YOU COULD GRADUATE WITH

1. Wilderness Medicine: Level 1 and 2 Certificate
2. Nature Site Guide NQF2 (CATHSSETA) qualification and FGASA Apprentice Field Guide Certificate
3. Firearm Proficiency Certificate (US 117705, 119651, 123519)
4. FGASA ARH Competency
5. FGASA Apprentice Trails Guide Status
6. EcoTracker Track and Sign Certificate
7. EcoTracker Trailing Certificate
8. FGASA Tracker Certificate
9. EcoTraining Basic Birding Certificate
10. EcoTraining Advanced Birding Certificate
11. EcoTraining Certificate of Participation

### Certification and Accreditation

EcoTraining is a FGASA registered and endorsed training provider. We are also accredited with CATHSSETA (Tourism and Hospitality and Sport Education Training Authority) for the NQF2 Nature Guide Site Qualification (Field Guide), thereby meeting the required standard.



### Accommodation

The sleeping arrangements at all our camps consist of two people sharing per tent. Single requests are required to pay double rates. Women and men do not share tents unless booked as a couple.

### Meals

- Early morning wake-up : tea, coffee, biscuits, fresh fruit and cereal
- Brunch after activity : cooked breakfast and fruit salad
- Afternoon tea : light lunch / sandwiches
- Dinner : balanced, warm plated meal with meat, vegetables and salad