



**Wildlife Campus**

20  
YEARS  
ANNIVERSARY

LEARN PROTECT SAVE

# Magazine

**A new free course!**

**Snakebite!**  
**What to do?**

**Nature Guide Training and  
Safari Industry careers in detail.**

**Waiting 53 years for a pangolin**

**Invitation:**  
**Webinar on recruitment.**

# WildlifeCampus

## Celebrates **20 years**



WildlifeCampus CEO  
Todd Kaplan

At a curious meeting a week before WildlifeCampus was launched, a rather unnerving question was posed: “What if nobody cares?”

Peter Armitage picks up the narrative in the AfriCam Story: The Show must go on.

Dimension Data had put a great deal of effort into WildlifeCampus and towards the end of 2000 the site approached launch date. Todd had a scare a few weeks before launch when a server crash resulted in over 15 000 images being lost.

The community, and the virtual drive game rangers rallied to Todd's assistance in an amazing fashion. Todd composed a list of the lost images and within weeks they had all been replaced.

WildlifeCampus soft launched on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2000 and got its hyperlink from the AfriCam homepage. The full launch was on 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2000.

Todd recalls that “A year previously six individuals had met and agreed that an internet game ranging site was a viable idea.” During that period hundreds of thousands of rands and countless hours of work had been put in to bringing this dream to life. At that point we would find out whether anybody else cared.

“It took a few minutes for my slow brain to register that there was a new link on the AfriCam site – ‘WildlifeCampus’.”

Enthusiastic AfriCam watcher Tabatha recalls that “I went straight to the site and could not believe what I was seeing – an online course for wannabe Game Rangers? Could it be? How did they know? After registering I took the free Elephant test – this looked like it could be a lot of fun! After all, if I could get 80% on my first test after reading the component through just once, there must be hope for me. Little did I know how much fun it would be (or how ‘tricky’ some of the future test questions, or that the ‘tricky’

questions would lead eventually to the build-up of a wonderful community of students).

I was hooked. I bought the course as soon as I could, only to find out from Todd later that I was in fact, the first student to actually purchase the whole course – I am still trying to work out if that was good fortune or a big mistake on my part!” (Ed. Our eternal gratitude Margaret !)

As the above excerpt suggests, WildlifeCampus was pretty much an instant success. This was due to two main reasons. First, we had produced the right product. It was unparalleled, unique, cheap and had a very wide appeal. Second, and equally important, we had AfriCam which provided us with an instant core community of wildlife enthusiasts and a passing traffic of millions.

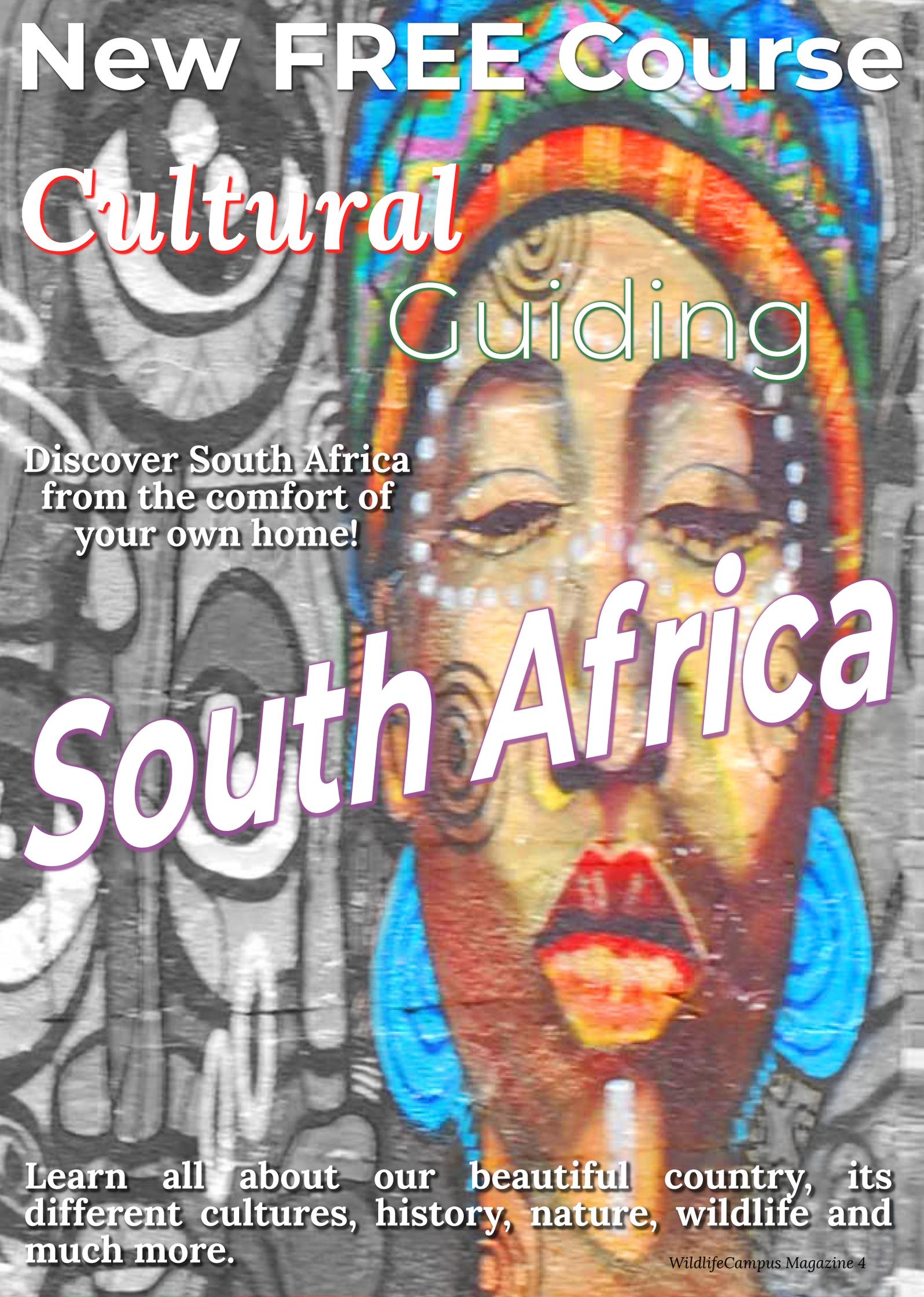
WildlifeCampus achieved a remarkable feat in that it was cash positive (generating income to cover monthly expenses) from its first month of operation. This appears to be the biggest opportunity on the internet at present – selling digital products which have a low cost of sales and do not have the complication of delivery.

Todd

# In this Magazine



<i>20 years of WildlifeCampus: The origin story</i>	2
<i>NEW Free course: Cultural Guiding South Africa</i>	4
<i>Snakes and Snakebite by African Snakebite Institute</i>	5
<i>How to join WildlifeCampus in 4 steps</i>	7
<i>WildlifeCampus student in the spotlight</i>	8
<i>Nature Guide Training by EcoTraining</i>	9
<i>The Safari Industry and recruitment by SafariStaff</i>	11
<i>WildlifeCampus celebrates a 2 year collaboration</i>	12
<i>Discount for our readers!</i>	13
<i>Online vs Paper-based courses: What are the differences?</i>	14
<i>Wildlife story: "A worthwhile wait"</i>	15



**New FREE Course**

***Cultural***

**Guiding**

**Discover South Africa  
from the comfort of  
your own home!**

***South Africa***

**Learn all about our beautiful country, its  
different cultures, history, nature, wildlife and  
much more.**

# SNAKES AND SNAKEBITE



There are around 172 different types of snakes in Southern Africa, 20 of these are considered potentially deadly and another 29 can inflict serious but not lethal bites.

We see a peak in snake activity during autumn as the snakes prepare for hibernation, and human/snake encounters are frequent. In southern Africa, it rarely gets cold enough for snakes to go into full hibernation and although they are far less active in winter, snakes may emerge from their winter hide-outs on a warm winters day to bask in the sun.



When summer returns, the warmer temperatures will encourage snakes to start feeding more regularly and many species will start looking for mates. The first rains of the season will bring the frogs out and many snakes will start moving around looking for an easy meal.

We see a lot of snake activity at game lodges during the summer months - both with sightings on game drives, but also snake removals from staff quarters, guest rooms and common areas. Most large lodges have protocols in place for emergencies as part of the company's health and safety protocols. We've put together some important information regarding the emergency protocols for snake sightings and snakebite which should be in place for such organisations where guests and staff are exposed to snakes.

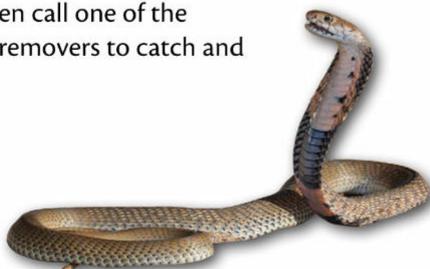
## SNAKE SIGHTING PROTOCOLS



Should a snake be spotted on site, the following protocols should be followed:

### Snake Sighting Protocol:

- 1). Do not attempt to catch or kill the snake.
- 2). Move a safe distance away (5 meters or more).
- 3). Keep an eye on the snake from a safe distance.
- 4). Contact the duty manager and advise them of the sighting.
- 5). The manager should then call one of the company's qualified snake removers to catch and relocate the snake.



When conducting snake awareness, first aid for snakebite and venomous snake handling courses, we always recommend that a concise and practical snakebite emergency protocol is drawn up and made available to all employees. This is usually part of the safety procedures of every company, and a requirement of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Exactly what such a document should include is not always clear, and this could lead to confusion and even fatalities.



## SNAKEBITE EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS



Herewith some guidelines on what should be included in a Snakebite Emergency Protocol:

- 1). **Snake Awareness:** All employees should avoid snakes at all cost, and never attempt to catch or kill a snake unless formally certified to remove snakes. Maintain a safe distance of at least 5 m from any snake and if closer, move away swiftly. Snakes do not chase after people.
- 2). **Snake Removal:** If a snake is seen on site, watch it from a safe distance (5 m or more) and notify management so that the snake can be removed safely by a certified remover.
- 3). **Contact numbers.** In the event of a snakebite or venom in the eyes, all employees must know which management staff need to be informed. Provide the necessary telephone numbers or radio links.
- 4). **Transport to the nearest hospital.** In the event of a bite: Where must the victim be taken, and by whom? Which hospital should the victim be transported to, and by whom? Is there an ambulance available close by? Management need to be clear on how the victim will be transported to the nearest hospital and which hospital (a hospital with a trauma unit is best). Such transport may have to be with a company vehicle. If not, establish whether the company's insurance includes transport by private ambulance or even air evacuation.



**5). First Aid procedures.** There is little that can be done for snakebite victims in the short term, and it is usually best to get them the nearest hospital quickly and safely. Well over 90% of snakebites are from snakes with cytotoxic venom that causes pain and swelling. Little can be done for such victims other than to slightly elevate the affected limb and getting them to a hospital for medical treatment.

In **Black Mamba** and **Cape Cobra** bites, the venom causes progressive weakness and may rapidly affect breathing, but again – there is little that first aiders can do other than to get the victim to the nearest hospital.

Time is of the essence as, in serious cases, victims may experience breathing difficulties within half an hour.

**SNAKEBITE... IF THE SNAKE RESPONSIBLE HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED**

- In Boomslang or Twig Snake bites...** Immobilise the patient and promptly transport to hospital.
- In Adder, Stiletto or Spitting Cobra Bites...** Elevate the affected limb slightly above the heart and immobilise the limb. **NO PRESSURE BANDAGES**
- In Mamba and Non-spitting Cobra Bites...** Wrap the affected limb in pressure bandages and apply a splint.

**IF THE SNAKE RESPONSIBLE HAS NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED**

- IF THERE IS PAIN AND SWELLING**
- IF THE PATIENT EXPERIENCES DIFFICULTY WITH BREATHING**

**PROMPTLY TRANSPORT TO THE NEAREST HOSPITAL**

**AFRICAN SNAKEBITE INSTITUTE .COM**

**6). Off-site snakebite incidences.** In many instances, employees are out in the field working on projects away from their head offices. In such instances, ensure that proper procedures are in place – including what hospitals are in the area and how a victim will be transported there. First aid for snakebite is often neglected and could result in devastating consequences.

**7). Advanced First Aid for snakebite training.** Where employees work far away from hospitals (more than an hour or two), management should consider having their employees trained to administer advanced first aid for snakebite – specifically for the use of pressure immobilization, pocket masks, and a bag valve mask reserve..

**8). Antivenom.** In well over 85% of snakebite cases where victims are hospitalised, antivenom is not administered as it is not necessary. In high risk snakebite areas, check whether local hospitals stock antivenom. If not, consider stocking at least 15 vials of polyvalent antivenom on site (15 vials will cost around R21, 000 in South Africa and substantially more if exported). Antivenom should only be administered by a medical doctor in a trauma unit and never in a local clinic, as a large number of patients have an allergic reaction to the antivenom – anaphylaxis is not uncommon.

## HOW TO AVOID SNAKEBITES

- 1). Snakes often enter rooms through open doors. Adding mosquito screen doors prevents this when doors are left open. Doors should seal firmly at the bottom, as snakes can squeeze underneath if there is a big enough gap.
- 2). Branches should be cleared away from windows, as snakes sometimes use these to climb into windows. Again, mosquito screens would prevent this.
- 3). Most snakebites occur in the early evening. Pathways should be well lit, and employees and guests should carry torches and wear closed shoes at night.
- 4). When in the field, step onto logs or rocks – not over them – as snakes often hide under or bask against them.
- 5). Employees that work in the field should consider wearing certified snake gaiters.



The **African Snakebite Institute** is the leading training provider of Snake Awareness, First Aid for Snakebite and Venomous Snake Handling courses in Africa, and the largest supplier of quality snake handling and first aid for snakebite equipment on the continent.

We have a immensely popular free app, ASI Snakes, which is available on both IOS and Android. The app lists the contact numbers of over 600 snake removers, throughout Africa . It also has a map of the local hospitals which can aid you in the case of a snakebite emergency. It includes First Aid for Snakebite information, as well as the Poison Information Centre contact details and a direct line to the African Snakebite Institute. The app also has over 150 profiles of snakes, scorpions and spiders and you can also send your photos through for identification.

**ASI SNAKES APP**  
**90 000 DOWNLOADS!**

**THIS FREE APP INCLUDES...**

- SNAKE PROFILES
- SCORPION PROFILES
- SNAKE REMOVALS
- SNAKE ID'S
- SNAKE POSTERS
- FIRST AID FOR SNAKEBITE
- LOCAL SPECIES
- SNAKE QUIZZES
- MYTHS AND HOAXES

**WWW.AFRICANSNAKEBITEINSTITUTE.COM**

# How to join *WildlifeCampus*

WildlifeCampus has been a FGASA endorsed distance learning provider since the year 2000. Over 25,000 students in over 154 countries have used WildlifeCampus to enhance their knowledge of our valuable Wildlife and Nature!

Are you a wildlife enthusiast, up for a career change, a professional in the wildlife/tourism industry or simply curious in all that involves natural sciences and wildlife?

Then our courses will be your thing!

## In **4** Simple Steps

- Go to [www.wildlifecampus.com](http://www.wildlifecampus.com)
- Left on top of the homepage click the "Register Online Courses" button
- Complete the registration form
- Click the "Register for free" button to complete your registration



**Or click the wax seal to start filling  
in our registration form.**

# Student Spotlight

## WildlifeCampus

In this edition we introduce you to WildlifeCampus Student, Wilfried Hähler from Namibia.

In the time Wilfried has been with us, he has completed a whopping 19 online courses!



Wilfried is The CEO of Hitradio Namibia and has a deep passion for everything wildlife-related including conservation, education, research, travel and photography.

A true "go-getter" who puts 100% of himself into everything he does.

Wilfried certainly inspires us and reminds us that life is a beautiful adventure and every moment is to be used wisely.

Keep up the great work Wilfried and THANK YOU for everything you do.

Your contribution towards conserving our precious planet is invaluable!



# WORLD-CLASS NATURE GUIDE TRAINING

*Training the future guardians of nature*

*Can you identify this Bird?*

---

Become an expert in the wilderness,  
learn about our natural world and  
spend your time in some of the most  
remote areas left in Southern Africa.

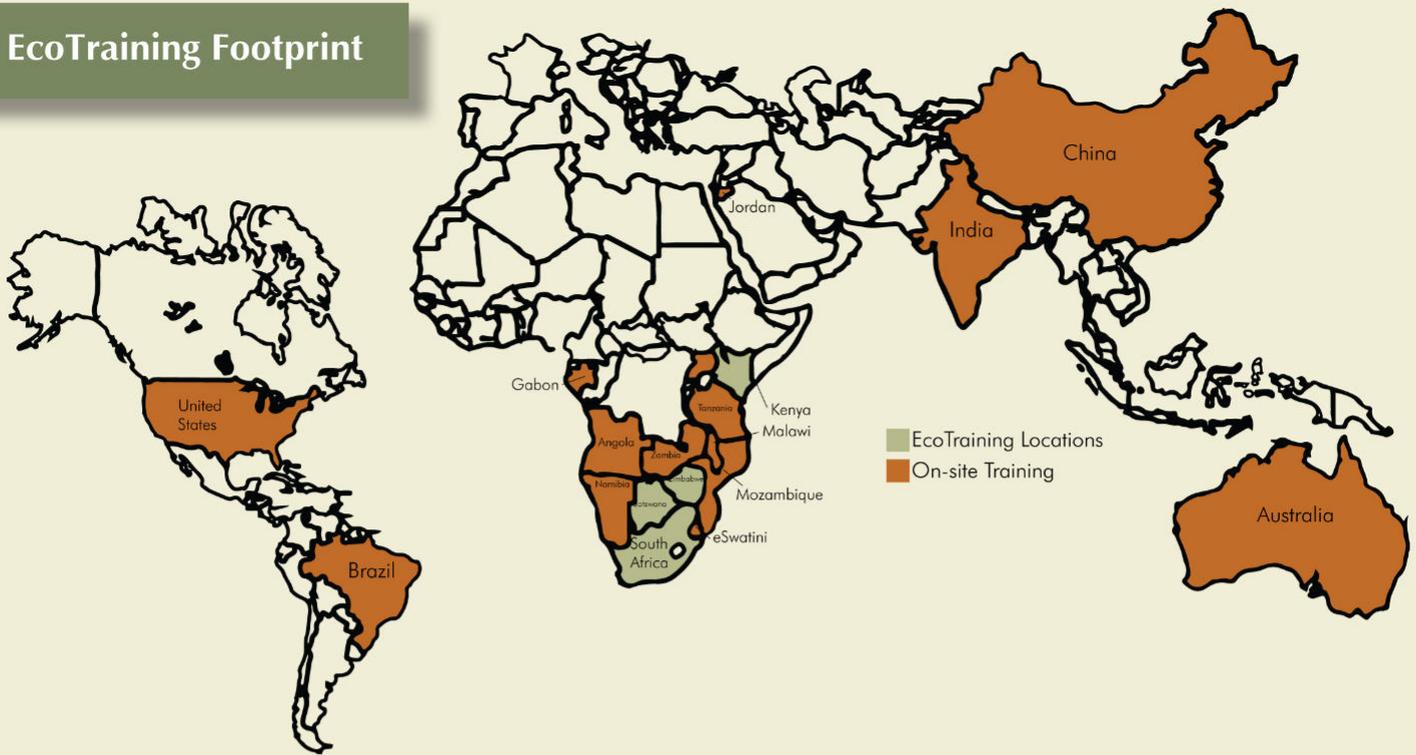
---

Grey crowned crane  
(*Balearica regulorum*)



Unfenced Wilderness Camps | Big Game Areas | Two Activities Daily | Experiential Training

## EcoTraining Footprint



## EcoTraining Courses

### CAREER COURSES

- EcoTraining Professional Field Guide Course: 1 year
- EcoTraining Field Guide (FGASA/NQF2)  
Course: 55 days
- EcoTraining Kenya Field Guide (FGASA/NQF2)  
Course: 55 days
- EcoTraining Trails Guide (FGASA)  
Course: 28 days

### NATURE COURSES

- EcoQuest Course: 7 or 14 days
- EcoTracker Course: 7 or 14 days
- Birding in the Bush Course: 7 days
- Wilderness Trails Skills Course: 6 days
- Wilderness Photography Course: 7 days
- Masai Mara EcoQuest: 7 or 14 days

## About EcoTraining

Operating for 27 years, EcoTraining is the pioneer and leader in safari guide and wildlife training in Africa. EcoTraining is widely recognised by the safari industry for its credibility and standard of excellence in nature guide training. We offer accredited career courses, gap year and sabbatical programmes, nature programmes, high school and university study abroad programmes, custom courses and on-site professional guide training at safari lodges. All courses are run directly from EcoTraining's unfenced bush camps in prime wilderness areas across South Africa, Botswana, Kenya and Zimbabwe.



Tel: +27 (0)13 752 2532 | Email: [enquiries@ecotraining.co.za](mailto:enquiries@ecotraining.co.za) | Visit: [www.ecotraining.co.za](http://www.ecotraining.co.za)

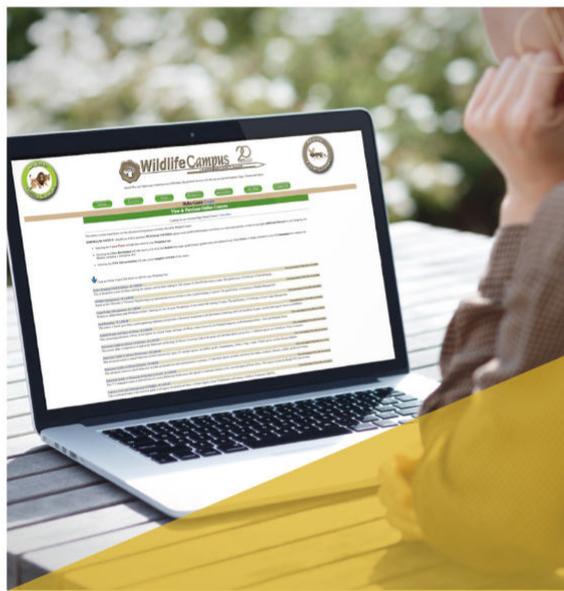


# SAFARISTAFF INTERNATIONAL

training & recruitment solutions

SafariStaff International has been placing experienced safari staff into positions throughout the African continent. For the past seven years, the name SafariStaff has become well known with lodge owners as well as tour operator proprietors as a specialist recruitment agency, always willing to go the extra mile to find the best suitable staff for their operations.

SafariStaff International specialises in placing hospitality staff into positions such as general manager, lodge managers, camp manager, executive chefs, maintenance managers and qualified experience safari guides.



Our ongoing relationship with both WildlifeCampus and Eco Training has allowed us the opportunity to offer work experience and work placements to recently graduated students wishing to start their careers in the Safari Industry. Register below by uploading your c.v to the website.

REGISTER



COVID-19 has not only shifted business trends, but also employer priorities and the entire employment landscape. Our goal is to guide and help you adapt your skills and knowledge accordingly so you can continue purposeful, quality communication with potential employers and stand strong with your motivation.

We recommend that you complete a WildlifeCampus course. They have an abundance of online courses to help improve your knowledge and skills in your chosen field.

Why not try something different with your C.V? Something that would really allow you to stand out from other candidates. These services are available on request and your plain C.V could be transformed into a stunning document that would definatley get you noticed. Please email [nico@safaristaff.com](mailto:nico@safaristaff.com) for more information regarding this.



We want to invite all WildlifeCampus students and eco training students past present and future onto a webinar. The webinar will be a platform where we would openly discuss the future of recruitment, giving honest and transparent view and advice for the future.

The webinar date will be announced on social media as well as Wildlifecampus platforms, this should be towards the end of May.

Nico van Zyl  
International Development

Tel: +27 788049344  
Email: [nico@safaristaff.com](mailto:nico@safaristaff.com)

GET IN TOUCH

# Collaboration

## Wildlife Management Celebration

The WildlifeCampus Wildlife Management course was originally written by WildlifeCampus' CEO, Todd Kaplan. The course stems from the University of Pretoria's Centre for Wildlife Management's honours degree programme but has been re-written so that no prior learning is required.

The WildlifeCampus Wildlife Management course is purposefully structured to provide comprehensive information to those who truly want to learn significantly more about the ecological management of game farms and game reserves.



As WildlifeCampus continues to grow, we are constantly researching and working on bringing our students the best possible content and practical advice on offer.

Hillcrest Game Estates provides WildlifeCampus, which is principally an online training provider, with practical experiences directly related and relevant to WildlifeCampus online courseware.

WildlifeCampus' ability to offer a richer assortment of visual content for the Wildlife Management course started with a round of talks which took place in November 2017. Principally brokered by Adrian Baillie-Stewart, director at Content Strategics, the WildlifeCampus management-team met with John Firth from Hillcrest Game Estates. These talks culminated in the establishment of a collaboration agreement between WildlifeCampus and Hillcrest Game Estates.

In March of 2018 WildlifeCampus visited Hillcrest Game Estates. It was at this time that the WLC/Hillcrest collaboration agreement was officially signed. During the first visit to Hillcrest, WildlifeCampus was accompanied by Kailen Padayachee from KaiNav Conservation Foundation. Kailen assisted WildlifeCampus with the content update of the Wildlife Management course.



THE FIRTH FAMILY FARM SINCE 1914

*John Firth*  
4th GENERATION

*Thank you to all involved in this amazing collaboration.  
We look forward to meeting again!*

# Discount *for our* WildlifeCampus Magazine readers

*Let us bring the bush to you!*

*Mail us your username and the line:  
"Bring me the bush" to receive a 20%  
discount to purchase online courses in  
our online shop!*



# Online Courses vs. Paper-based

WildlifeCampus proudly promotes paperless education! Courses are accessed and completed online via your profile on our website. Content can be downloaded in PDF format onto your mobile device so you can study anytime, even without internet.

Our 4 main courses (Field Guiding/Game Ranging, Wildlife Management, Game Lodge Management and Anti-Poaching) are also offered in a paper-based (manual) format.

## What is the Difference?

### In both online and paper-based courses:

- Registration is FREE.
- There are no entrance requirements.
- Content is identical.
- No deadlines are set. Courses can be completed at your own pace!
- You do not need a visa or study permits.
- You will receive a certificate upon completion.
- Payment options are available.
- The students are encouraged to email us any questions they have.
- Our academic support team is always ready!

### Online Courses

**Courses are accessed and completed online**, via your profile on our website.

**Tests are completed online.** Results are visible instantly upon completing a test.

**Register as an Online student by clicking here**

### Paper-based Courses

**Courses are printed in manuals** and posted to your nearest post office for collection.

**Tests are completed on paper assignments** and sent by email for marking.

**Register as a Paper-based student by clicking here**

# A worthwhile Wait

By David Batzofin



Which one of the following is real? Bigfoot, the Loch Ness Monster, unicorns or pangolins? One of these has been on top of my WLWL (Wild Life Wish List) since my 13<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1966 when my present was a trip to the Kruger National Park. In the intervening years, every time I have visited a lodge and the field guides enquire about favourites, "pangolin" is the first word out of my mouth. (Their name, pangolin, is derived from the Malay word 'pengguling', which means 'rolling up'.)

However, that changed on a recent trip when I broke that tradition and I requested hyena instead.

Perhaps it was a way of not tempting the pangolin gods and then perhaps, just perhaps, my wish to see one would be granted. We had started a morning drive when a garbled call came in over the radio. Our field guide, our tracker and I all thought we had heard the word "penguin". But how would you spot an Antarctic creature in the middle of the South African bush? "Repeat please" was the immediate instruction. "PANGOLIN" was the response. STOP THE VEHICLE! Was my dream finally about to become reality? Nothing ventured, nothing gained as the game vehicle was turned around and we set off in the direction of the sighting. Finally we arrived and the guide who had called in the sighting, pointed excitedly to a spot under some branches... I held my breath as I peered into the undergrowth.



## 53 years of waiting finally came to an end!

There it was! Curled up and trying to make itself as inconspicuous as possible. The most trafficked animal on the planet lay (almost) at my feet. This animal had been top of my list for so long that there is not even a number two to take its place. I was also concerned that it would stay in this position indefinitely and a small portion of

the pangolin was all that I would see. However, once all the vehicles and their guests had left the area, a tiny face slowly peered out of the undergrowth. Would it emerge? I held my breath...

I see a snout... eventually it appeared out of the undergrowth. Although the front feet have several huge claws, those are used for digging and not as a defense. Their major form of self-protection, rolling into a tight ball, is also their biggest weakness. When they are in this position, they can be picked up and placed in a container without any resistance.

Still uncertain of the threat posed by those still at the sighting, it rolled into a partial ball and ended up looking like a giant artichoke.

Finally, it crept out of the safety of the branches and proceeded to scuttle across in front of me. I could have wept. Not only did I get to spend time with it, but to be this close was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

