



Wildlife Campus

LEARN PROTECT SAVE

Magazine

Migration of Fruit bats

By Stuart on Nature

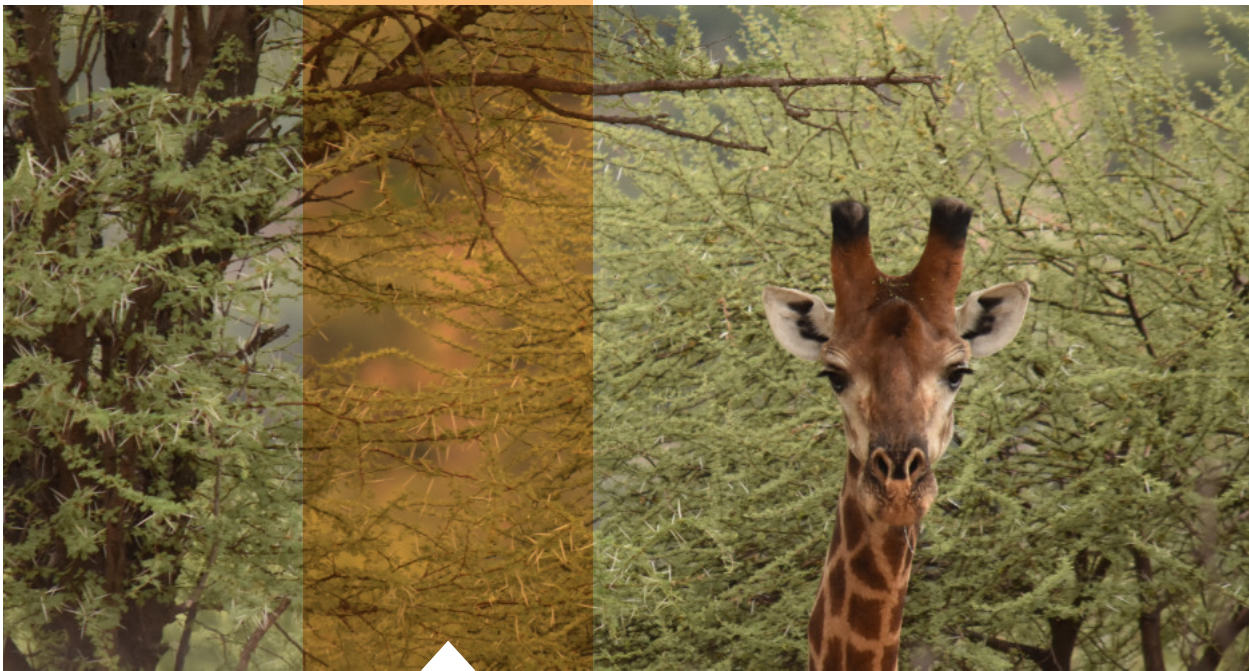
Giraffes

By Amy Holt

Certificates and CV's

End of year special on all our courses!

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“The show must go on”, a book written by Peter Armitage tells the birth story of a company called AfriCam. Read with us as the story unfolds, AfriCam grows and eventually, WildlifeCampus finds its origin.

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The show must go on!

The origin story of WildlifeCampus

01

By co-founder of
WildlifeCampus and
Anchor CEO

Peter Armitage



Missed the previous parts of this story? [Click here](#) to open the WildlifeCampus magazine where this exciting journey starts.

Duarte was poached from Merrill Lynch by Peregrine. The day the announcement was made, the streetpole posters read “Peregrine share price leaps 30%”. The market was so buoyant that any good news sent share prices spiralling. The way the logic went was that if Duarte worked for Peregrine, he would invest in IT companies whose value would increase. This would increase the value of Peregrine and hence the “acquisition” of Duarte was good for the share price. It was the time of intellectual capital.

One of the investments that Peregrine made was in financial portal Moneyweb (www.moneyweb.co.za). JB, Duarte and Saul had wined and dined the founder Alec Hogg and had purchased a sizeable stake of the company. They planned to list the business and Duarte approached me to join the team.

The logic was that, just as Duarte’s acquisition had made a huge impact on the value of Peregrine, so my presence at Moneyweb would have a positive impact. Alec had a successful website and ran an investment television programme on Radio 702.



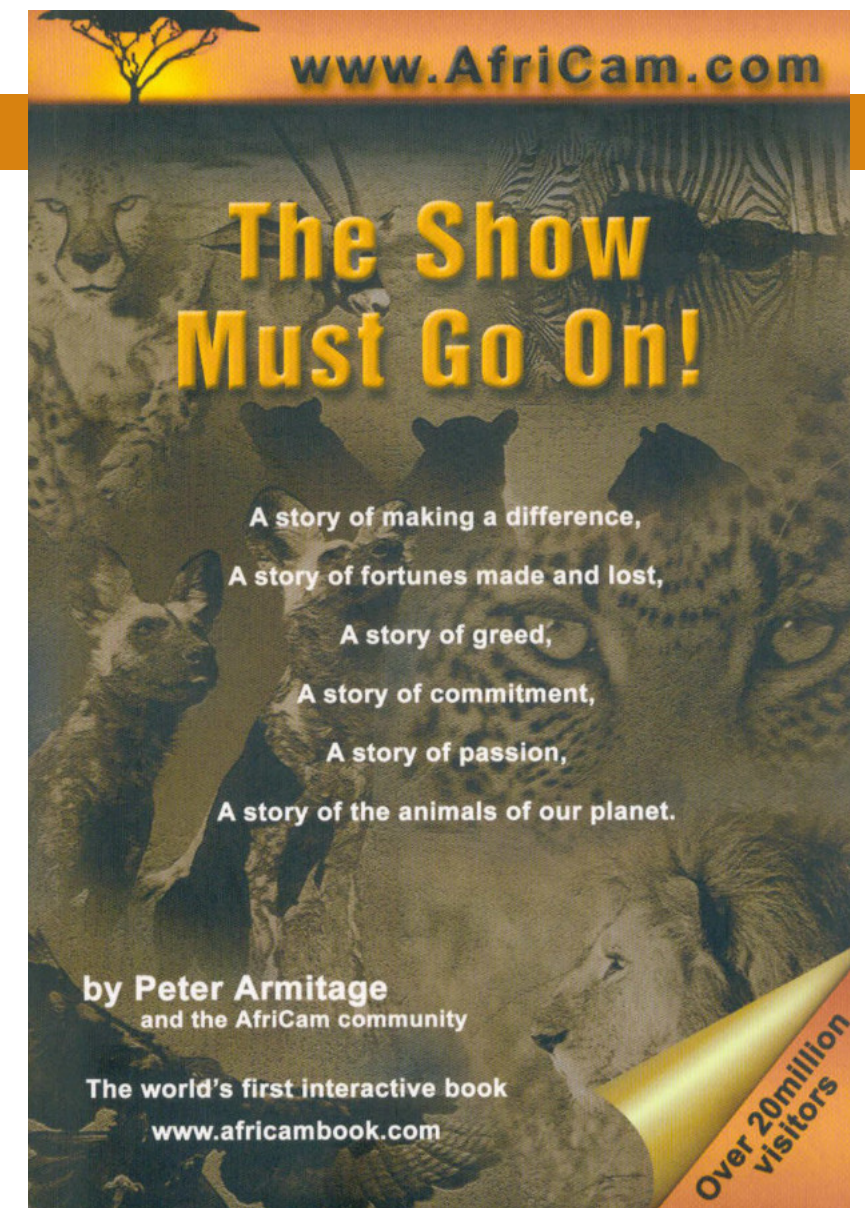
As an analyst I regularly participated and became friendly with Alec. He hinted at my joining Moneyweb and Duarte took it a step further.

Negotiations advanced apace and meetings at the Hyatt hotel ensued. It was agreed in principle that Lynne and I would join Moneyweb and the company would acquire Fingershopper. All that was left was the pricing, the share package and salaries. This is when the deal fell apart.

In this new economy, Duarte understood the value of intellectual capital. After all, he had been a beneficiary of the concept. But while Alec wanted to take advantage of the crazy valuations, he was not prepared to share in the spoils.

I was offered the same number of shares as everybody else in the company (200 000 at a value of R1 (US\$0.10)) and a salary of one-third of what I was earning at Merrill Lynch. Duarte tried to motivate a more market-related salary and package, but Alec did not bite. He had created the value, so why should he give away a large portion of his personal wealth. It was a perfectly understandable viewpoint, but it meant that it was not viable for me.

I explained to Alec that the share price would have to rise 10 times for me to break-even on my departure from Merrill Lynch. Alec believed it would. It rose 80% and peaked at 180c, after listing at 100c, but it declined rapidly in the ensuing year. In late 2002, the share was trading at around 30c. My shares in the company would have equated to a month’s salary.



“The Show Must Go On by Peter Armitage and the AfriCam community.”

Unable to reach agreement, Lynne’s director status and CV was hastily retracted from the Moneyweb listing documents and the grand plan to announce my “acquisition” after the listing as a post-listing share-booster was abandoned. By that stage, Alec’s relationship with the Peregrine consortium had soured.

Duarte’s next offer was for me to lead AfriCam. It sounded fascinating. Word was spreading in the financial community about this South African website that was attracting the same sort of traffic as American websites. “800 000 hits a day” were bandied about and that was the same as all other South African websites put together. That was what Moneyweb did in a month!

I sat at my desk at Merrill Lynch and watched the AfriCam website. It was more interesting than generating another report on Imperial. I was bored of analysis already. I was the king of the game, but I was a bored king. That meant I would quickly lose my throne.



The site seemed a little clunky, a slow 30-second refresh picture of an impala at the Kwa Maritane waterhole. I was not entirely convinced, but the traffic spoke for itself. Graham's telepresence was real. This was not just any impala, it was a live impala and it was relishing the salt-lick now. Not a few weeks ago, not a few minutes ago. They were watching this as it happened and this is what made it special. They forgave the slow, refreshing, fuzzy image.

I clicked the Boma button and was blown away. This is the part of the site where viewers left messages. I counted 240 messages in the last 12 hours. I started to get excited. I also love wildlife. Not in the kind of way that gamerangers and twitchers do, but I was fascinated and keen to learn more. The AfriCam negotiation moved quickly. Unlike Alec, they understood the value of intellectual capital and Paul and Graham were more easily convinced than Alec.

So it was back to the Hyatt hotel to meet Graham and Paul with JB and Duarte. I was only partially surprised as the founders entered. They both had a cheerful disposition, were dressed casually and we immediately developed a chemistry. Graham sold the story well and Paul seemed extremely competent.

I could work with these guys.

Graham was impressed with my attitude. He was expecting an arrogant and opinionated "suit", but I did not enter the discussion with any pre-conceived ideas or false beliefs in myself. After all, what did I really know about the internet? JB, always the mathematician, developed a complex equation whereby I was incentivised on the performance of both Fingershopper and AfriCam. The logic was that Fingershopper would become the e-commerce engine of AfriCam. The reasoning was a little flawed, but we were all creating value and making money so it did not seem to matter.

I received an upfront payment to join AfriCam as CEO, which I, in turn, offered to Sid Rebe as compensation for leaving at the end of my contract. I explained to Sid that while I had fulfilled the letter of my contract, I had not fulfilled the spirit in resigning the day my contract expired.

Sid was a little confused: "So you are leaving one of the top analysis positions in the country to join a website with six employees and a few cameras in the bush?"

I reluctantly admitted to Sid that AfriCam did not have any revenue. He offered me the position of trainee CEO of Merrill Lynch South Africa, but somehow the cameras in the bush were more appealing than taking fax instructions from New York.

Sid declined my offer to repay some money, but this did not stop the UK Head of Research, Charles Lambert from flying down to South Africa to convince me to stay on board. For Charles, it was all about money. This is what keeps analysts on the treadmill, working 16 hours a day and denying their family of quality time. I had already lost my first wife to the treadmill. My second wife, Diane, would not be a victim.

"Here is a cheque book. You fill the number in," said Charles. After paying me absurd amounts of money to join, they were now prepared to pay me more to stay. A part of me wanted to fill in the highest number I could think of. Everybody wants to write their own cheque, but a part of me was offended. I had

been bought already and I was not totally at peace with it. I decided not to do it again.

I was now going to be the CEO of AfriCam, the quirky website with cameras in the bush. That sounded pretty cool. But I did not quite absorb the expectations. I was expected to make this a US\$1bn business in a few months. It did not have one cent of revenue when I joined, but surely the revenues would follow. I had done it at Deutsche Bank and Merrill Lynch, so why not AfriCam?

"Meanwhile in Cannes ..." - early 1999

That year at the Cannes Film Festival in France, Richard van Wyk met up with Peter Henderson.

At that stage Richard was the station director of eTV, a fledgling free-to-air television channel in South Africa. Prior to entering the broadcast world, Richard had qualified as a veterinary surgeon. He had a passion for wildlife and broadcasting. Richard was a passionate, tall, refined, slim and slightly balding 40-year-old.

Peter, by contrast, was a more rugged South African who now lived in London. He was a little more rotund, with a beer boep to rival my own. He was a handsome, engaging individual who won the ladies over with his charming manner.

Peter had started his working life as a cameraman for the BBC, among others. Over many years he had developed a very successful business, Newsforce, which provided equipment and camera services to major broadcasters. He had recently sold it to France Telecom for many millions of pounds and was now an entrepreneur on the loose.

Peter and Richard both had a passion for wildlife and a hearty conversation ensued. Richard told Peter about his idea of a live wildlife television channel. Peter listened intently and

some loose agreements were bandied about. They would work together on this dream project; Peter would finance it and Richard would get a 10% stake and run the business. They had another beer.

"Weak fundamentals" - July 1999

It was with a little trepidation that I arrived at AfriCam "for work". I was the new CEO who was going to take the business from a family website to its rightful place as a global internet entertainment superpower! Nobody knew how, but it was my job to figure it out.

Graham and Paul introduced me to the staff.

Eight staff members were squeezed into two small offices that had been rented just above Paul's Real Time Travel Connections offices. Besides Paul and Graham, the key employee was Andy Parker. Andy was AfriCam personified. He had a masters degree related to wildlife and conservation and had worked as a game ranger. He had an extremely strong conservation ethic and was the conscience of the business. Andy's responsibility was to secure content for the site; both cameras and written content and to keep good relationships with the landowners.

Joining him, squeezed around the few small desks were Pieter van der Dussen, who was the key IT resource; Mary-Anne Church, who was in charge of design; Darren Sims, a 21-year-old who was in charge of e-commerce; Belinda, the secretary; Bruce Venter, the techie; and Shannon Beetge, a slightly offbeat but extremely energetic and attractive ad sales executive. Saul also spent a great deal of time at the office, helping develop the business.

"There is a great spirit here, but we need some business leadership," proffered Andy Parker.





Giraffes

towering over African plains

By WildlifeCampus student

Amy Holt

Instantly recognisable for their height, giraffes tower over the plains of Africa. It is no surprise they are the tallest animal on Earth. These gentle giants have many features that contribute to their beautiful and unique appearance... long necks, long legs, long eyelashes, long tongues. In fact, there seems to be a recurring theme when it comes to giraffes.

Thanks to their long necks, giraffes can avoid food competition from other herbivores and spot predators. However, the giraffe's six feet long neck is not just impressive for reaching extraordinary heights. The long neck prevents the giraffe from fainting when it bends down to drink. Just like us, humans, giraffes have seven neck vertebrae but, each one can be ten inches long. The vertebrae in the area of the giraffe's shoulders have vertical extensions supporting a very large ligament called the nuchal ligament. The nuchal ligament runs from the back of the skull to the base of the tail. It functions like a giant elastic band pulling the neck back and over the front legs thus, reducing the strain of carrying such a heavy neck.

Furthermore, a giraffe's neck has a complex pressure-regulation system called the rete mirabile which, regulates blood pressure and flow. This is because, the heart alone is not strong enough to pump all the way up to the head. Powerful muscular neck arteries function to support the heart by increasing blood pressure in the neck. While, a complex network of veins at the base of the brain help lower blood pressure and regulate the flow of blood into the brain. These blood vessels expand when the giraffe puts its head down to drink. This allows a controlled amount of blood into the head. They then contract again when the head is raised. This is to prevent blood from rapidly leaving the brain and causing the giraffe to faint. Giraffes have the highest blood pressure of any land mammal.

02



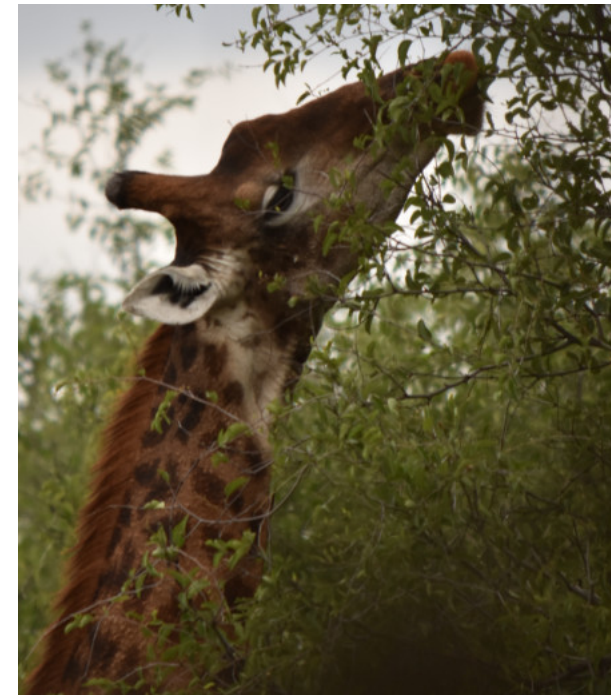
A giraffe's legs are six feet tall; taller than most humans. The ability for the legs to hold up the giraffe's weight is thanks to their ligaments. Ligaments are connective tissue that hold bones together. Giraffes have special suspensory ligaments in their legs that are key to their strength and stability. Do not be fooled by the giraffe's graceful appearance, they can deliver a powerful kick when absolutely necessary. Giraffes are vulnerable to attacks from lions and crocodiles. Therefore, they defend themselves with a powerful kick.



A single well-placed kick of an adult giraffe can shatter a lion's skull or break its spine.

The acacia tree doesn't make it easy for the giraffe to eat its favourite food. To deter giraffes, the acacia tree has sharp thorns up to 10 cm long. The giraffe's incredibly long and full eyelashes aren't just to make you envious. Their eyelashes help them to sense if they are getting too close to thorny branches. The giraffe has a long prehensile tongue (about 45 cm) that is used to grab leaves while, avoiding the thorns. Further, there is a thick coating of glue-like saliva in their mouths which, protects them against injuries from the thorns. Giraffes can feed for up to 12 hours a day, and therefore, their tongues are exposed to long periods of sunlight. To protect against the sun's harsh UV rays and prevent sunburn, the giraffe's tongue is a purple, bluish, almost black colour due to a high density of melanin pigments.

Other defence mechanisms used by the acacia tree include releasing tannins which taste terrible to giraffes, and so they stop eating the acacia leaves. This system is so effective that trees in the vicinity react to the tannin release, and start to release their own tannins. This forces the giraffe to move on, or go up wind to trees that have not sensed the tannins being released by neighbouring trees. Furthermore, the acacia tree employs the stinging ant to fend off giraffes. This is an example of mutualism, a symbiotic relationship where both species benefit. The ants live off the sweet nectar produced by the tree, and in turn, the acacia tree is protected by the ants who sting any animals that attempt to eat their leaves. Giraffes can clamp shut their nostrils to protect against ants or sandstorms. High water content in acacia leaves allow giraffes to go long periods without drinking.



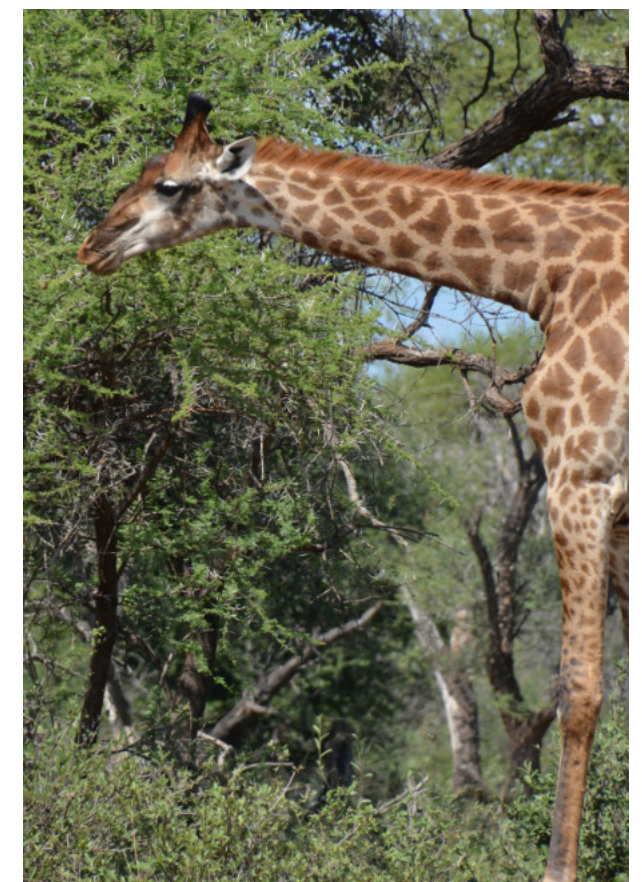
Giraffes have very high acuity. Their special arrangement of light sensing cells allows them to simultaneously look at their feet and a few metres ahead while walking. These cells also help them to see objects close to their face which, helps them when foraging. Giraffes have slightly bulging eyes located on each side of their head. This placement and bulging helps give them panoramic peripheral vision. The more peripheral vision an animal has, the more of their surroundings they can see without having to turn their heads. This is advantageous for spotting predators. Colour vision allows giraffes to select the best leaves. When giraffes are born, they have monocular vision which, means each eye is used independently. This gives them a wider field of vision but, poor depth perception. While, an adult giraffe's vision becomes more binocular—both eyes are used in conjunction with each other. This means they have a smaller field of vision but, greater focus.

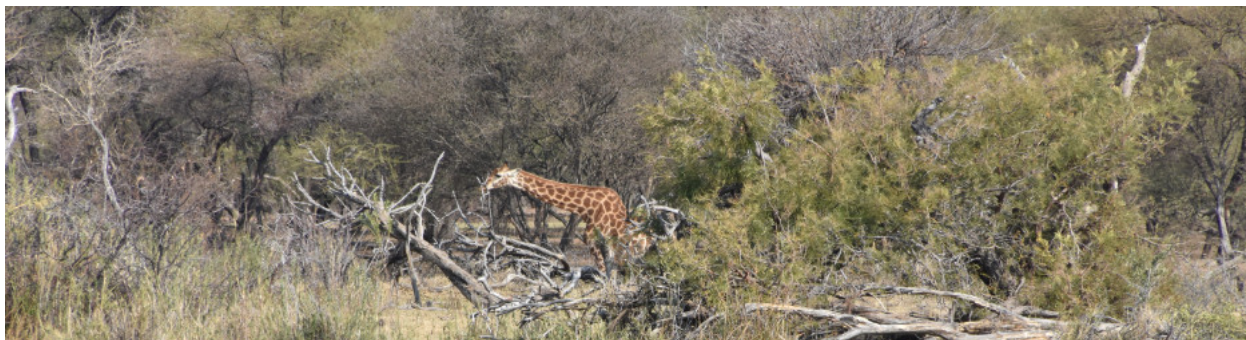
As a ruminant, giraffes are often seen chewing the cud. This is because, giraffes lack the enzyme cellulase which is capable of breaking down the cellulose in plant cell walls. Instead, the plant matter must pass through all four stomach chambers before it is fully digested. The food is swallowed rapidly and enters the first stomach chamber—the rumen. Partly digested, the food is stored in the rumen before regurgitation and chewing. Muscular contractions of the stomach move food back and forth between the rumen and the reticulum (the second stomach chamber). The reticulum is often called the honeycomb because, the tissues in the reticulum form a complex network that resembles a honeycomb.

Bacteria and microorganisms in the rumen are able to digest cellulose so they begin to digest the plant fibres. Fine plant fibres are broken down and absorbed into the bloodstream, providing protein, vitamins and organic acids for the giraffe. Coarser plant fibres move from the rumen to the reticulum, where further bacterial fermentation takes place.

The food forms soft balls called the cud. The cud is regurgitated and ground thoroughly between the molars with an almost circular motion of the lower jaw. When chewing the cud, highly alkaline saliva aids in breaking down the plant fibres. Then, the food is re-swallowed, bypasses the rumen, and enters the omasum (the third stomach chamber). Here, water and essential acids are reabsorbed. Muscular contractions by the walls of the omasum mash and compact the food, before it moves directly to the fourth and final stomach chamber, the abomasum. In the abomasum, gastric secretions continue to digest the food before it moves into the intestine. This is known as the true stomach and works similar to how our stomachs break down food.

Acacia trees are high in calcium which is vital for the giraffe's diet. However, during the winter months, food is scarce and the nutrient quality of the plants decline. To supplement their diet it is common to see giraffes chewing on bones. This behaviour is known as osteophagia. Giraffes may also practice geophagia, where they consume soil to supplement the mineral content in their diet.





Like our fingerprints, every giraffe has a unique skin pattern. Each giraffe's markings and appearance depend on its geographic region and diet. The colours range from light tan to dark brown with thinner or broader patterns. A giraffe's spots act as a form of camouflage and helps it to blend in with the yellow and brown landscape common across Africa's savannahs. Also, the patches help giraffes regulate their internal temperature. Surrounding each patch is a cluster of blood vessels; giraffes can efficiently control their internal temperature by directing blood to or away from these smaller vessels.

The distinctive hair-covered horns found on both male and female giraffes are known as ossicones. Ossicones are bony projections that begin as cartilage to avoid injury during birth, and then, become bone and fuse to the skull once sexual maturity is reached. It can be easy to identify the sex of a giraffe by looking at its ossicones. The ossicones of female giraffes are often thin and tufted. Male ossicones are usually thicker and bald because, of fighting other male giraffes.

Male giraffes engage in a behaviour known as necking. As the name suggests, it occurs when two male giraffes swing their necks and hit each other with them. The longer a neck is and the heavier the head at the end of the neck, the greater the force a giraffe will be able to deliver in a blow. This behaviour helps determine dominance. Males that are successful in necking have a greater access to oestrus females.

Giraffes are incredibly important to the savannah ecosystem. As ecosystem engineers, they help shape tree structure and density, stimulate new growth, distribute seeds, and aid pollination in several tree species. Some acacia tree seedlings cannot successfully germinate until they have passed through the digestive system of a giraffe.

Africa's most elegant gentle giant is disappearing at an alarming rate, with giraffes being extinct in at least seven African countries. Due to a combination of habitat loss and fragmentation, driven largely by human expansion and infrastructure development, poaching and civil unrest, giraffes face a silent extinction. The Giraffe Conservation

Foundation (GCF) is the only NGO in the world to focus solely on the conservation of wild giraffes. Over 25 years ago there was only 49 West African giraffes left but, thanks to committed work efforts from GCF, the West African giraffe population has risen to 600 individuals. Indeed, it is time that we all stand tall for giraffes.



Thank you Partners

Having over 21 years of experience in the Wildlife, Tourism and Hospitality Industries, WildlifeCampus has established valuable relationships with industry-related partners and affiliates throughout Africa and beyond!

We feature our partners and affiliates extensively on our website, our social media, and throughout our course content to make it easier for our students to find their way to practical training programmes and wildlife-related experiences.





We strongly believe in **bridging the gap** between theoretical training and practical experiences in the industry to benefit our students and ultimately, the wildlife industry as a whole.

The main aim of our partners and affiliates programme is for our students to be able to connect with industry-related trainers, organisations and potential employers.



2022: Our gift to you!

As the year comes to an end, we would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support throughout 2022!

We have achieved a lot this year and couldn't have done it without YOU!



**20% discount
on all courses**

Email info@wildlifecampus.com to request an invoice with your 20% discount

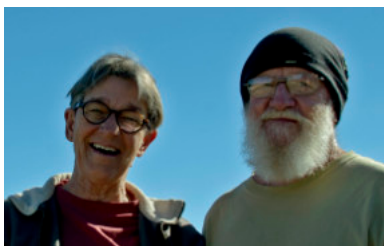
Courses can be purchased with the applied discount by EFT only. Special ends 10/01/2023
No monthly payment options available, not applicable to already discounted courses and course packages.



Fruit bats

The great migration

Densely packed bats at roost.



By



Any talk about Africa's great migration immediately conjures up the image of the vast grass plains of the Serengeti and its surrounding conservation areas, with over two million ungulates in an endless migration search for grazing and water. Impressive as this is, the world's largest mammal migration involves about 10 million Straw-coloured Fruit Bats that gather together for some three months each year in the tiny Kasanka National Park in north-east Zambia.

In 2000 and 2001 we were invited to survey this flying horde as at that point this seasonal presence had been a closely guarded secret.

This is the largest bat on mainland Africa, extending widely across the tropics south of the Sahel to the northern reaches of southern Africa. It has a wingspan of up to 95cm, a head and body length of up to 24cm and weighs as much as 350g. Just imagine that is no less than 2,500 metric tons of bats if



Straw-coloured Fruit Bats in flight.

the average bat weighs 250g spending time in this park. They have dog-like faces (hence flying foxes), the wings are black, long and tapered, and coat colour ranges from dull yellow-brown to rich yellowish-brown, often with a distinct orange collar around the neck, with paler underparts. The tail is very short, eyes are large and chestnut, the ears are prominent but not particularly large.

There is still a lot we don't know about these bats but given the numbers that descend on the Fibwe Forest in Kasanka each year, it appears they likely come in from East, Central and possibly West Africa. Fibwe covers just 16.66ha, it is an evergreen swamp forest along the Musola River and is dominated by Waterberry (*Syzygium cordatum*) and Large-leaved Swamp Fig (*Ficus trichopoda*). Most bats are only present from October to December, sometimes into early January.

The sheer numbers of bats clustered on the branches often results in even large branches snapping under their weight, causing Nile Crocodiles, Pythons, Leopards and even African Civets to come and harvest the dead and dying. Apart from the ground predators the avian horde also await their chances. White-backed Vultures, Lappet-faced Vultures and Palm-nut Vultures opportunistically snatched bats with their bills during frequent day-time bat fly-ups when they were disturbed, with Martial Eagles, African Crowned Eagles and

African Fish Eagles snatching the bats up in their talons. Mathilde succeeded in filming some of this predation but the crocodiles were eluding us. We found what we thought would be a safe location for her out of harm's way, a large tree had fallen close to a crocodile slide. We were about to set up a hide when we realized that a very large Black Mamba also called this deadfall its home, filming cancelled. Of course the mamba would also be feeding on the bats injured in branch breaks.

We posed ourselves two questions, how many bats called Fibwe their temporary home? And why did they travel to this Mushitu forest in the first place? To start, this vast gathering of bats created an aura of sound, sight and smell, once in their midst conversation was impossible. Firstly, how many bats were here at the peak and how could we estimate their numbers? The bats exited the forest just at or shortly after sunset in an almost 360 degree array, a more or less even spread. On average the evening fly out lasted 28minutes but the longest we recorded took 60 minutes. We counted them by taking video footage of several sections of the 360 degree fly out and analysing these later, as well as taking still images. We did visual counts over a fixed point but this only gave a narrow field of observation. Counts varied for the colony fly out, with the highest being 4,143,342 bats. However, we felt that we were undercounting, numbers varied in different years but always in the millions, and we concluded that the actual number of bats fluctuated between 5 million, and possibly as high as 10 million. Nobody has attempted to recount the bats as far as we are aware and our 5-10 million estimate is the one being quoted widely even today.

Our next question was why should such huge numbers of bats be attracted to this one tiny forest in Kasanka? This was the peak fruiting season for several trees so food was abundant and given that these bats can fly up to 50km in a night, and more, to seek out fruit, even this horde could not deplete the supply in the 2-3 months they spend here. But for us this could not be the only explanation as trees are fruiting throughout much of tropical Africa at this time but it is possible that fruiting levels here are higher than around the various home colonies.



Part of the Fibwe forest.



Did it maybe have something to do with reproduction and genetic spread with bats coming from different parts of the African tropics? We caught and released 35 female bats and found that 31 were at different stages of pregnancy, some females had young clinging to them when heading out to feed but there was also considerable mating activity during the day in different parts of the colony. This could support this theory.

Unfortunately, we could not take our research further because of other commitments but more recently satellite tracking has been undertaken by other researchers. The earliest of this tracking which involved just four bats, showed that they returned deep into the northern Congo Basin, and each to a different, widely spaced, colony.

The Straw-coloured Fruit Bat is an important pollinator, and disperser of tree seeds, thus aiding the propagation of the forests and woodlands in which it feeds and lives. But they face major problems which includes hunting for the bush meat trade, especially in West Africa where they are killed in very large numbers. Although adaptable, some colonies roost in trees in the heart of several African cities, they are losing ground to extensive habitat loss due to human population increases. Sadly, loss of miombo woodland around Kasanka reduces availability of fruiting trees. Locals clear the woodland for timber and charcoal production, as well as for subsistence agriculture, but commercial clearing poses the greatest threat. In the Kafinda GMA that acts as a buffer for Kasanka large areas have been cleared to grow soybean and maize. Fortunately, the Zambian high court has stopped further clearing for now but for how long?

On our YouTube Channel you can watch a short clip on the behaviour of the [Straw-coloured Fruit Bat](#) and a longer video on [Kasanka National Park](#), enjoy (and put the sound up!).



Straw-coloured Fruit Bats roost in dense clusters on branches and tree trunks.



Want to try it out?



Register and try the FREE component



Online Birding Course



About the course

Take an exciting journey with us as we explore the amazing world of ornithology!

In this beautifully illustrated course, you will learn about bird biology, identification, behaviour, feathers and their structure, flight, ethical birding, and so much more!

Completion time

This online course can be taken anytime and in your own time. It is generally completed in 2-3 weeks.

Earn an industry recognised certificate upon graduation

Regular price
~~R 1,250~~

December 2022 price
R 750





We asked Hayley Cooper from Wild Dreams Hospitality to explain how the WildlifeCampus course certificates will help those entering the industry.

Wild Dreams Hospitality is an industry leader with its 'Herd' having a combined 100+ years' worth of experience! It provides a professional and expert service in consulting and recruitment and serves clients in Southern Africa, including businesses in Botswana, Swaziland, Zambia, Tanzania, Malawi and beyond.

How do the WildlifeCampus Course Certificates help people in their job search/career change? Do they carry some weight?

I have been in the hospitality industry for 23 years. However, when I made the move from the United Kingdom to South Africa and into the game lodge sector, I wanted to find a course that I could do to help me not only have a deep understanding of this particular industry but also to assist me in finding a job in this highly competitive industry.

In 2009, I completed the WildlifeCampus Game Lodge Management Course online. I thoroughly enjoyed it and learned a lot. After completion, I had an industry recognised certificate. Having this on my CV was really helpful in finding my way into the lodge industry.

It's quite amazing to think that over 10 years later, I have created my own course for WildlifeCampus. The Front of House Lodge Operations Course is centred around my many years of experience, not only in lodges but from working in restaurants, bars, movie catering and beyond.

Like the Game Lodge Management Course, on completion, you will receive an industry recognised certificate. This course is ideal for anyone already in a Front of House role, or those who want to move into one. It is also suitable for all hospitality sectors.

The WildlifeCampus Courses are so detailed, they leave no stone unturned and will answer all of your questions and more.

Owning a recruitment company, I receive CVs daily. Seeing the WildlifeCampus Courses listed on so many industry professionals' CVs is wonderful. It's great to have hands-on working experience but also to really understand the theory behind what you are doing on a daily basis and why.

WildlifeCampus is a leader in the online course field, and any of its courses will give you the knowledge you need to move forward in your career. It also shows any potential employer how passionate you are about the industry and how dedicated you are to learning more. This is a huge bonus to them and will really help you in potentially finding employment.

Should I add certificates to my CV?

Yes! Here are 5 reasons why

- It helps you to find your way into the lodge industry.
- It shows that you understand the theory behind what you are doing.
- Indicates passion, initiative and dedication to a potential employer.
- It boosts your chances of finding a job.
- Enhances your knowledge and skills in your field.



2022 in the rear- view mirror

Is it just me or are many of us still struggling with “Whatever happened to 2020/2021”?

For me, they vanished in a COVID haze and it was only at the beginning of 2022 that I stopped being a non-travelling travel writer and was able to get back on the road once more.

By David Batzofin



In this, the final edition of the magazine for 2022, I thought I would take a retrospective look at the stories I have written during the year and why they were meaningful to me and hopefully entertaining for you, the reader.

The old adage, ‘back through a tunnel of time’ is most apt in this instance and if you missed any of these articles, they are archived on the WildlifeCampus website.



David is an award-winning blogger whose work can be found at www.travelandthings.co.za

January: What a way to start off the year. “A view to a kill” was the story of a single lion that was able to bring down a pregnant giraffe all by itself and eventually form a coalition with another male to share the spoils.

February: This was the hardest and most unexpected story of the year for me. “Time to say goodbye” was my unexpected obituary to the founder of WildlifeCampus, Todd Kaplan, who died of a heart attack in his sleep. Reading my words while putting this overview together once again brought a tear to my eye. Totsiens (goodbye) Todd, you are missed.

March: Often I have written about the Big 5 or even the Little 5. This month I looked at the scavengers, some of whom form part of the Ugly 5, and how their presence affects the wildlife and what a rank-smelling place the wild would be without them. “Call in the cleaning crew” paid tribute to what it is that they can accomplish in keeping disease and the African plains free of carrion.

April: From bush to beach. “Heroes and Villains” took a look at the real battle for survival between ghost crabs and turtle hatchlings along the Indian Ocean coastline.

May: One of the most difficult articles to write. “Losing a life to save a life” was about the removal of a baby giraffe that had died in the womb in order to save the mother. Spoiler alert. It does have a happy ending.

June: “No wrong answers” looked at some of the ridiculous questions that guests pose to field guides... like “Are rhinos carnivorous”? How do you remain professional and keep a straight face?

July: “Walk this way” was about a male leopard that led us on a merry dance for about 40 minutes and then, as if by magic, vanished into the tall grass, not to be seen again.

August: “Safari Guide of the Year 2022”, presented by FGASA, celebrated the best the industry had to offer. Cameron Pearce walked away with not only the overall title, but with several category wins as well. Congratulations Cameron, a well deserved winner.

September: “Hiding in plains(s) sight” took a look at how to differentiate cheetah tracks from those of a hyena. I think that the guide responsible for content of this article is still blushing.

October: “The alphabet game” something to keep the children and those young at heart happy when long road trips or hours in the car in a national park are involved.

November: My first story that carried a content warning. “Gone in a splash” was all about the loss of life in the bush and how that can occur in the blink of an eye. Wild dogs, a hyena, hippos and finally a crocodile were all participants in the final moments of an impala’s life. Not easy to witness, but part of the ebb and flow of life in the wild.

It seems that my year started and ended with a pregnant animal becoming food for apex land and water predators. Such is the circle of life.

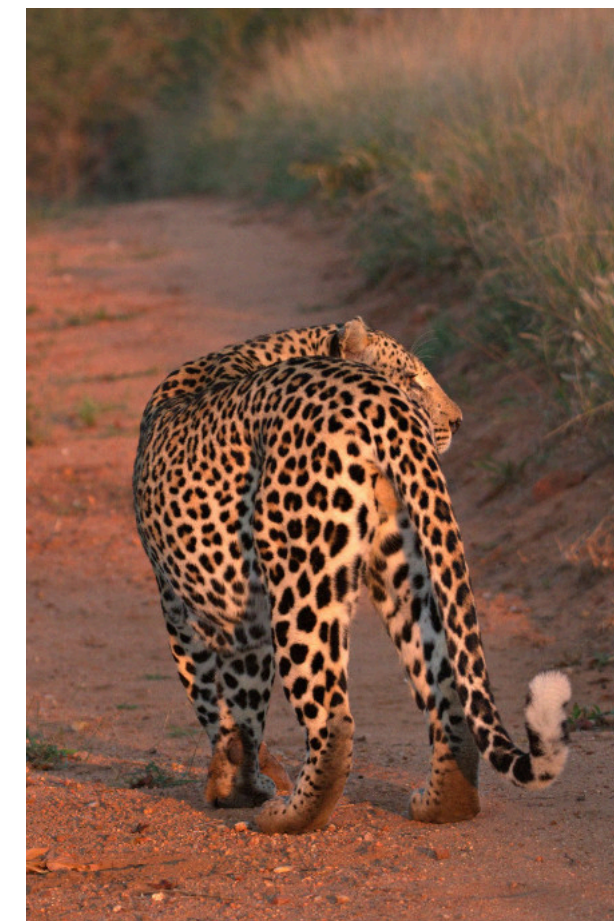
December: The easiest article of all to remember, as the subject is what I am constructing presently.

I do hope that 2022 has been kind to you and that you were able to fulfil some of your goals and aspirations.

Whether it be completing an online course, getting to travel once again or just being able to spend time with friends and family once again.

However, you will be celebrating this holiday season, do so with kindness, acceptance of others and more importantly, gratitude for being able to say goodbye to 2022 and hello to 2023 in good health and surrounded by those who love and care about you.

Travel&Things wishes you a safe holiday season and hopes to have you back for the January edition.





To all our incredible students,

Thank you!

Having you with us this year has been magical — we hope your holiday is too.

We hope you have time to reflect on all your hard work and look forward to all the opportunities it will present in the coming year. We're excited to support your continued success!

For the love of Nature,

Your WildlifeCampus Team

