



# WildlifeCampus

LEARN PROTECT SAVE

## Magazine

**Wild Dreams Hospitality  
Employment  
section**

**Book sale**

**Protecting biodiversity  
By Amy Holt**

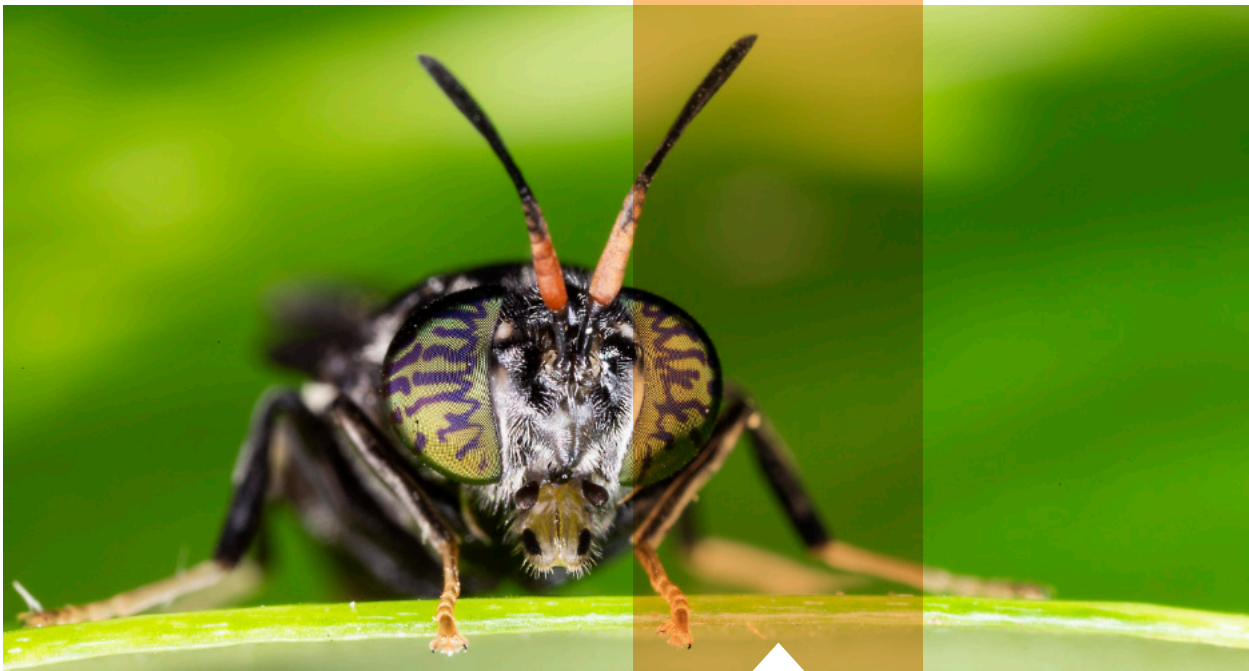
**New birding course**

**Giveaway!**

**WildlifeCampus,  
The origin story**



# CONTENT



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The origins of WildlifeCampus

“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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Protecting biodiversity

WildlifeCampus student, Amy Holt, shines a light on the importance of protecting biodiversity. The work conservationists, NGOs, rangers, wildlife veterinarians, etc., do is critical for the survival of biodiversity. But is there enough funding to keep the efforts going?

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Thank you!

In this edition, WildlifeCampus would like to thank Guy Degrande for his amazing photographic contribution towards our field guiding/game ranging course.

A preview of some of his photographs used in the course has been included!

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Book sale!

WildlifeCampus has a limited amount of hard copies of **Garth Thompson's The Guide's Guide to Guiding** for sale!

Contact us to order your copy!

[info@wildlifecampus.com](mailto:info@wildlifecampus.com)

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Employment

**Looking for a job?**

The third and last part in our series on how to start the daunting process of looking for a job. In this edition, Hayley gives us some tips on how to tackle the actual job search.

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Birding course

A course directly derived from our newly updated Field Guiding course. This can be taken as a separate course.

**A must-read for avid bird photographers and enthusiasts!**

[info@wildlifecampus.com](mailto:info@wildlifecampus.com)

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Giveaway!

WildlifeCampus and Give it Horns are **giving away a WildlifeCampus lifetime subscription valued at R 18 000!**

Find out how you can enter and stand a chance to win this amazing prize!

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Calling in the clean-up crew

David Batzofin speaks about the clean-up crew of the bushveld including hyena, jackal, vultures and even the humble dung beetle .

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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**



**“17 April 1998”**

“Have I got an idea for you?”

Graham proceeded to tell Paul about his concept.

“... it is about telepresence,” Graham explained, “and it’s the only thing we have that the rest of the world will want to see.”

“Well, it shouldn’t be too difficult to put together,” replied Paul.

“Let’s give it a bash. It should be quite a jol anyway,” Graham encouraged.

“How much do you reckon it will cost.”

“I have calculated about R25 000 to get a camera up, but that is R25 000 more than I have got in the bank.”

“It is too good an idea to stay in our heads. I will pay for the equipment – let’s just do it and see how it goes.”

And so AfriCam was born.

Paul Clifford was pretty chuffed about the website that Graham Wallington had constructed for Swissair’s South African operation. Paul’s company, Real Time Travel Connections (RTTC), was not too interested in developing websites, and this is where Graham was useful.



He and his wife, Sarah, had positioned themselves to develop websites in an industry that was starting to prosper. Out of their small one-bedroom log cabin in Johannesburg, they started a company called TIP – The Internet Publishing Company; a good idea, but they were never going to get really rich out of it.

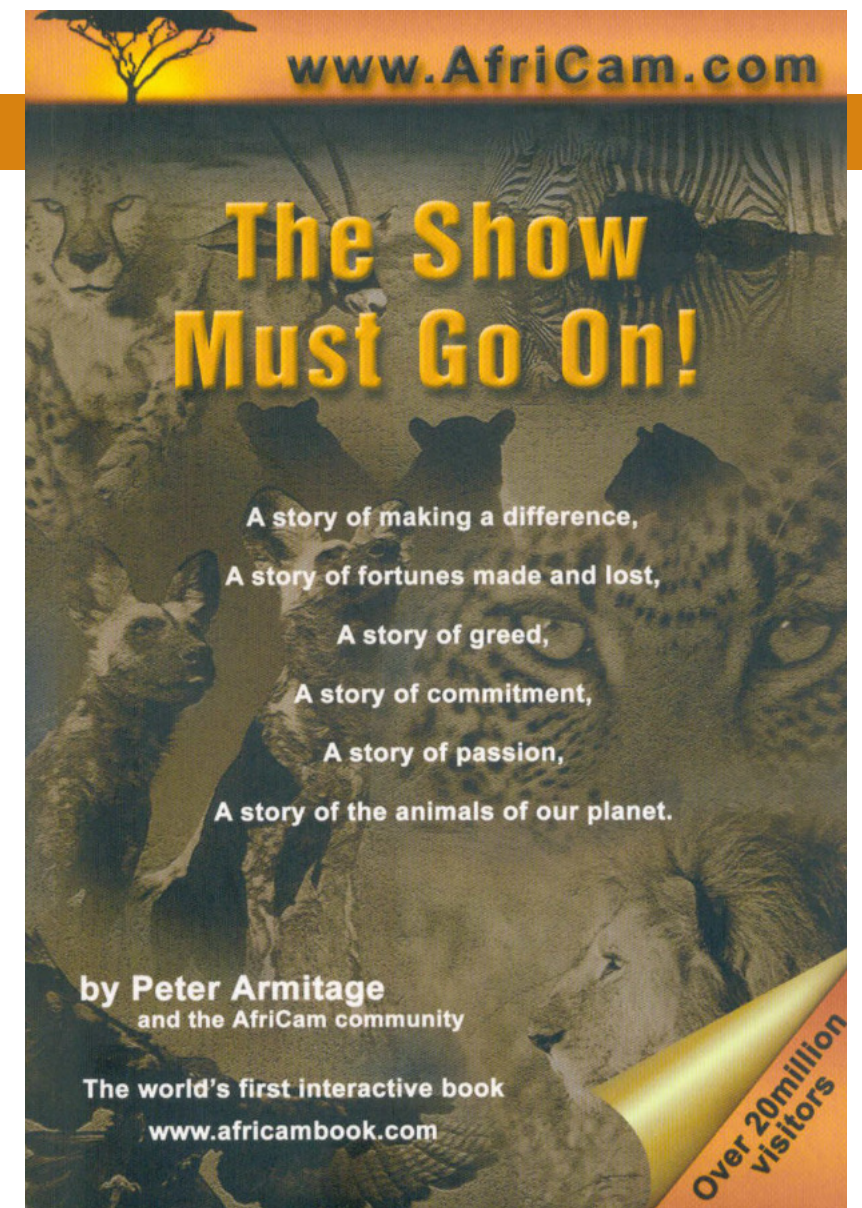
Graham had been a millionaire at an early age, selling townhouses like hotcakes, but of late, the bank account was less than overweight.

Joshua was due to be born in three months’ time, and Graham was starting to feel a pang of paternal pressure to replenish the family coffers.

Paul and Graham were on their way to visit Swissair to show off their website in Paul’s green Audi A4 when Graham first verbalised the million-dollar idea. But at that stage, it was not about money or corporate ambitions. It was a R25 000 idea because that is what it would cost to do.

Graham had canvassed the support of his wife, Sarah, and it did not take too much convincing for Helen, Paul’s wife, to buy into the idea. The idea was simple – putting a webcam up on a waterhole in the African bush and broadcasting it live on the internet for the world to see.

“I wish I had thought of that”. “It is always the simple ideas that make the money.” Paul and Graham would hear these phrases many times over the ensuing three years.



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

Graham had always had a fascination with the internet and was a regular surfer. In South Africa, time on the internet is billed according to normal telecoms rates, which meant that much of Graham’s internet time was at non-peak times for telephone usage – weekends and late at night. It was late one night that Graham discovered [www.amazingfishcam.com](http://www.amazingfishcam.com). this was an even simpler idea – a camera on a goldfish bowl. It had attracted millions of viewers, not because it was a particularly attractive goldfish, but because it was live.

Graham did not see a goldfish; he saw a concept. Applying this concept to the abundant wildlife resources of his country, a webcam on an African waterhole was a logical idea.

Paul was a networking and computer expert who ran RTTC. He could take care of much of what was required to get the webcam image to a computer and then out to the world. Graham was an all-rounder who offered website development expertise, an unparalleled imagination and a “let’s do it” attitude.



# “Getting permission to broadcast from Mala Mala would be a coup.”

Paul and Graham now needed three more things:

- somebody who could provide/assemble the camera equipment,
- a game lodge that would allow them to broadcast from their premises, and
- a company that would either provide some finance or provide free bandwidth, which was likely to be the biggest cost.

## “Q”

Graham could handle the website and help construct some of the equipment. Paul’s skills took care of a large part of the system. All that was needed now was somebody who could help capture the image and get it to the computer. Enter “Q”, named after James Bond’s inventor extraordinaire.

Graham had worked with him before in a previous job, and he had what AfriCam needed: expertise, the right attitude and an ability to innovate. Dave Woodall is a greying, middle-aged, very experienced radio man. A gentle, dedicated, honest individual who rose to the challenge time and time again (his company trades under the name Daka Technologies in Johannesburg).

The technical complexities in getting AfriCam to function were, and are, immense. Never before was there a requirement to get a LIVE image from a remote location (usually in the middle of the African bush) through to a viewer’s desktop PC in New York. Step one was to record the image on a camera. Step two was to get the image back to the computer, which was usually at the game lodge itself. This could take place using a cable, microwave, satellite, 30-year-old VHF radio technology, or any combination of the above.

The secret behind AfriCam’s technology did not lie in invention, but rather in innovation. With a combination of Paul, Graham, Dave, and later Alex Wills, the challenge was evaluated, and a solution was found, constructed or made up.

The solution often lay in existing technology that needed to be amended or adjusted. This was not something any big corporate could do; it was a job for the entrepreneur. This was a job for Q.

Q was foremost a radio expert, and much of the AfriCam technology relies on radio technology to transmit images and sound. The South African radio waves are something else. All sorts of inane requirements and regulations meant that most of what AfriCam does is probably illegal. It goes as far as requiring a black empowerment partner in order to get a radio licence. AfriCam exists despite South African regulations and authorities. It is more expensive, complicated and restrictive to run AfriCam in South Africa than probably any other country in the world. But more of that later.

Hence Q, our version of the mad scientist, would always jokingly pose the question when delivering goods: “I assume this is for export.” It is almost never legal to use what he produced in our own country. Q’s goods also came with the customary “Dave Woodall guarantee”, implying that they would never have to come back to his workshop. Mostly, this was the case.

Q went on to help AfriCam invent and assemble the world’s first virtual game drive, the first underwater webcam and many, many others.

Paul and Graham now needed two more things:

- a game lodge that would allow them to broadcast from their premises, and
- a company that would either provide some finance or provide free bandwidth, which was likely to be the biggest cost.



## “On bended knee”

The game lodge industry in Africa is loaded with history, pride, politics, grandstanding, bravado and wonderful characters. There is something bizarre about owning a game lodge. It is prestigious and extremely gratifying but also brings out the most primal of instincts in men. “Mine’s bigger than yours.” “I have more land than you.” “Get your Land Rover off my property.” It goes well beyond competing for the same overseas visitor. Feuds dating back generations, pecking orders, old resentments and conservation ideologies are all part of the cauldron of the African bush.

Graham and Paul set off to find a waterhole at which to assemble a webcam. There are probably over 1000 waterholes on the African continent, and at face value, finding one did not appear to be tremendously difficult. But Graham and Paul had forgotten two things: (1) this idea would be changing the status quo, and (2) everybody considers their waterhole to be the best of those 1000.

It was decided that the first port of call would be the Sabi Sands – one of the world’s most valuable pieces of conservation land. It adjoins South Africa’s Kruger Park and has a high density of cats – lions, cheetahs, leopards – and the Big Five – lion, leopard, buffalo, rhino and elephant. This is what the overseas visitor expects of a bush experience.

The Sabi Sands comprises 40 individual land owners, but they are part of the same game reserve. Outside of the Gaza Strip, this is one of the most political 56 000 hectares of land in the world. The rules of the game reserve are agreed on by the Sabi Sands Executive Committee. Every quarter these adversaries gather, feign friendship (or don’t bother) and agree on the collective rules for their game reserve. Egos were riding high at this point in time – a new pricing hurdle had just been set for property prices. Richard Branson, of Virgin fame, had just bought Ulusaba – a meagre 800 hectares for the handsome price of R40m (+/- US\$4m). R50 000 a hectare placed a value of over US\$280m on this game reserve.

The first person that Graham and Paul approached was Dave Evans, the managing director of Mala Mala, which is considered the premier game lodge in South Africa. It dominates the Sabi Sands, by far the biggest property with over 12 000 hectares. Getting permission to broadcast from Mala Mala would be a coup.

Dave Evans is the son-in-law of Mike Rattray, who is a legend of the game lodge industry. Rattray’s somewhat dismissive attitude was partly justified. He is the King of the Sabi Sands and has been Chairman of the Executive Committee for years. His guests come first, and even after all his years at the helm, he gets his hands dirty and quickly dismisses any staff who do not maximise the guest experience.

Graham and Paul presented their case, but the webcam idea was not for them.

Ironically, over two years later, AfriCam would broadcast a live television programme from Mala Mala and broadcast a live streaming game drive on the internet. Once you got to know Dave Evans, you couldn’t find a nicer guy.

**More in our next edition on Graham and Paul’s search for the ideal waterhole, finances and bandwidth.**





# Protecting biodiversity Protects humanity

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**By WildlifeCampus student**

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**Amy Holt**

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**In 2020, the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic brought tourism to a standstill. Planes were grounded and borders were shut. Africa lost a vital part of its funding for conservation. Therefore, game reserves had to start virtual safaris, persuade international guests to postpone rather than cancelling, and slash prices to attract locals, all in the hope of some short-term relief. Unfortunately, the outlook for the tourism sector remains highly uncertain and it will be among one of the last to recover.**

02

This crisis has highlighted the importance of tourism as a development pathway for many countries to decrease poverty and improve their economies. In sub-Saharan Africa, the development of tourism has been a key driver in closing the gap between poor and rich countries. Ecotourism plays a vital role in sustainable development and conservation. It provides an alternative source of livelihood to the local community and economic incentives to protect the environment. Further, ecotourism provides firsthand experience of travelling in the wilderness, of observing natural complexity, and it gives a chance to the tourist to reflect on increasing vulnerability on ecosystems. Tourists leave with a new perspective on the value of environmental preservation and resource conservation. Through ecotourism one can achieve economic development and environmental protection, protection of rare and endangered species, support for local communities, promote the development of poorer countries, enhance ecological and cultural diversity, create environmental awareness and social conscience in the travel industry. By sustaining ecotourism in Africa, we can safeguard wildlife and natural resources for future generations.

The standstill of tourism in Africa is going to have a detrimental effect for decades of successful conservation work on the continent. For example, South Africa's 53-year long conservation and monitoring programme is one of the largest continuous sea turtle monitoring and protection efforts in the world. iSimangaliso Wetland Park, which was South Africa's first World Heritage Site in 1999, protects beach nesting sites of loggerhead turtles and leatherback turtles. Monitors are brought in each nesting season to record statistics and, help educate locals on the plight of turtles and to prevent the looting of their eggs.





## Sea turtle hatchlings - David Reynolds

Nesting sea turtles help beaches by depositing their eggs in the sand. The eggshells and unhatched eggs left behind provide important nutrients that nourish dune vegetation, such as beach grasses, which stabilise dunes and help to prevent coastal erosion. And so, ultimately protects their own nesting habitat. They are also an important source of income for coastal residents through turtle-watching ecotourism. Coastal tourism has been estimated at generating approximately R135 billion to South Africa's economy annually. Research has shown that sea turtle ecotourism can generate three times the income than by selling sea turtle parts—proving they are worth more alive!

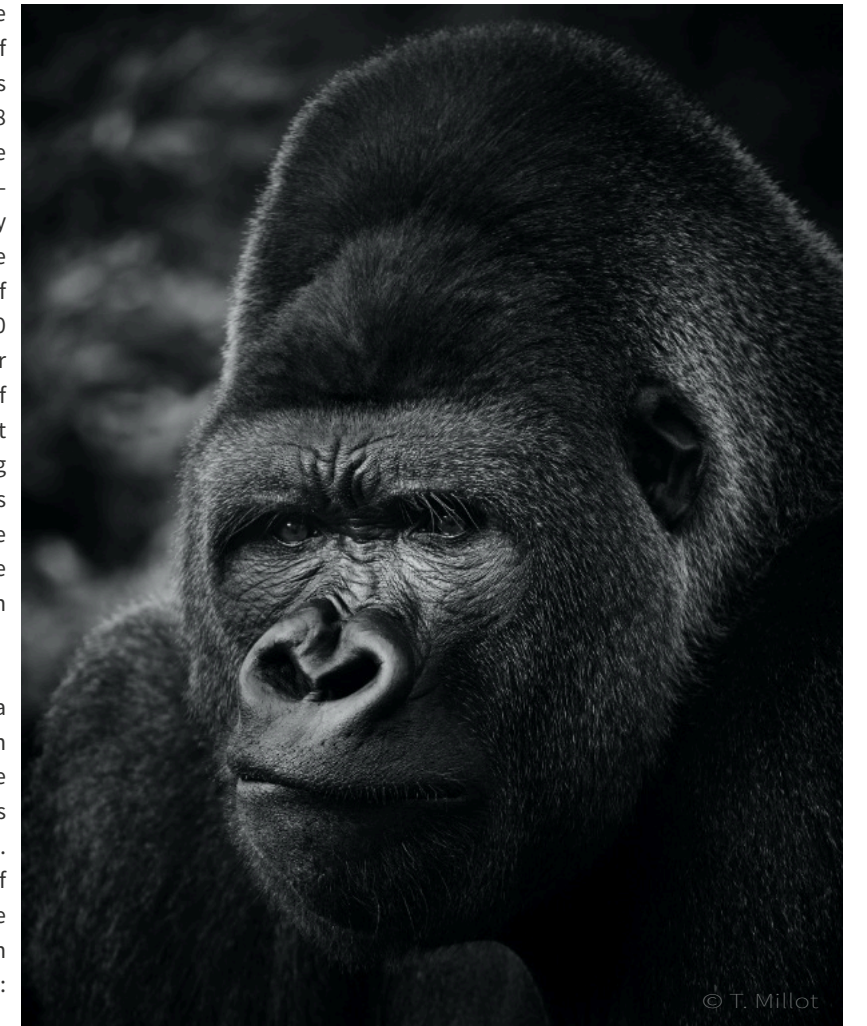
Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park (located in Kwazulu-Natal) is the oldest proclaimed nature reserve in Africa. The park is the birthplace of rhino preservation, breeding the species back from extinction. As the home of Operation Rhino in the 1950s and 60s, driven largely by Wilderness Foundation founder Dr Ian Player, the park became world-renowned for its white rhino conservation. By 2010, there were over 17,000 white rhinos in South Africa, making up almost 90% of all rhinos in Africa.



However, in the mid-2000s, the demand for rhino horn exploded, which spurred on an unprecedented wave of poaching in South Africa. Without the vital funds that tourism generates for conservation, anti-poaching efforts would be greatly reduced, thereby allowing for the illegal wildlife trade to continue to thrive.

Sine-Saloum Delta (just north of the Gambian border) is one of West Africa's ecological jewels and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Coastal mangrove forests are among the most productive ecosystems on the planet, providing a lush home to a diverse array of fish, birds, monkeys, etc. It was almost lost nearly a decade ago—but, once again, it's now a thriving example of community conservation in action. Namibia is thought to be the only African country where wildlife numbers are actively growing year on year. More than 40% of Namibia is under active conservation management, the most notable result of which has been a marked upswing in its native population of lions, oryx, zebras, black rhinos and cheetahs (Namibia is home to the world's largest cheetah population). For the past few years (before COVID), more than one million tourists have visited Namibia. The money that these tourists bring with them into Namibia has played a substantial role in the success of the country's conservancies, anti-poaching efforts and so on.

At one time, mountain gorillas were expected to become extinct by the end of the twentieth century. However, numbers have risen from 600 left in the wild in 2008 to over 1000—thanks to intensive conservation efforts, including anti-poaching patrols and veterinary assistance. Mountain gorillas have experienced some of the highest levels of protection of any animal—more than 20 times the global average of field staff per square kilometre. This is the type of extreme conservation required if we want to ensure a future for wildlife. Something that could be possible, if governments around the world prioritised the environment for financial support. These are only a few of the many conservation success stories on the African continent.



Throughout the entire complex system, a stability of existence has continued in many parts of Africa since the last ice age (the Pleistocene epoch was approximately 2.6 million years ago). Africa harbours the largest proportion of megafauna on Earth. This includes the world's largest land animal: the African elephant, and the world's tallest animal: the giraffe.

The loss of megafauna can result in simpler ecosystems with fewer interspecies interactions and shorter food chains, which in turn makes the animal communities and ecosystems less resilient and more affected by external pressures such as climate change. In addition, megafauna are often keystone species in their ecosystems, and their loss can trigger trophic cascades, leading to habitat change and further extinctions.

South Africa is one of seventeen megadiverse countries and is home to 10% of the plant species on Earth. Megadiverse countries cover just 10% of the Earth's surface but, are home to more than 70% of the planet's biodiversity. Biodiversity richness is one of South Africa's most important natural assets. More diverse systems are more resilient to climate fluctuations. This is particularly important for people of a lower socioeconomic background who will be hit the soonest and hardest because of their existing vulnerability to climate change.

Environmental protections are necessities that can feel like luxuries in poor countries. Nature supports most of Africa's growing economies. In South Africa, travel and tourism brought in US\$24.6 billion in 2019 — 7% of the country's economy and 1.4 million jobs. Over two million tourists visited Kenya's wildlife areas in 2019, earning the country US\$1.03 billion and providing 1.6 million jobs. Gorilla tourism in Uganda alone brings in US\$34.3 million and contributes 60% of the Uganda Wildlife Authority's revenue. The tourism sector accounts for 330 million jobs which, is approximately a tenth of the global workforce.

The conservation of Africa's biodiversity improves adaptive capacity, enhances resilience, and reduces vulnerability to climate change. It contributes to the sustainable development that is essential to preserve the future of the African continent. At the core of protecting biodiversity is the recognition that it intersects with, and underpins, all aspects of human wellbeing and development. Biodiversity should be integrated into every part of society. We need to move sustainable finance into mainstream practices. Our investment community has the capacity and the responsibility to mobilise finance at scale to facilitate nature-based solutions. This includes funding innovative business models such as agroecology, ecotourism, and green infrastructure.



The pandemic has shifted focus from conservation towards humanitarian causes. Yet, biodiversity is the infrastructure that supports all life on earth. Indeed, over half the world's GDP is moderately or highly dependent on biodiversity. We worry a lot about economic recessions, but an ecological recession could have far worse consequences. The global focus right now is on protecting human lives. But, we have known for long enough that preventing further loss of biodiversity is critical to our own survival. So why no change?

Philanthropy for the environment is the least funded, accounting for 3% of all donations globally. Yet, what use is it if we cure a rare cancer or improve educational opportunities for children in the developing world, but have destroyed the only home we have got. Why is it that our natural world, which provides us with everything, ranks so low in our philanthropic hierarchy of giving when it is fundamental to human survival? The work conservationists, NGOs, rangers, wildlife veterinarians, etc., do is critical for the survival of biodiversity.

But because philanthropy for the environment is so low, conservationists don't have it easy.

Conservation is challenging; it requires a small group of like-minded people doing their utmost to save our natural world, whilst educating people with less understanding of how vital a role conservation plays in the survival of all species on earth...and all this work is done with little funding. Without change, we continue to undermine our own well-being, security and prosperity.

To invest in nature now, means we do not have to pay an even greater price later.

Protecting biodiversity, protects humanity.



Sine Saloum Delta © A. Lecock



04

WildlifeCampus student

Guy Degrande

# Thank you Guy!

In the beginning of this year, WildlifeCampus launched the **newly updated** Field Guiding/Game Ranging course.

The massive update of this the content was done in collaboration with a FGASA assessor.

However, this update would not have been possible without the valuable photographic contribution of our students.

## Want to be featured?

We would love to hear your story!  
Please let us know how the  
WildlifeCampus courses influenced  
your life!  
[info@wildlifecampus.com](mailto:info@wildlifecampus.com)



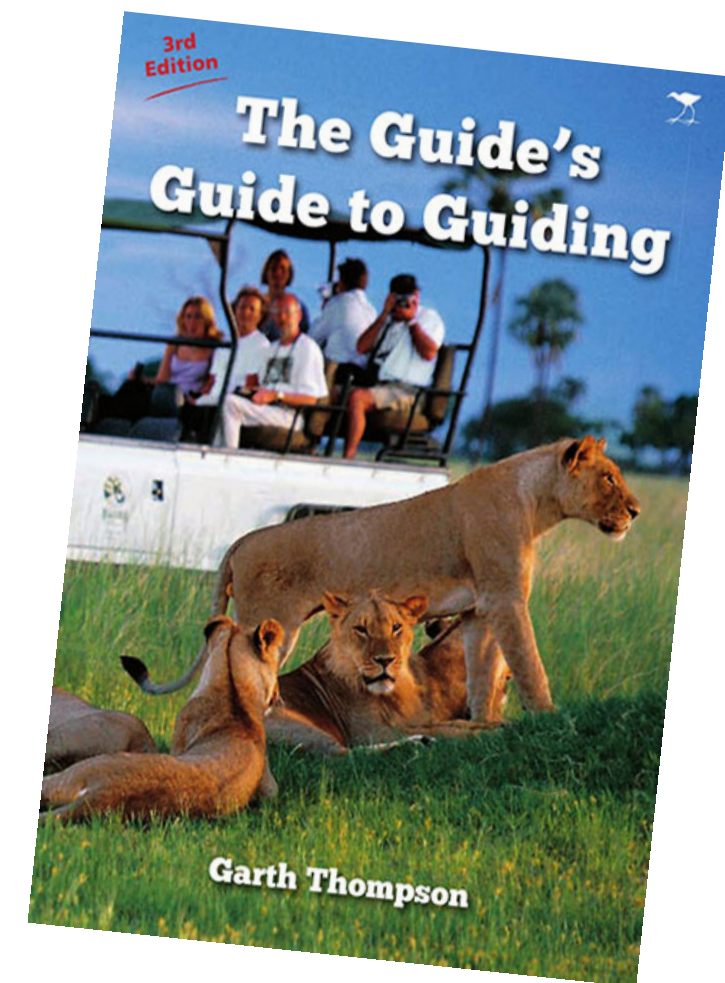
# Book sale!

What differentiates the competent from the truly exceptional and successful guide? This book has the answers and the skills you may be looking for. It will remind you of why you chose this career to begin with, impart new skills and perspective and will leave you refreshed and remotivated to provide guiding experiences at the very highest level. Written and revised by Garth Thompson, one of the world's best guides, and illustrated with superb humour by Dov Fedler, this book is quite simply a must for every field guide and game lodge manager.

WildlifeCampus has a **limited amount** of hard copies of this iconic book for sale.

Price **includes** Postnet to Postnet delivery! (South Africa only)

## R 249,00



Email [info@wildlifecampus.com](mailto:info@wildlifecampus.com) to purchase your copy!



In this this edition, WildlifeCampus would like to thank **Guy Degrande** for his amazing photographic contribution towards our courses.

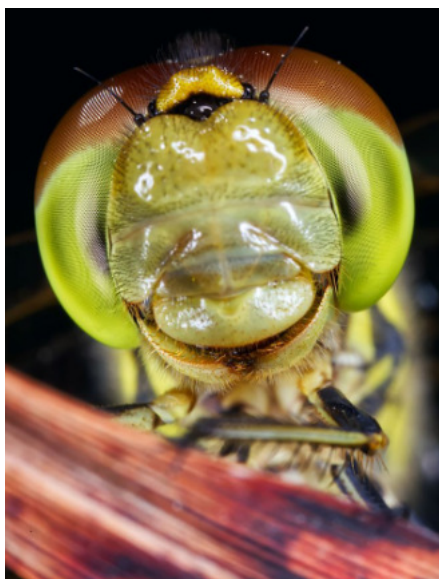
Guy lives in Belgium and has been lucky enough to visit South Africa twice in the past. The third visit has been planned but had to be put temporarily on hold due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Guy, and his girlfriend, Chanel, both have a great passion for wildlife, photography and riding their motorbikes.

As a photographer, Guy is an avid Canon shooter and recently changed his complete set-up to a mirrorless kit.

Thank you Guy! We look forward to our students seeing your incredible work throughout the courses.

To try the free component of our recently updated Field Guiding/Game Ranging course, [CLICK HERE](#).





# Looking for a job.

The third and last part in our series on how to start the daunting process of looking for a job. In this edition, Hailey gives us some tips on how to tackle the actual job search.



05

## WHERE DO I LOOK FOR WORK?

- Check job websites - both general job sites but also look for some related to the industry that you are interested in working in/have experience or qualifications in.
- Social media - Facebook, Instagram, Twitter. With social media, you can also follow relevant hashtags such as #jobseekersa
- LinkedIn - This is a great platform not only to look for work but to network with others within the industry, and you can often have direct contact with the people who make the hiring decisions, such as managers, HR, and business owners.
- Recruiters - who are recruiting within the industry you are interested in working in/ have experience or qualifications in. It's nice to find a recruiter that you feel a connection with, someone who you feel really understands your requirements and who will keep you updated throughout the process.

## DO I NEED TO MAKE A PAYMENT TO A RECRUITER?

No, recruiters should not be asking for payment. The client (your potential employer) pays the recruiter, so this is how they make their fee. Something important to note, however, is that when you work with a recruiter to get a job, the employer may include a recruitment fee payback clause in your contract only if you were to leave within a certain time frame, typically these contracts don't last more than 12 months, and the percentage you pay reduces as time goes on. This agreement has nothing to do with the recruiter and is between the employer and the employee.

## CAN I POST ONLINE THAT I AM LOOKING FOR WORK?

Yes, you can. Keep your post short and relevant but with enough information that will convince potential employers or recruiters to contact you.

Never say you are looking for "any job" as this doesn't tell anyone about your skills, experience or interests, and employers are looking to hire people in specific roles that are suited to them.

Try not to post too often and utilise different pages to post on.

You do not need to include a photo of yourself on these posts (unless you would like to).

Always double check your posts the same way you would your CV and application. Make sure your spelling and grammar is correct.

Hopefully, now that you have everything you need to start the job search and you know where to look, you will be successful in getting an interview!

## SOCIAL MEDIA TIPS

Always be mindful of how you are presenting yourself online as potential employers and recruiters do sometimes check your private accounts. There ARE even companies that offer screenings of people's social media as a service.

This being said, make your own social media pages private where possible. The only exception to this will be if you use your account to share your skills and experience. For example, many field guides have photographic pages on their Instagram and Facebook accounts. It's great for a potential employer to see these.





When looking for a job and using social media to do this, treat your photo the way you would your CV application photo, follow the same tips from the previous document for what this should be like.

Never comment on a job advert on social media "I'm interested", as you won't be contacted.

Always read the advert carefully and never ask questions such as requirements or for the email address if it is already on the job advert. This shows you haven't checked properly and doesn't look good to a potential employer.

Don't privately message someone who is posting about a job unless the advert tells you to. Most adverts will provide an email address, and your application should be sent there only.

If you are posting online that you are looking for work, it's a good idea to inform your current employer first as someone will definitely see your post, so best to be open and honest.

Never bad-mouth anyone on social media, not an employer, a colleague, a recruiter or a company. People may not comment on these sorts of posts, but they see them and wouldn't want to deal with you as an individual in any way.

#### NEED MORE ADVICE?

The [Wild Dreams website](#) includes interview tips and many industry-related blogs (you will find some of the links to these blogs in the next column) to help you on your career journey. There is also a free downloadable CV template.



#### INTERESTING BLOGS (click to read)

- [Best font for your cv](#)
- [Why sommeliers are important](#)
- [How to find a new job during a pandemic](#)
- [Step by step guide to starting a vegan kitchen](#)
- [Interview with the first vegan restaurant in Hoedspruit](#)
- [Best ways to become a freelancer](#)
- [Entrepreneurial mindset](#)
- [How covid has affected my life as a lodge manager](#)
- [Top 20 interview tips](#)
- [How to guide with vegan guests](#)
- [What is the difference between a reference letter & a certificate of service?](#)
- [Vegan hospitality client](#)
- [Cover letter template](#)
- [Interview with a professional field guide](#)
- [My hospitality story](#)
- [Wild dreams consulting services – what we offer!](#)
- [Hosting blog – what is a host?](#)
- [Interview tips and suggestions to help you get the job](#)
- [How to guide for photographers](#)
- [Interview with an experienced tracker](#)
- [Cover/motivational letter writing tips and examples](#)
- [Trying to decide which department in the hospitality industry would suit you? Check out our blog!](#)
- [Your social media presence and tips on finding a job on social media](#)
- [Suggested guides reading list – best bush books!](#)
- [From tracker to guide – interview with a guide who knows](#)
- [Interview with a hospitality professional who manages 3 different roles in a 5-star lodge!](#)
- [A day in the life of a lodge manager](#)
- [10 reasons why hospitality is the best!](#)
- [Practice interview questions](#)
- [A day in the life of a spa therapist](#)
- [What can you expect at a chef's interview?](#)
- [What is it really like to live in a game reserve?](#)

# WildlifeCampus Birding 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!

This course is directly derived from our Field Guiding course. It can be taken as a separate course. Do not purchase this course if you already have access to our Field Guiding course.

More info: [info@wildlifecampus.com](mailto:info@wildlifecampus.com)

Try the free component of this course by clicking the picture below.



# 06



# Giveaway with Give it Horns!



This giveaway is in proud partnership with Give it Horns, WildlifeCampus, Soldiers for Wildlife and Wild Response.

**Give It Horns and partners are giving away a WildlifeCampus lifetime subscription valued at R18 000!**

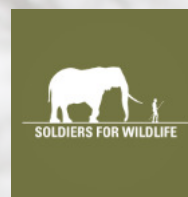
[www.giveithorns.org.za](http://www.giveithorns.org.za)  
[www.wildlifecampus.com](http://www.wildlifecampus.com)

## How to enter:

- Like the [WildlifeCampus](#), [Give it Horns](#), [Wild Response](#) and [Soldiers for Wildlife](#) Facebook pages.
- Like and share the post that will appear on the [Give it Horns Facebook page](#) 18 March 2022.
- In the comments section of the post, tell us how **YOU** contribute towards conservation.

(Only after fully completing ALL 3 steps above, will your entry be valid and entered into a draw. **Entry closing date:** 31 March 19:00. The lucky winner will be announced on 1 April at 19:00)





## WHO ARE WE?

Soldiers for Wildlife was founded by an American and former United States Navy veteran to combat a crisis that continues to plague wildlife, the people of Africa and abroad. Soldiers for Wildlife was founded in 2017, and aims at combating the flourishing illegal wildlife trade across Southern Africa by supporting those on the front lines. This trade allows for the continued violence that comes with it, serious ecological implications, animal cruelty, corruption, eradication of natural resources and threatening livelihoods and more. That's why we see it as our responsibility to take a stand, and act. We are a no-B.S. organization focused on solutions that bring results, implemented with integrity.

## WHAT WE DO

We provide support and key resources to Wildlife Ranger units in Southern Africa that focus on the sustainability of African wildlife, as well as the communities that surround them. This is a very complex issue with many different levels, therefore it is imperative we combat these issues on multiple fronts and put driven, like-minded individuals and organizations together to formulate real and lasting solutions.

## WHY NOW?

We are in an extremely unique time in our species' history, and the history of our world. We are one species that can ultimately decide the fate of not only ourselves but many other living species we reside amongst that has taken millions, and in some cases, billions of years to create and become what we see today. Today, this illicit wildlife trade is a direct threat to life, that we need to tackle. Our world's wildlife rangers in many of these third world and remote regions are facing an extremely uphill battle that is often life threatening and receive very inadequate support to perform their jobs efficiently. In many cases, they are the last line of defense keeping these wild places alive. These men and women have some of the most important jobs on the planet and we believe it is up to an international body to support those who protect the very planet that gives us our very lives, loved ones and all we hold dear.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Currently, we are based and working alongside other non-profits in South Africa involved in supporting wildlife ranger units, conservation-related missions in the field, and directly involved in supporting local communities that surround the region we are in. Our goal is to continue to grow to bring all of these focal points to the next level, ultimately leading to our organization to provide more assistance to those we believe are working hard at providing real and lasting solutions. Simultaneously, we are working with other individuals and organizations to find ways to enhance the quality of training and support that wildlife rangers receive on a global scale.



## WHO ARE WE?

Wild Response creates lasting solutions to protect endangered species and improve the lives of wildlife rangers and the communities they serve around the world.

## THE PROBLEM

The extinction of species has reached an unprecedented level this decade. Climate change and deforestation are having a major impact on overall biodiversity - leaving many species struggling to survive. Complicating this already precarious position, illegal poaching continues to happen on a mass scale.

For iconic species like rhinos and elephants, poaching continues to be the greatest threat. Wildlife rangers are the first line of defense, risking their lives on a daily basis to protect our wilds.

## RANGER ADVANCED MEDICAL PROGRAM (R.A.M.P)

The life of a ranger is difficult. Long hours working in remote locations with minimal support and constant danger. As you read this, there are rangers working all over the world without the adequate training or equipment to keep them safe. These issues result in 1 in 7 rangers being seriously injured while working. Similarly, only 15% of rangers report receiving any current medical training or med kits to prepare them for these dangers. This is unacceptable. We can no longer let rangers be silent casualties in the fight to protect our wilds.

In early 2020, Wild Response piloted it's first Ranger Combat Casualty Care course in South Africa. The program was a resounding success. It has now grown and evolved into our cutting edge Ranger Advanced Medical Program – realistic, hands-on, scenario based training that is already saving lives in the field.





# Time to call in the clean-up crew

*"For a scavenger, patience is the key to the pantry."*  
(Delia Owens, Cry of the Kalahari)

Visitors to our local reserves are often focused on the predators, these are those animals without which the plains would be littered with rotting carcasses and piles of dung that were left behind as a result of natural causes or successful hunts.

I refer to the clean-up crew of the bushveld that includes hyena, jackal, vultures and even the humble dung beetle!



By David Batzofin



*"I love animals, but I can't stand the behaviour of hyenas. They live off of others' efforts."* Mitta Xinindlu

It seems that thanks to Disney, hyenas have a bad reputation. If you consider that for many international guests the only knowledge that they have of these apex predators is what the 3

cringeworthy hyenas in The Lion King portray. But the traits that Shenzi, Banzai and Crazy Ed portray could not be further from the truth. Hyenas, although seen as scavengers, will take down prey if given the opportunity. They can be belligerent at a kill and will often chase lions away to enjoy a 'free' meal. However, only the brown hyena and the striped hyena are primarily scavengers. Spotted hyenas are highly efficient predators, killing 95% of the food that they consume.



Jackals on the other hand are like the hitmen of the bush...they will dart in and grab if given the opportunity and they have been known to harass predators far larger than themselves to obtain a 'free' meal, ganging up on a lion pride to distract while they steal. And all this at

their peril for predators become fiercely jealous of carcasses and will guard them ferociously.

Jackals are nocturnal, omnivorous scavengers. With their long legs and curved canine teeth, they are well adapted for hunting. Jackals, normally hunt alone or in pairs but they will gather in larger groups to scavenge at a carcass or to hunt larger prey.

And what about the vultures? They too have their pecking (pun intended) order as the various species have a specific role to play in how they tackle the remains of a carcass.

The etiquette at a carcass is determined by the formidability of their beaks, with the lappet-faced vulture first in line. white-backed vultures are next in line followed by white-headed vultures who don't enjoy jostling for food and would rather wait patiently until they can pick off a piece of meat and walk off to eat in peace. Finally, after all of the other vultures have feasted, the critically endangered hooded vultures, the smallest and least vigorous of the species, will carefully dig out the more tender portions. Their beaks



enable them to remove tiny bits of flesh that the others are unable to reach.

Vultures play an essential role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem. These misunderstood birds fly in from huge distances to pick decaying carcasses clean, thereby helping to prevent disease outbreaks. A world without vultures would be a foul-smelling place, filled with disease and carcasses across our landscape.

How important are vultures? Vultures play a vital role in the clean-up of the environments in which they live. Often referred to as 'nature's clean-up crew', their scavenging ways help to prevent the spread of diseases, such as rabies and tuberculosis, through clearing away carcasses. What would happen if vultures became extinct? According to National Geographic, these endangered scavengers are crucial because "without vultures, reeking carcasses would likely linger longer, insect populations would boom, and diseases would spread – to people, livestock, and other wild animals".



And then there is the dung... a crappy job, but someone has to do it. And that very specific job falls to the almost 800 species of dung beetle found in South Africa. They seem to have a nose for fresh dung and will descend on it in swarms while it is still warm. There are a variety of species in this genre. Some roll dung into round balls and those are used as a food source or breeding chambers. There are tunnelers, who do not roll but bury the dung wherever they find it. And then there are the dwellers, who do nothing except live in the dung! All of them are important for the breakdown and recycling of dung into the soil, enabling the nutrients to cycle through the ecosystem.

The next time you are in a clean, dung-free ecosystem, you will know who you have to thank. Now, if only we could get them the clean up the urban areas as well...

David is an award-winning blogger whose work can be found at [www.travelandthings.co.za](http://www.travelandthings.co.za)







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