



WildlifeCampus

LEARN PROTECT SAVE

Magazine

Employment section
Interview tips!

Plant poaching
By Amy Holt

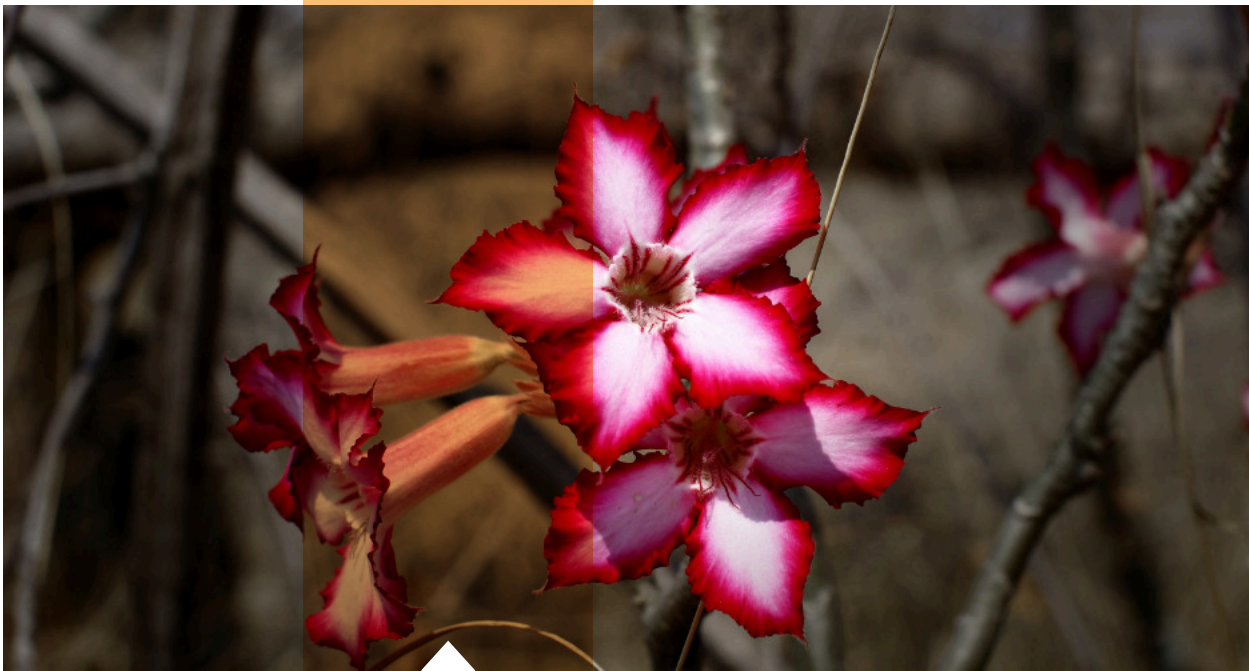
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“The show must go on”, a book written by Peter Armitage tells the birth story of a company called AfriCam. Read with us as the story unfolds, AfriCam grows and eventually, WildlifeCampus finds its origin.

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Plant Poaching

WildlifeCampus student, Amy Holt, gives us a perspective on poaching issues generally not making headlines.

This article will take us into the lesser known plant poaching territory.

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Thank you!

In this edition, WildlifeCampus would like to thank Luke Kamp 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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Career combo!

Launch your career change and combine the WildlifeCampus Field Guiding and Front of House Lodge Operations courses at the **discounted price of R 5 999,00**

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Employment

Looking for a job?

Wild Dreams Hospitality has some vacancies in the spotlight as well as some **interview tips and suggestions to help you get the job.**

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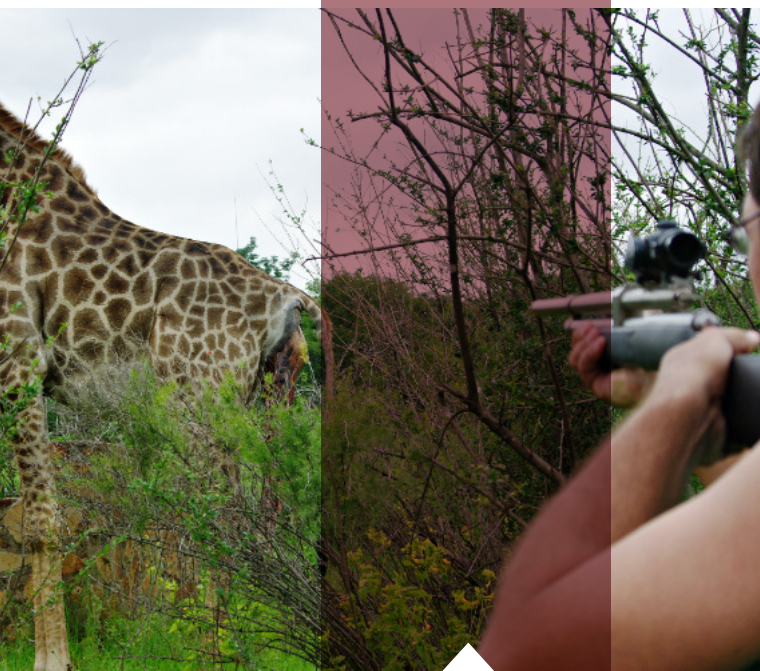
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Anti-poaching

A true WildlifeCampus original! Our anti-poaching course is based upon direct counter-poaching experience and provides a detailed, theoretical background to the prevention of poaching.

Scroll to try the free component of this course.

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Extra rewards!

WildlifeCampus promised an announcement in our previous magazine.

Scroll down to page 22 to find out what will be coming for WildlifeCampus students on the 1st of June!

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Lose a life to save a life?

David Batzofin tells us the story of how he witnessed a giraffe birth gone wrong.

Nature is not always the way we would like it to be. Though the outcome of the story is better than anyone could have expected.

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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 first part of this story? [Click here](#) to the WildlifeCampus magazine where this exciting journey starts.

Four hours into the trip, at 9AM in the morning, Paul and Graham stopped at The Castle. Adjoining a lone petrol pump, The Castle was not the home of royalty but rather a bottle store. It was one of those architectural eyesores built by somebody with a dream and a startling structure to find in the middle of nowhere. Stopping at The Castle would become a ritual on the many trips to Djuma Game Reserve to fill the boot up with Zamaleks (the name in the local dialect for Black Label).

Two hours and four Zamaleks later, they arrived at Djuma, full of beer and anticipation. At this stage, Paul and Graham had no business plan or bigger picture. They shared a passion for fun, wildlife and this new internet technology, and they would make it up as they went along. They had no idea whether they had the right equipment or not – it was a voyage of discovery.

For the first few trips, Jurie kept very much to himself. He gave the mad webcam bandits from Johannesburg virtual free rein of the property. This was to change over the next few weeks as Paul and Graham would return time and time again to

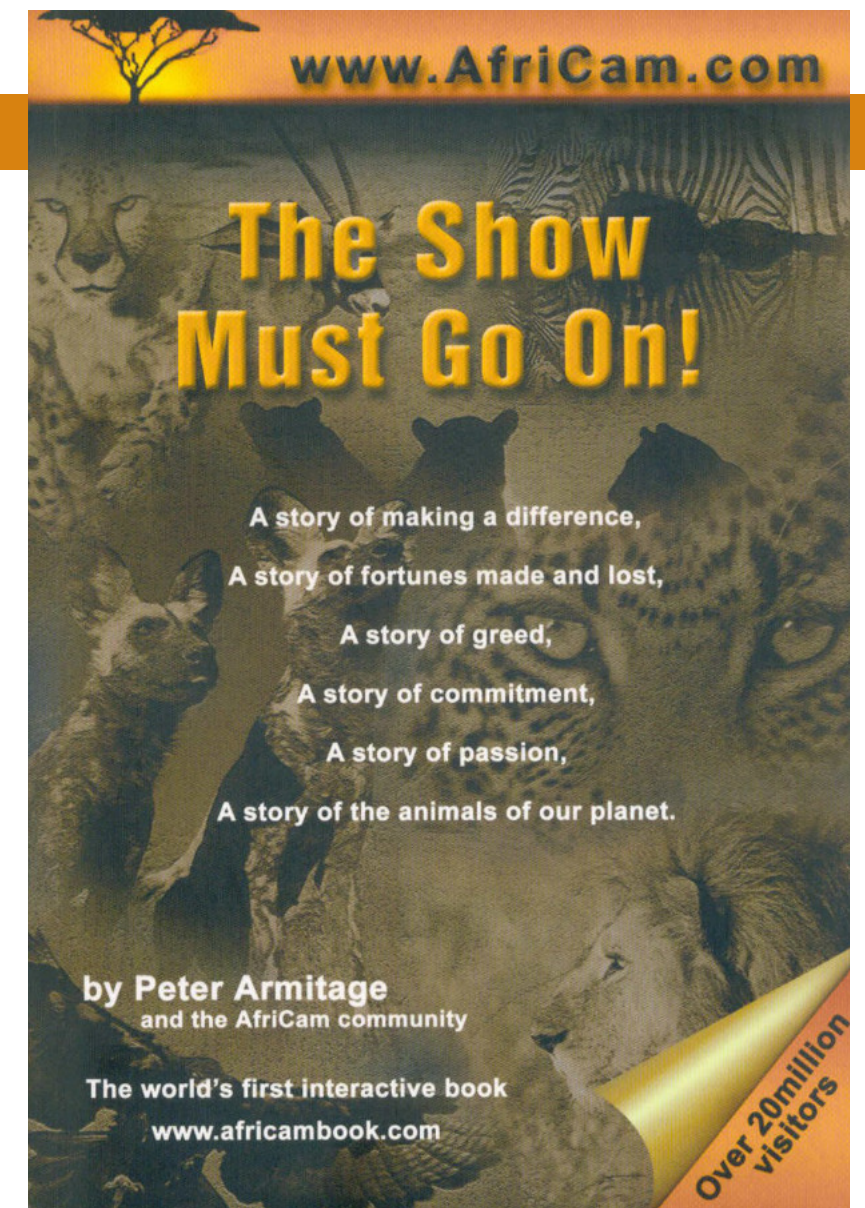


get an image on a computer screen. Red-bearded Campbell Scott and his wife Pendre were Jurie's partners at Djuma, and they would play an equally valuable role.

Paul and Graham intended to install two cameras – one fixed on the Djuma crib and one mobile camera. They had brought the tools and equipment they thought necessary, which included Q's Black Box. On the first trip, they spent four days working out how to make this all possible. Invariably after a half-hour trip to one of the sites, they would discover that they had left a crucial spanner, or hammer, behind. Over time it became more professional, especially with the introduction of Alex Wills.

The new technology elicited a great deal of interest from almost everybody at Djuma Game Reserve, and volunteers and helpers abounded. Of great assistance on the first trip was none other than Captain James Morley-Kirk, who was in charge of signals for the British Army and was running the South African office of Cathay Pacific Airlines. He provided much insight into the radio signal issues. Ranger Gavin Bullen was also an early convert. He was a little henpecked by his loving wife Debbie, who was sensitive about the amount of commitment shown to the webcam project.

Probably the most interesting character in those early days was the inimitable game farm worker Magic Mabunda. He was a constant headache for Jurie as he was just plain lazy. Magic had a high standing in his local community and was strongly connected politically. He seemed schizophrenic as far as work was concerned. In contrast to his traditional lack of work ethic, where Paul and Graham were involved, nothing was too much work. He would carry ladders, lay cables and even cut down the sharply thorned buffalo thorn tree with his panga if it helped the project.



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

Magic was the talk of the town at this time. He had performed a memorable dance at the previous weekend's town dance – dressed in woman's clothing. He was getting a quiet chuckle from his co-workers that weekend and Paul and Graham piled in. But this did not stop his hard work and dedication. Magic was eventually fired by Campbell, because of his sloth.

To this day, Paul and Graham still pay tribute to this wonderful character and his commitment. He probably never saw an AfriCam image on a computer screen (as his local town did not have internet access). But Magic somehow seemed to sense that this project was something special. He talked of more tourists, and more tourists meant more jobs for his local family and friends. This seemed significant to him, but ironically his own job never seemed that critical to him.

The first Djuma installation trip was successful if measured by factors other than the installation itself.

“The initial euphoria and party attitude took a back seat and was replaced by a determination to get an image on the screen.”

“144 Zamaleks and 6 bottles of Rust-en-Vrede did the job,” was Gavin Bullen’s retort when Paul asked him to explain the seemingly unjustifiable bar bill. Graham smiled knowingly, and suddenly he realised why the first trip did not achieve its objectives.

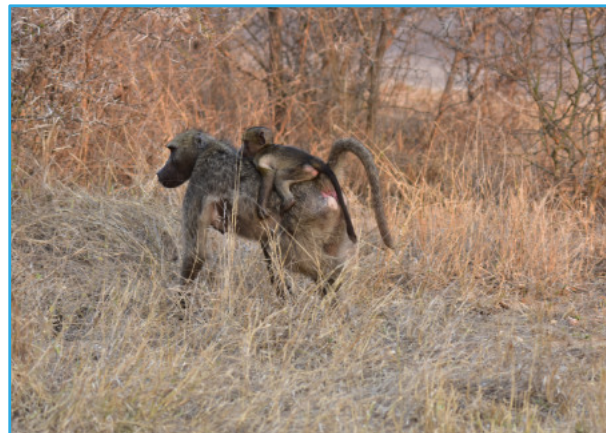
This was the first of many bar and lunch bills which Paul would pay. Graham believed that a wallet was too heavy to carry around in his pocket, and he is one of the few people I know whose lifestyle defies the old adage “There is no such thing as a free lunch”.

“If it is the last thing we do” - July 1998

The following weekend they were back after the customary stops at Q’s premises and The Castle. But the initial euphoria and party attitude took a back seat and was replaced by a determination to get an image on the screen. This was one of AfriCam’s secrets for the next three years. No challenge was too daunting – the team just got the job done. It did, however, take another five visits to eventually get that elusive image on the screen.

On the second trip, the prospects looked good. The Djuma crib camera was set up in the tree overlooking the crib, and the trench was dug to lay the cable. The cable was laid, and all that was left was to fill up the trench. The timing was not great as the sun was starting to set. Magic and his men were keen, but Paul and Graham glanced at each other knowingly. Nothing was said, but they both knew what the other one was thinking. Ten minutes later, they were both drinking a Zamalek at the Djuma Lodge bar, looking out over the African bush as the sun set. There are few more tranquil scenes in the world.

That night the elephants of Djuma changed the plans a little. Clearly a little camera shy, the pachyderms decided that they were not quite ready for their international internet debut, and they proceeded to obliterate all of the cable. And when the largest of land mammals makes that decision, the results are fairly devastating.



The next morning the sight of yesterday’s work being devastated was all that Paul and Graham needed to cure their hangovers. They had to start all over again. It was close to the end of the next day when Paul and Graham realised that they were not going to make it, again. Accompanied by Magic, Paul hurried off to the Djuma gate with Magic to get some help. Magic convinced another six locals to come and help. They respected Magic.

Seven workers squeezed into the Discovery, and they raced back to the camera site. Armed with spades, they all set about filling up the trench over the new cable, racing against the setting sun. Paul supervised the work, and as he stood at the top of the hill, he cut a silhouette that Graham will never forget. Against the late sunset with the dust in the background, Paul looked like a Colonial Brit, wearing his safari hat, with a .405 rifle by his side.

Graham recalled Lewis Carroll’s definition of tranquillity: “The one magic moment when the sun rests on the rim of the world, and the hush descends.”

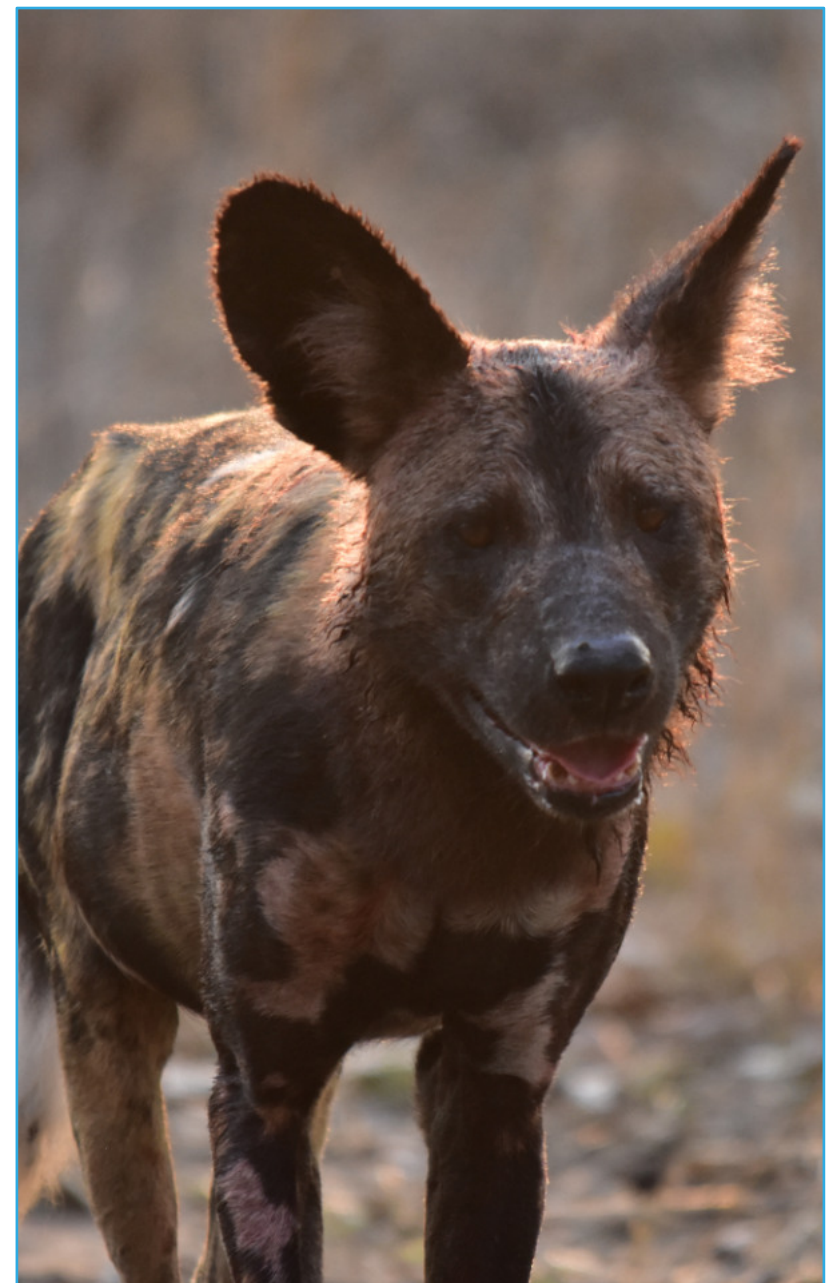
Not wanting a repeat of the previous night, George the German was charged with the task of protecting the trench. George was one of those conservation converts that came out to Africa for a while and worked for free on the game reserves. George had to chase away a few elephants during the course of the night. He was considering going back home to Germany by the time the sun rose. He had not told anybody that he was paranoid about elephants.

The mobile camera required a microwave receiver to be positioned at the top of the ridge and the perfect position was on top of an anthill on the Nkoro lodge property, just outside Djuma. It was with some trepidation that Paul and Graham went to go and ask the landowner, Dirk Bekker, for permission to use his property.

Another character of the Sabi Sands, Dirk, was reputed to drink a bottle of brandy every evening. He had also been known to use a nightscope to shoot animals with a 0.22 during the hours of darkness. A few weeks earlier, in the middle of the night, he had fired off a magazine of ammunition from an automatic rifle, much to the chagrin of his neighbours. Dirk’s property was aimed at the lower end of the market and provided one of the few places in the Sabi Sands for backpackers to spend a few nights. It is the only lodge with a pool table in the resort.

Armed with prior knowledge, Paul and Graham visited Dirk with a case of brandy. Needless to say, permission was granted, and they all became great friends. It was this same currency that was used for the next few years to “incentivise” people who helped on the project. Things happen a little differently in Africa.

A few more trips and both the mobile cam and the fixed cam were working, ready for transmission to the world.





Plant poaching

Not making headlines

By WildlifeCampus student

Amy Holt

South Africa is the third most biologically diverse country in the world. Home to nearly 10% of the world's plants and the only country in the world to contain an entire floral kingdom—Cape Floral Kingdom comprising 13 protected areas in the Eastern and Western Cape provinces. Yet, this diversity is under threat due to demand for these plant's medicinal value, as well as, their rarity which attracts collectors from around the world. Plant poaching might not make the headlines like rhino poaching, but there are still serious consequences for the environment.

02

Plants are the backbone to life on Earth, with all life dependent on them. They provide food, with approximately 7000 different plant species having been cultivated and used as food for people, and they provide habitats for many animals. Furthermore, plants are vital in maintaining atmospheric conditions and, they regulate the water cycle by distributing and purifying the planet's water supply. It is estimated that 25% of all prescribed medicines contain some ingredient(s) derived from plants. However, the lack of awareness of the importance of plants and the fact the demise of plants will likely never elect the same emotional response as the death of an endangered animal, has pushed many South African plants to the brink of extinction—39 species are already extinct, which is the highest documented number of extinct plant species of any country in the world.

Cycads a group of 'prehistoric' palm-like plants, are the world's oldest seed-bearing plants yet, they are now believed to be the most endangered group of species on the planet. The illegal plant trade threatens two-thirds of cycads, with people who buy them ranging from plant enthusiasts to serious collectors. South Africa's cycads are rarer than the rhino; of the 38 species in South Africa, 3 are extinct in the wild, 12 are critically endangered, 4 are endangered, 9 are vulnerable and, 7 are near threatened. In the past 20 years, most of South Africa's endangered and critically endangered cycad species have had their population decline between 50% and 90%.



Impala lily - L. Pauleikho

The worth of this lucrative international trade is estimated at R700,000, linking poachers to wealthy private collectors. Cycads are easy targets for poachers, as they don't have complex root systems and can be left out of the ground for months before being replanted—making them easy to transport. Since May 2012, it is prohibited to harvest, trade, sell, buy, import, export, donate, convey or receive any wild cycads, even the plants that have possession permits. They are also listed in Appendix I of CITES which, means international trade in wild specimens is prohibited. More than 60% of cycads occur in reserves, some of which have been specifically created to protect cycads, such as the Lily Reserve in Limpopo province. However, due to cycads being scarce, holding attractiveness as landscape elements and, granting significant 'bragging rights' to garden owners, at least ten species have been poached from within reserves. Thereby, increasing their commercial value and constituting big business.

Several initiatives have been created in the hope to conserve remaining species and, increase awareness with the public. 'Programme 250-plus' aims to get the number of plants of critically endangered cycad species above the 250 threshold. While, 'habitat for 100' involves trying to set aside at least 100 square kilometres of protected habitats for each of the endangered cycads for the next 100 years. The Botanical Society of South Africa (BotSoc) has developed a 'save the cycads' educational campaign for schools and other learning institutes, that provide teachers with the materials and resources they need to incorporate the importance of endangered plant species into the curriculum.

South Africa is home to three biodiversity hotspots: Cape Floristic Region, Succulent Karoo and, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Corridor. For many ecosystems, biodiversity is an important characteristic in keeping them working, able to withstand shocks and recover from them. As species are lost, the ability of natural systems to properly function goes down. Protecting areas with greater plant diversity could ensure more stable rates of carbon sequestration, increase soil fertility and biomass production. It could also, help prevent desertification and, buffer animal populations from the privations of climate extremes.

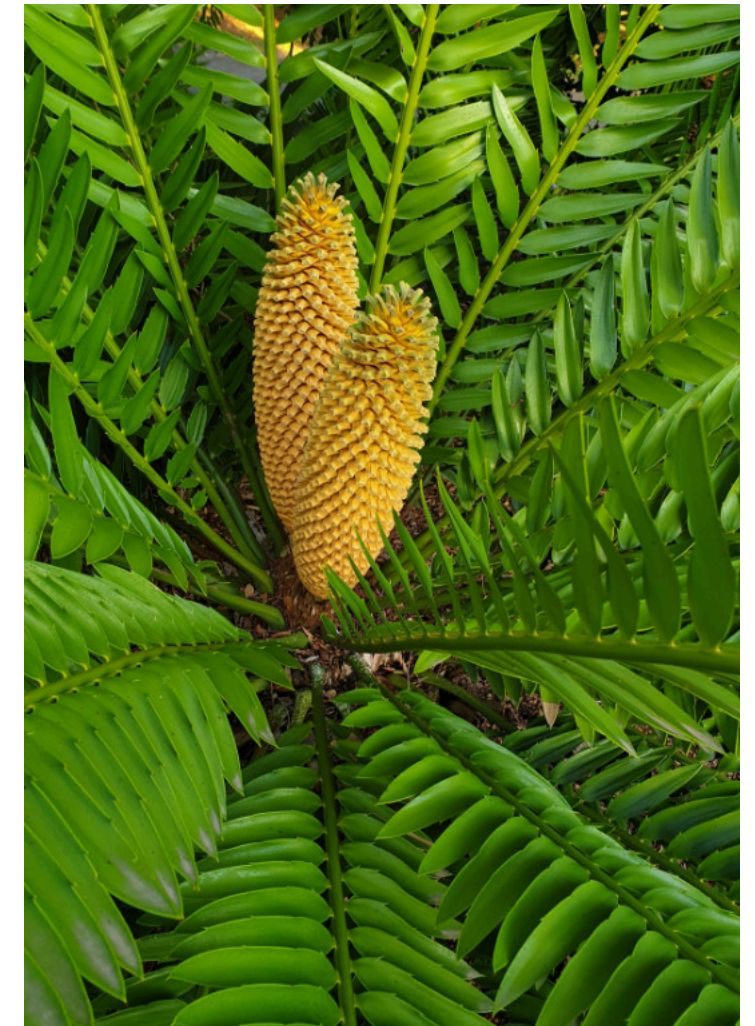
The Succulent Karoo is the world's only arid hotspot which, is home to more than 6300 plant species—thousands of which are found nowhere else on Earth! It covers an area of approximately 116,000 square kilometres in Namibia and South Africa, with only a quarter of the desert remaining in a pristine state due, to inadequate protection—more of the land needs to be put under formal protection. Unusually for a desert, the Succulent Karoo has an abundance of plants—including a third of the world's succulent species.

Succulents, which include cacti and aloe plants, can survive searing temperatures by storing any moisture in their stems and leaves. Fleshy and peppered with bright flowers, they supply essential food and moisture for a wealth of insects such as monkey beetles, termites and, long-tongued flies. In turn, these insects draw insectivores, like scorpions, and golden moles. In springtime, the Karoo's plants burst into colour—a phenomenon that draws crowds of tourists every year. But, this abundance can also attract the wrong sort of attention. The growing illegal market for succulents, to

supply demand for the ornamental plant trade (species that contain pharmaceutically active compounds or are suspected to—are also targeted), is fuelling poaching activities in the Karoo region. The problem is likely to grow as public knowledge of the region's spectacular plant diversity increases. This will have a crippling effect on the Succulent Karoo's environment which is easily damaged and, takes a long period to recover. Some of the world's rarest and most desirable cacti and succulents are not available as seed-grown plants from ethically responsible nurseries because, the plants can take many years to reach a saleable size. Therefore, other options will be needed to stop the demand, since trying to supply the demand would be infeasible.

The passion for protecting our plants is not as strong as it is for our animals because the awareness of the general populace, even in countries where these plants grow, is so small. Yet, our plants are just as fragile, or even more fragile, than many animals. Increased awareness among tourists and local communities via educational conservation campaigns is needed, if we are going to curb the demand for illegally harvested succulents.

Over the last century, medicinal wildlife use has evolved from being the restricted domain of traditional, to a thriving trade and the principle source of household income to a multi-national network of harvesters and traders.



Cycad species - T. Melnyczuk



The trade in herbal medicines in South Africa is estimated to generate an income value of about R2.9 billion per year. Due to the limited accessibility, availability and affordability of modern medicines, an estimated 27 million people in South Africa rely on traditional medicine.

The unregulated, unsustainable trade puts everlasting pressure on the plant kingdom. There are currently, more than 2100 South African plant species used for traditional medicine, of which one third is regularly traded in markets.

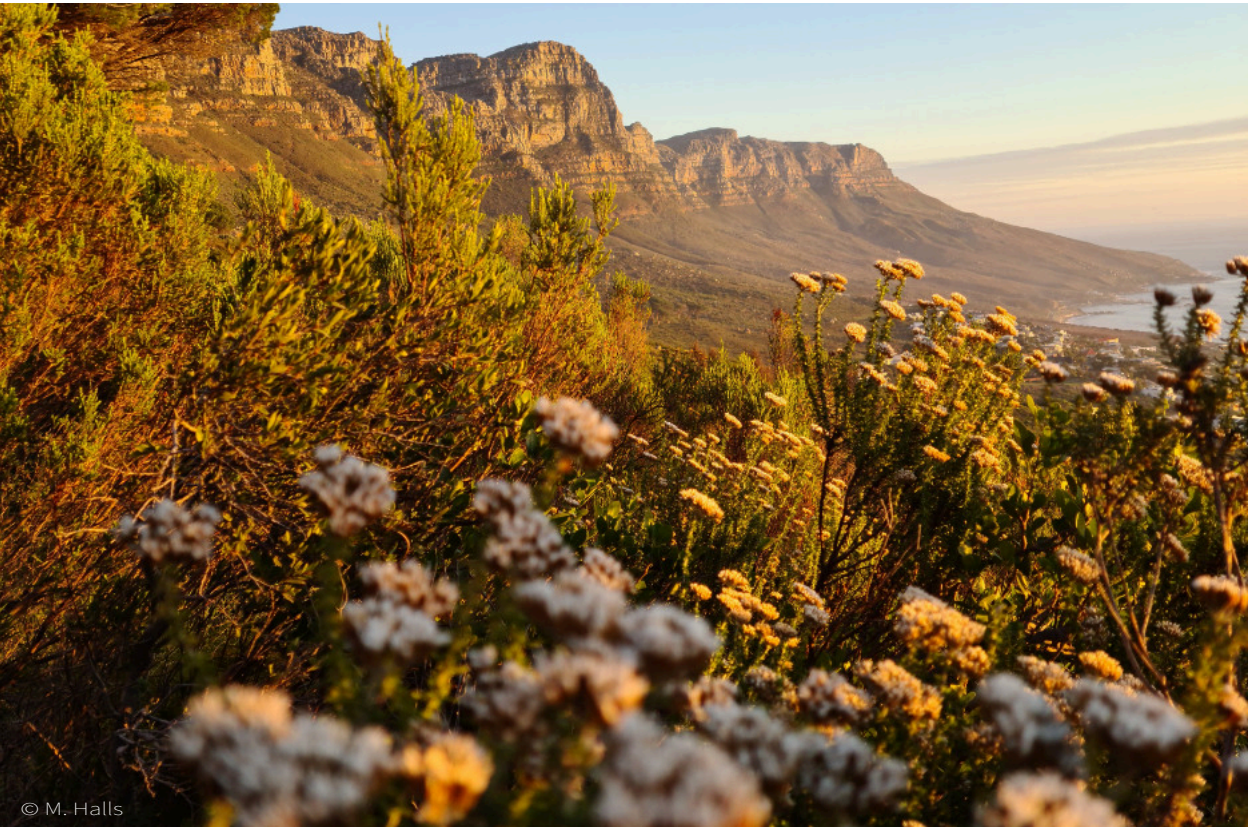
One of these highly sought out species is wild ginger. A forest floor dwelling plant with a delicate orchid like flower which is deemed by some to have potent healing and magical powers. Once abundant, ranging from the Mpumalanga hills to the coast of KwaZulu-Natal, it is now becoming increasingly rare—considered critically endangered as it is now locally extinct in KwaZulu-Natal. A SANParks initiative at Skukuza Indigenous Nursery is attempting to cultivate wild ginger through rhizome division. The wild ginger would then be supplied to medicinal nurseries at a fraction of the cost poachers would ask for. They hope by selling directly to medicinal nurseries that supply the muthi market dealers they can cut out the poachers, thus supplying the demand whilst protecting the naturally occurring wild populations. Ultimately, the goal is to teach the muthi dealers and medicinal nurseries to cultivate their own wild ginger populations, which they will harvest sustainably.

The summer impala lily, which is critically endangered, is

often targeted for the traditional medicinal trade. The tuber in its raw form is highly toxic; however once diluted, the extracts are a popular treatment for purging the body and, can be found in almost every muthi market from Nelspruit to Durban. It can only be legally sold or bought with the appropriate permits yet, this does not deter commercial gathers who have less motivation to collect sustainably. This is why, SANParks are working in collaboration with the South Africa National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) on a project that hopes to bypass poaching, by providing an alternative source of summer impala lilies to both the medicinal trade and horticulturalists, while empowering local communities. Wild seeds are collected, some of which are germinated in Kruger's Skukuza Indigenous Nursery for commercial sales. Others are being used in community projects which, hope to re-establish local populations which can then be sustainably used. Losing the summer impala lily wouldn't just be about the knock-on ecological impact it would have on the ecosystem, but also the impact on humans who depend on its medicinal properties.

I think we are all a bit guilty of 'plant blindness', often appreciating animals far more than we do plants. Yet, this mindless behaviour could have serious and detrimental effects for plant diversity and, ultimately all life on Earth.

Take the time to appreciate plants and educate others on their importance ...because we... simply couldn't live in a world without plants.



Thank you Ashley!

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 and partners.

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

Career combo

Combine the WildlifeCampus Field Guiding and Front of House Lodge Operations courses at the **discounted price of R 5 999,00***

Email: info@wildlifecampus.com

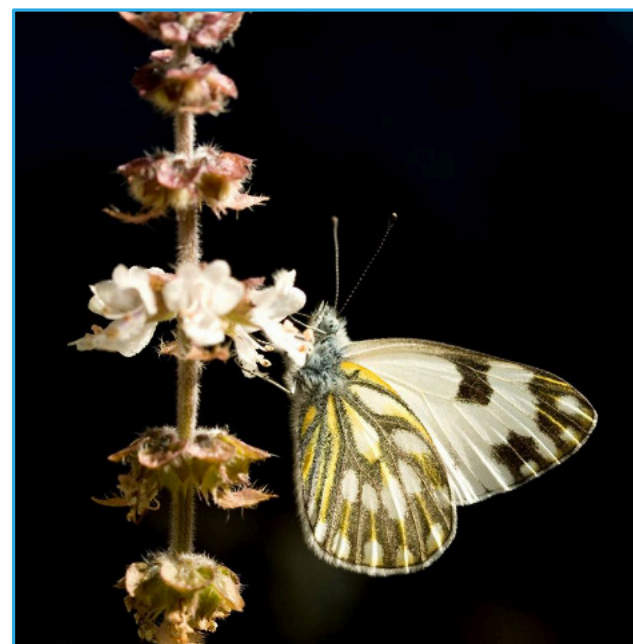


In this this edition, WildlifeCampus would like to thank **Ashley Kemp** for her amazing photographic contribution towards our courses.

Ashley is South African and works for [African Snakebite Institute](#). She has also been a WildlifeCampus student since 2012.

Thank you Ashley! We look forward to our students seeing your incredible work throughout the Field Guiding/ Game Ranging course.

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



WildlifeCampus offers the industry's definitive Field Guiding/Game Ranging course. This is the perfect course for wildlife enthusiasts, those entering the industry, and for those looking to fully prepare for their FGASA Theory Exams.

To try the free component of this course click the [image](#).

Written by Hayley Cooper of Wild Dreams Hospitality, this course has fast become one of our most popular courses. If you are looking to enter the hospitality industry, want to brush up your current and/or staff skills or merely have an interest in the subject, this course is for you!

To try the free component of this course click the [image](#).



*Special ends 27/05/2022

No monthly payment options are available for discounted packages

Vacancies

Wild Dreams Hospitality currently has vacancies in Kruger National Park as well as the Hoedspruit, Greater Kruger and Sabi Sands areas. We are recruiting for the positions listed below. To view these vacancies in detail, the requirements, packages and how to apply, go to www.wilddreams.co.za and click on recruitment/jobs. Make sure you submit everything as per the job advert and state the title of the position you are applying for in your email subject line. If you need assistance with your CV then use our free CV template on our CV advice page.



Admin/Customer Relations Limpopo Live-out position	Duty Manager/F&B Limpopo Live-in position
F&B Operations Manager Limpopo Live-in position	Duty Manager Limpopo Live-in position
Junior Travel Consultant Mpumalanga Live-out position	Assistant Manager Limpopo Live-out position
Back-up Trails Field Guide Gauteng Live-in position	Housekeeping Manager Limpopo Live-in position
Safari Manager/Head Guide Gauteng Live-in position	Trails Guide/Host Greater Kruger Live-in position
Trails Guide/Admin Couple Mpumalanga Live-in position	Hospitality Recruiter Remote Live-out position
Head Chef Mpumalanga Live-in position	Financial Controller Cape Town Live-out position
Lodge Manager Limpopo Live-in position	Executive Housekeeper Mpumalanga Live-in position
Head Chef Cape Town Live-out position	Senior Lodge Anchor KZN Live-in position
Store Manager Cape Town Live-out position	Sous Chef Greater Kruger Live-in position
Restaurant Ops Manager Cape Town Live-out position	Butler Western Cape Live-in position
Head Chef KZN Live-in position	Stock Controller Western Cape Live-out position



Trails Guide & Admin Couple
Limpopo
Live-in position

PR/Social Media Assistant
Western Cape
Live-in position

Head Guide
Limpopo & Greater Kruger
Live-in position

Maintenance Manager
Mpumalanga
Live-in position

Stomatologist
Mpumalanga
Live-in position

Lodge Anchor
Mpumalanga
Live-in position

Guide Instructor
Limpopo
Live-in position

FOH Manager
Namibia
Live-in position

Vegan Recruiter
Remote
Live-out position

Assistant Management Couple
Greater Kruger
Live-in position

Housekeeper
Limpopo
Live-in position

HR Administrator
Mpumalanga
Live-in position

Travel Consultant
JHB
Live-out position

Reservations
JHB
Live-out position

Lead Trail's Guide
Greater Kruger
Live-in position

Lead Trail's Guide
Western Cape
Live-in position

Senior Sous Chef
Greater Kruger
Live-in position

The Wild Dreams Hospitality Front of House Lodge Operations course makes for an excellent add-on to your CV .

[Click here to try the free component.](#)



Interview tips and suggestions to help you get the job

So, you have had the call to say you have been invited to an interview, but... now what?

It is important not to do two things after getting this call:

- Assume that you have the job “in the bag”
- Panic!



Getting ready:

You obviously will not know if the employer has already seen other interviewees or has other interviews lined up after you so although just getting an interview is very exciting, you need to make sure you present yourself in the best possible way to the employer so that they choose you for the job! Your preparation and the effort you put in could make or break this opportunity for you. It is natural to be a bit nervous on hearing you have an interview lined up, especially if it is your first interview or if you haven't attended any interviews for a very long time. So we have put together a few helpful suggestions in order to ensure you feel prepared and ready to “shine”

Well before the interview:

- Make sure you know where you are going (exact location)
- Make sure you have planned your transport method, whether you are driving yourself (check your car is good to go and has fuel!) or if you are using public transport, know which taxis/buses to get and from where
- Know the time that you will need to depart home to arrive at least 30 minutes early (possibly more, if using public transport just in case)
- Make sure you have the contact details of your recruiter/the person you are interviewing with in case you need them
- Make sure you have a cell phone with you with airtime, in case you have an unexpected delay and need to inform them
- Make sure you have some money with you, hopefully you will know this in advance but some reserves (if you have a lodge-based interview) may require payment on entry
- Make sure you research the company and know what position you are applying for
- Check out the Wild Dreams website for our Practice interview questions, we suggest doing them with a friend or family member first
- Make sure a friend/family member knows where you are going and when you will return

- It is important to look smart for an interview, but it is also just as important to be comfortable in what you are wearing so choose your outfit carefully
- Outfit suggestions for men – long pants and a plain shirt, tucked in (a tie is not essential, but if you would like to wear one, of course you can) shoes should be smartish and clean
- Outfit suggestions for women – pants or a skirt, but if a skirt not too short, a plain top of your choice, not too low cut. Make-up but minimal and jewellery, also minimal. If you are wearing heels, just make sure you can walk in them
- It is still good to show off your “style” in your interview outfit but try and be on the smarter side of what you would normally wear and make the effort!
- Make sure you have had a shower and are smelling good
- Make sure your clothes are clean
- Clean teeth (as you should be smiling on arrival!)
- Make sure overall you are neat, clean and presentable

What to bring with you:

- Other than a cell phone and some cash you should also have your ID with you
- The place where you are interviewing will already have a copy of your CV, if you would like to bring a copy with you, then you can, but this isn't essential
- If you have certificates related to the position, then you can bring these if you would like
- If you are a chef, you will probably of already submitted a food portfolio but you could also bring some food images as a portfolio with you
- If you are a guide who has photographic abilities and have a wildlife images portfolio you could bring this as well
- If bringing documents, then make sure you have them well presented in a flip file or similar

- If you have any images/certificates/reference letters that may not have been submitted already but you think they may be asked for or may help your interview then you can also put these onto a USB stick and have this with you, if the employer asks or you feel it is worth mentioning then they can use the stick to view the images or documents on their computers
- If you know you have a long distance to travel to the interview, make sure you bring some food and water so that you aren't so hungry on arrival that your stomach growls throughout the interview process

INTERVIEW TIPS

On arrival:

- Make sure you smile at the person who is greeting you and shake their hand, you may be greeted by someone who isn't the interviewer, such as a receptionist but it is important you give a good first impression to every single person who you meet at the company so smile and be friendly to all
- When shaking people's hand, do so firmly (but not too tight or hard)
- Look people in the eye when you meet them
- Smile and stand by tall
- It is a good idea to turn your cell phone off or on silent now as you do not want it going off in the interview
- If you need the bathroom before the interview – ask! You do not want to be uncomfortable throughout the interview
- If you are staying over for a working interview, find out where you can put your belongings so these aren't in the way

During the interview:

- Let the interviewer show you where you should sit, before sitting down
- When you are in the interview sit up tall in your chair
- Try not to look down and look the interviewer in the eyes when talking and listening
- Make sure you listen carefully to everything that is being said
- If there are other staff around or distractions just try to stay focused
- Think before you answer a question and try to answer it with as much confidence as possible
- Try to keep all of your answers relevant to the industry/ position

- Have a couple of questions ready that you want to ask them (this isn't always possible, as maybe they have answered all of your planned questions in the interview, but if this is the case, then just let them know that they have done this)
- Make sure you are polite and friendly throughout the interview
- When talking about the industry, your past work or the position you are applying for be enthusiastic so they know you are passionate about getting this position

At the end of the interview:

- Thank the interviewer for their time
- Shake their hand
- Look them in the eye
- Smile
- Let them know you are excited to hear back from them

If you are in a working interview then you will have more time to impress, just remember you are being watched by not only the employer but the other staff. Although this is a scary thought it is your chance to show them why you would be an excellent addition to their team and get to know them.

We hope these tips and suggestions are helpful for your next interview.



Anti-Poaching course


A true WildlifeCampus original! Our anti-poaching course is based upon extensive direct counter-poaching experience. It provides a detailed, theoretical background to the prevention of poaching. We discuss the types of poaching and why they occur, who is involved in poaching and at what levels, and how to carry out anti-poaching efforts.

This course will raise your awareness of the types of poaching that may occur in your local community, the importance of conservation and how you can spread awareness. If you are an enthusiast, conservationist, volunteer, reserve owner, conservancy, wildlife or game farm manager; game ranger, game guide, game guard, trails guide, field guide, armed response unit or merely have an interest in this field, this course is aimed at you.

More info: info@wildlifecampus.com

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





**From the 1st of June
WildlifeCampus will be
offering student cards!**

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Lose a life to save a life?

By David Batzofin



It all started with a phone call from the owner of a game reserve that I have worked at for decades. They have a family of giraffes that have been on the property and bred successfully for the longest time.

“Come quickly”, said the owner, “Lady” (the dominant female) is about to give birth.

This galvanised me into grabbing my camera bag as well as throwing some essentials into a suitcase in case it turned out to be a long night. Little did I know how prophetic that would become?

I wanted to get there as quickly as possible to capture the birth from start to finish for the reserve. As it transpired my 23km dash was not as time-sensitive as I thought.

When I got to the reserve, Lady was standing patiently in the open with two legs of her offspring protruding from her



vagina. Given the prolonged time that the situation had remained the same, we were worried that the calf might be dead or at the very least severely compromised.

A call to a local vet confirmed what we had suspected, it was a breech birth and the calf was, in all probability, dead. Given the set of circumstances, the vet believed that the mother would have to be euthanised as the property was not set up to capture, or to do any sort of surgery on her and this was something the reserve owner was prepared to do.

In the meantime, her water had broken and almost the entire front legs, as far as the shoulders were now visible. Given the amount of effort that Lady was expending, it was clear that she was close to exhaustion and might not make it through the night.

Dawn broke and we found her standing in almost the exact spot we had left her the night before. But as luck would have it, we had received a call from a vet who specialised in giraffe and, although he was a 3-hour drive away, he was already in his vehicle and on the road to come and help.

The vet and his capture crew wasted no time when they arrived. Ropes were prepared and the dart gun loaded. Lady was so tired that the M99 anaesthetic, that can take up to 15 minutes to act, knocked her down almost instantaneously. Time now became critical as the vet only had 20 minutes to remove the remains of the calf and get Lady standing again. If left in a prone position for too long, a giraffe can suffocate and die.

The foetus was quickly removed in a rather gruesome manner that involved using a wire to cut its neck to facilitate easy withdrawal. It might seem callous, but given the time constraints, it was the only way to save Lady.

Having made certain that Lady was internally sound; the foetus was checked as it lay at my feet, still wet with amniotic fluid and encased in its sac. It was a moment of contemplation for all those involved.

Life had been lost, but at the same time, another had been saved. It is the way that nature works and it is what has kept species going for decades.

The reversal drug was administered and, with a little help from a cattle prod and some well-positioned ropes, Lady was quickly up on her feet.

No time for the vet to even have breakfast as he was in a rush to return home to pick up on other cases that he had postponed to come to our rescue. While he was packing up he did mention to me that this was only the 12th recorded case where a giraffe had survived a breech birth. In the wild, without help, the female would have probably become food for predators or she would have succumbed to sepsis as the foetus decayed in her uterus.

Without so much as a look at her deceased calf, she trotted off to get some food and water as well as to distance herself from unwanted attention from the rest of the herd while she recovered from the ordeal that she had just undergone.

HOWEVER, the story does have a happy ending as almost exactly 18 months to the day she gave birth to a healthy female calf that survived to become part of the family.

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



WildlifeCampus registration FAQ's

Q: Do I need to wait for a semester to begin to register?

A: No, you may register and begin a course at any time that is convenient for you.

Q: Are there any entrance requirements?

A: There are no entrance requirements. Anyone may join our courses from anywhere in the world!

Q: Are there any deadlines to complete courses?

A: No, you study in your own time, at your own pace. Once you have created a profile and started courses, it will always be available to you to access.

Q: How do I register and begin?

A: You can register directly on www.wildlifecampus.com (top left-hand side) or by simply clicking [HERE](#).

Upon registration as a student, you will create a password to log in and access your online profile. Registration is completely FREE of cost and any obligation (you will also be able to access the free content once you have created your profile).

Course purchase options:

Credit card: via our online shop

PayPal: via our online shop

EFT: Email info@wildlifecampus.com to request an invoice

**All courses can be paid off monthly.
To view our monthly payment options: click [here](#)**