



# Eco Ranger

Established in 1998

**#Tourism #Conservation #Wildlife**

*The One-Stop Academy!*

*Where the Spirit of Africa Fuels the Mind and Soul.*

**SAQA Qualifications with National Credits**  
**QCTO & CATHSSETA as the ETQA / QAP**  
**Accredited Training Provider Registration No: 613/P/000242/2014**  
**www.cathsseta.org.za**

**Eco Ranger is the Leader in Developing and Providing Quality Wildlife Education in Africa!**

<i>1st Year Tourism</i>	<i>2nd Year Conservation</i>	<i>3rd Year Wildlife</i>
Wildlife I	Wildlife II	Wildlife Practitioner
Nature I	Nature II	Conservation Officer
Ranger I Field Ranger	Ranger II Ani-poaching Ranger	Ranger III Park Ranger
Eco Ranger	Conservation Principles	Wildlife Rancher & Warden
Safari Guide Nature & Culture	Safari Operations in Africa	Trails Guide Dangerous Game
Wildlife Photographer	Professional Hunting	Game Capture & Rewilding
Tracking I Animal	Tracking II Man & Combat	Tracking III Dangerous Game
Firearm Competency Bolt Action	Firearm Competency Business Purposes Advance Rifle Handling (ARH)	Game Production & Utilisation



# Eco Ranger Campus

Nested just south of the iconic Kruger National Park—between the towns of Malelane and Komatipoort - Eco Ranger Campus lies on our privately owned 4 000-hectare Game Ranch in the breathtaking province of Mpumalanga, South Africa.

This region is rich in biodiversity, offering a rare opportunity to experience Africa's Big Game and predators firsthand. With over 42 mammal species and approximately 350 bird species, students are immersed in vibrant and dynamic natural classroom. Practical, hand-on training takes place in the Greater Kruger National Park, as well as across private conservancies, nature reserves and wildlife ranches.

At Eco Ranger Campus, learning goes beyond the classroom. It's a place of intellectual exploration, transformation, and growth—where knowledge ignites passion, and awareness inspires action.

Our eco-conscious Student Village is designed in harmony with the surrounding landscape, built using sustainable principles that reflects our commitment to conservation.

Dining at the Campus is more than a meal—it's a shared experience. Set in a relaxed Lodge atmosphere, our Dining Services foster a sense of community while offering a variety of high-quality, nutritious and authentic cuisine.





# Nature Guide / “Safari Ranger”

The term “nature guide”/ "field guide" is often confused with ranger (game ranger) and "tourist guide".

A game ranger manages a specific area where wild animals roam. The tourist guide profession embraces a vast complexity of specific areas of the entire country, guiding tourists in cities, museums, battlefields and many places of interest, placing the accent essentially on the manmade environment and cultural-historical aspects.

The Nature / Safari Guide leads people into the natural areas of the environment.

This form of guiding is not necessarily confined to walking trails. It can also include vehicle drives, horse-back safari's, canoeing and other outdoor activities.

The nature guide's interest relate to Ecology and Nature, but the name Ranger is so embedded in the Tourism Guiding Industry that it will never change... so by achieving this Qualification and Register as a Nature Guide you will be employed as a “Ranger” as a Game Reserve... Entertaining tourist to see leopard, lion, elephant, buffalo, rhino and so many other fascinating creatures.



# Dangerous Game Guide / Trails Guide

(View Potentially Dangerous Animals)

Entrance Requirements: Nature Guiding + Tracking + Survival & Bushcraft



For the man in the bush, more important than having a sound knowledge of firearms, is having an intimate knowledge of the behaviour of dangerous game species. It is better to avoid a dangerous situation than have to face the consequences of a confrontation. To View Potentially Dangerous Animals on foot, a hands-on practical course, where Africa's dangerous game are tracked down and approach is done live and not via distance learning or class-room.....

Learn the golden rules, animal behaviour, anatomy and danger signs / displays and how to let your clients have an unforgettable safe experience.

The relationship between shooter, rifle and environment are constantly being challenged, but kept in check through speed and accuracy. Shooting scenarios have a limited amount of time to respond, so speed is often the primary goal. The mistake that happens is when we are compelled to act quickly, we emphasize speed over accuracy and actually end up missing the goal of the task entirely. You have to resist the urge to go so fast that you compromise your accuracy, this is probably the hardest skill to develop with a heavy calibre .... ***"Expect Anything – Assume Nothing - Fast is Fine but Accuracy is Everything"***.

Advance Rifle Handling **ARH** on Heavy Calibre Rifles (.458, 416). Learn how to use your big bore rifle fast and accurate, under pressure, at short distances with the correct shot placement to "drop" charging dangerous game.

Achieve the National Competency Certificate on Act 60 of 2000 on Use of a Rifle for Business Purposes Plus a Specialised Medical Course "STOP THE BLEEDING".



# Tracking

Man has, over time, developed skills to survive in his natural environment. We know that man had to develop skills in the art of tracking to become a more effective hunter.

The refinement of tracking in Eco Tourism ensured the development in better techniques to locate elusive game such as lion, leopard and special sought-after species.

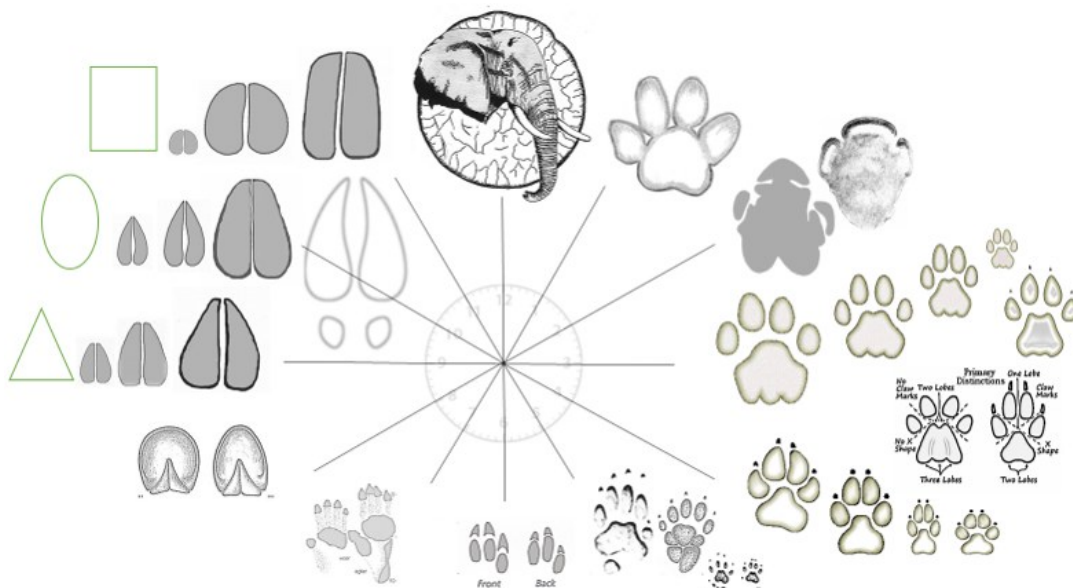
The art of tracking has developed into a science with many practical uses and plays a major role in Nature Conservation, Eco-tourism, Environmental Education, Scientific Research, the control of and the fight against poaching, nature research programs and trophy location.

However, it is impossible to become a tracker by simply reading a book or attending a short course. This is a start, and with an expanding knowledge of the bush and a bit of experience, it will be remarkable what a little practical thinking and application can do.

One needs practical experience to master the art of tracking. The art of tracking also includes the continuous, process of discovery and the most experienced tracker will always find something to learn.

Your tracking ability can only enhance the enjoyment of nature.

Eco Ranger test against National Credits and Levels – No One Else DO !!!



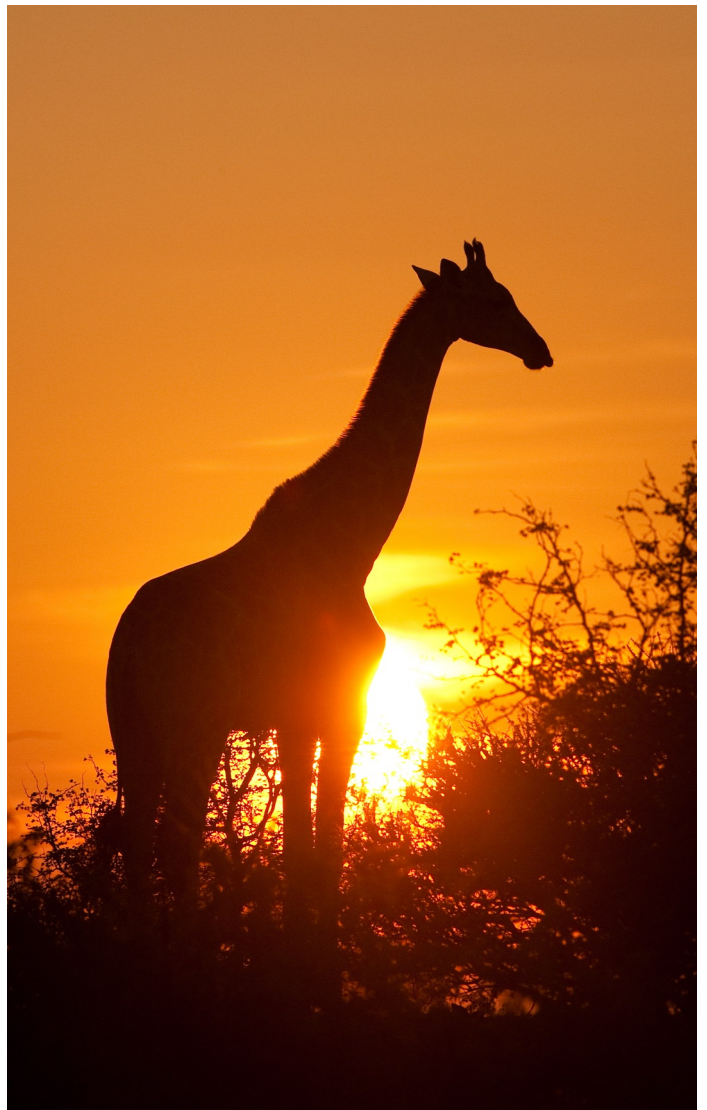


# Field Ranger - Anti-poaching Ranger - Park Ranger

Game Rangers and Field Rangers are the principal guardians of the world's premier natural and cultural protected environments. Field Rangers are involved in complex and highly important tasks in the preservation of natural and cultural resources, which constitute core elements of the world's natural and cultural heritages. If you are looking for a career that will be an adventure, this course is an ideal platform for a successful career in the challenging private Game Reserve industry, or to find your way into a Provincial or National Park as a Wildlife Field Ranger.

If you pass SELECTION an Anti-Poaching Ranger Course is offered, with Tactical Combat Techniques, Combat Tracking and Security, Critical Incidents and Recovery (SCIR) to become an Anti-Poaching Ranger or more correct a Field Ranger Law Enforcement Armed.

The Park Ranger - Game Ranger (Area Integrity Management) in the 3rd Year, complete this portfolio, in theory, practical and Workplace to lead Ranger Teams and successfully manage the integrity of Wildlife in Protected Areas, Game Farms, Nature Reserves, Provincial and National Parks in Africa.



# Nature Conservation - Advanced Level 2nd Year

Nature Conservation addresses skills and competencies enabling advance-level employment in conservation and access opportunities for further development and training in Conservation and Private Wildlife careers.

The Nature Conservation Sector is a highly regulated environment tasked with the protection and utilisation of our Natural resources and heritage whilst ensuring, controlling and managing access to this environment by both national and international tourists.

Consumptive and Non-Consumptive utilisation of our natural resources is protected and managed by a Nature Conservation Practitioner.

Sustainable Conservation Practices contributes significantly to the country's foreign exchange earnings and the marketing of South Africa as The Safari and Tourism destination in the World.

Eco Ranger present the Theory ... Practical ... Work Integrated Learning in One on our Own Reserve !

# Wildlife Practitioner - Professional Level 3rd Year

Careers: Wildlife Rancher - Wildlife Warden - Game Ranger - Game Capturer.

Knowledge and Practical Skills for the Private Wildlife Ranching Industry, African Nature Reserves and countries with similar Wildlife in order to remain sustainable & profitable or increase population growth & wildlife production in wildlife areas.

The main objectives are veld & habitat management, wildlife production, wildlife health care, biodiversity protection and sustainable utilisation of wildlife.

Eco Ranger present both **Custodial and Productive Wildlife Management in Africa** protecting our continents natural heritage, integrating protected and wildlife areas into our local and national economies and shrugging off the fortress conservation image that we have inherited from our colonial days.

Subjects include: Ecology, Veld & Habitat Management, Parasitism and Contagious Wildlife Diseases, Nutrition, Animal Production, Marketing, Finances and HR, Sustainable Utilisation, Wild Animal Health Care, Game Capture & Relocation, Safari Industry, Custodial and Productive (Manipulative) Wildlife Management in Africa.



## Professional Occupational Qualifications: SAQA & QCTO with CATHSSETA as Quality Assurance Partner

Category	Course Details	Duration	Cost
<b>Entry Level</b>	Entry-Level Requirements: Loving Nature & Wildlife  <b>Nature Guiding / Safari Guide</b>		
<b>Safari Guide &amp; Tourism</b>	Subjects: Taxonomy, Ecology, Geology, Weather & Climate, Astronomy, Botany, Birds, Mammals, Insects, Reptiles,  Bushcraft & Navigation & Survival		
<b>3 in One</b>	Tracking I - Animals  Dangerous Game Guiding: Open Safari Vehicle - <b>VPDA I</b>	<b>1st Year</b>  (1 Year)	<b>R 89 900.00</b>  <b>Tuition Fee</b>
<b>Safari Nature Guide</b>	<b>Tourism</b> Tourism - Management		
<b>Tourism</b>	Create a Tourism Experience		
<b>Field Ranger</b>	Wilderness First Aid Wildlife Photographer  <b>Ranger I - Field Ranger</b> * Physical Selection Required for Armed Field Ranger ** Bushcraft, Survival, Obstacle Course, Fitness, Discipline  Firearm Competency - Firearm Control Act, Use of Manually Rifle & Use of Manually Rifle for Business Purposes		



## Professional Occupational Qualifications: SAQA & QCTO with CATHSSETA as Quality Assurance Partner

Category	Course Details	Duration	Cost
<b>Advance Level</b>	Entry-Level Requirements: Eco Ranger 1st Year or NQF 2 Nature Guiding with Matric: Mathematical Literacy, Geology & Biology		
<b>Conservation</b>	<b>Game Ranger - Nature Conservation Management</b> Ranger II - Anti-Poaching Ranger Tracking II - Man & Combat Tracking Protected Area Management & Wildlife Monitoring	<b>2nd Year</b> (1 Year)	<b>R 89 900.00</b> <b>Tuition Fee</b>
<b>4 in One</b>	<b>** Additional Elective</b> Dangerous Game Guiding II (Back-up - 2nd Rifle) - <b>VPDA II</b> Advance Rifle Handling - .458 ( <i>own new ammunition required x 20</i> )		<b>R 14 000.00</b> <b>(Additional Elective)</b>
<b>2nd Year:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation Practice - Nature Conservation Management</li> <li>• Tracking II - Man &amp; Combat</li> <li>• Ranger II - Anti-poaching Ranger</li> <li>• Safari Operations in Africa - Professional Hunting</li> </ul>		





## Professional Occupational Qualifications: SAQA & QCTO with CATHSSETA as Quality Assurance Partner

Category	Course Details	Duration	Cost
<b>Professional Level</b>	Entry-Level Requirements: Eco Ranger 2nd Year or NQF 4 Nature / Conservation Diploma NQF 5 or Equivalent		
<b>Wildlife Practitioner (The Ultimate &amp; Most Sought-After Qualification in Wildlife)</b>	<b>Wildlife Management</b> Ecology, Veld & Habitat Management Parasitism & Contagious Wildlife Diseases & Nutrition  <b>Wild Animal Health Care</b> <b>Game Capture &amp; Rewilding</b> Wildlife Management in Africa & Sustainable Utilisation.  <b>Wildlife Rancher &amp; Warden</b> Custodial & Productive Wildlife Management Game Production, Genetics, Nutrition, Green Economy	<b>3rd Year</b>  (1 Year)	<b>R 89 900.00</b>  <b>Tuition Fee</b>
<b>5 in One</b>	<b>* Additional Elective:</b> Professional Hunting—1 x Provincial Examination		<b>R 14 000.00</b>  <b>(Additional Elective)</b>
<b>3rd Year:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildlife Management</li> <li>• Veld Management</li> <li>• Ranger III - Park Ranger</li> <li>• Wildlife Rancher &amp; Warden</li> <li>• Wildlife Health Care &amp; Production</li> <li>• Game Harvesting &amp; Utilisation</li> <li>• Game Capture &amp; Rewilding</li> <li>• Tracking III - Dangerous Wildlife</li> <li>• Trails Guide - VPDA</li> </ul>		



# Financial Estimates

- Tuition Fees @ **R 89 900** per year
- Handbooks & Practical Material & Uniform @ **R 9 900** per year  
(*Training Manuals, Main Handbook, Eco Ranger Short, Eco Ranger Shirt, Eco Ranger Cap, Eco Ranger Golfer*)
- Board & Lodging @ **R 69 900** per year
- Total Estimate Costs: **R 169 700** per year

## Additional:

- Valid Wild Card (SANParks Cluster) @ R 895.00 (estimate cost for 2026)
- Eco Ranger Shorts, Shirts, Golfers, Jacket, Cap, Bucket Hat, Gaiters, Belt and other Eco Ranger apparel available in our shop.
- Campus Canteen / Shop is available on Campus for Snacks and Beverages. Canteen Accounts need to be settled on a weekly basis. Students can settle canteen account with a card.

## Terms:

- 10% (R 8 990.00) Non-Refundable Deposit on Tuition Fees with Acceptance for Enrolment
- Payment Options can be discussed with Finance Office.





# Guiding Qualification Breakdown

**The National Certificate in Guiding is the Only Qualification by law - Tourism Act 3 of 2014 to register as a Tourist Guide with the Department of Tourism. Please confirm this with your local Provincial -Registrar of Tourist Guides.**

Qualifications for tourist guides are governed by the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

There are currently two qualifications registered on the NQF:

National Certificate in Tourism: Guiding (NQF2)

National Certificate in Tourism: Guiding (NQF4)

Note that a new NQF 4 qualification has recently been registered and this replaces the 20155 qualifications.

Several unit standards, within the different areas of specialisation, have been clustered together to form skills programmes addressing areas of specialisation, and aimed at persons wishing only to complete the specialised minimum area of learning required to guide.

These skills programmes are registered by CATHSSETA (The Culture Arts, Tourism, Hospitality and Sports Sector Education and Training Authority )for certification purposes. The applicable unit standards are registered on the NQF. In order to register as a site guide specialising in culture, nature, or adventure guiding you need different combinations of unit standards. These rules of combination can be accessed on the CATHSSETA website, at [www.cathsseta.org.za](http://www.cathsseta.org.za).



# Categories of Tour Guides

There are three categories of tourist guides:

- Site Guides – these tourist guides have attained the minimum qualification in order to guide in a “limited geographical area” i.e. Hiking in the Drakensberg, visiting the Natal Battlefields, taking a day tour of Cape Town, visiting Soweto:
- Provincial Guides – are qualified to take tourists around an entire province i.e. Limpopo or Gauteng;
- National Guides – are permitted to conduct tours around South Africa, crossing all provincial boundaries.

These guides would accompany people taking a comprehensive tour of South Africa, say, by coach.

## Classification of Tour Guides

Adventure Guides – conduct a guided adventure experience e.g. rock climbing, paddling, abseiling, etc.

Nature Guides – conduct a guided nature experience in areas such as Game Reserves, National Parks, nature conservation areas, trails, and the like.

Cultural Guides – conduct a guided cultural experience in a limited geographical area such as a museum, community, wine farm, town or city.

To register as a provincial or national guide you need, as a minimum, qualification at NQF level 2 plus the required unit standard for your area of specialisation – You can also view these on the CATHSSETA website as given above. Note that the requirements for guide registration, including what learning programme or course is needed for which category of guiding, is the competence of the Provincial Registrars of Tourist Guides.

## Tourist Guiding Training & Assessors

**All tourist guide trainers and assessors have to be accredited by CATHSSETA to be able to train according to the nationally recognized standards and qualifications network. The assessor must also have a valid ETDPSeta Qualification.**

## What is a Tour Guide?

Any person who, for monetary or other rewards, accompanies people who are travelling through or visiting any place within a country, and who furnishes those people with information or comments concerning a place or objects visited is defined as Tourist Guide. Many tourist guides may also wish to run their own tour operations in which they are both tour guide and tour operator.