



Eco Academy Introduction Letter



ECO ACADEMY

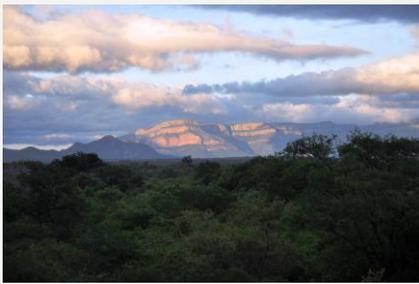
Established in 1998, Eco Ranger with its Eco Academy is a leader in providing quality Eco and Wildlife education in Africa and is positioned to be the benchmark **Eco and Wildlife** educational academy globally.

Our professional integrated training expose all students to non-traditional coursework and develop essential professional skills to produce graduates to bridge the science–management gap and promote the sustainable conservation of natural resources.

Courses are offered on a phased basis to allow local, national and international students, ad hoc clients and junior rangers the opportunity to enhance professional skills, prepare for a new career or pursue intellectual inquiry for personal enrichment.

All educational and training programs adhere to prescribed curricula and are approved by educational authorities in South Africa.

The College operates as an accredited training provider.



CAMPUS

The academy is located on the private game farm Xinzele, Klaserie, Limpopo and Marloth Park, Mpumalanga - South Africa in close proximity of the Kruger National Park.

The region offers unique fauna and flora, all the big game of Africa with 42 mammal varieties and approximately 350 bird varieties.

At most education institutions, the campus is merely a backdrop to the program. Our campus is an integral and deeply rewarding part of the Eco Academy experience.

The Eco Academy campus offers students a **unique and vast 'classroom'**.

Whilst the campus is located on Xinzele, practical training is conducted on the greater Blue Canyon Conservancy – a 37,000 acre nature and wildlife sanctuary.

The Main Campus of the college is a place of intellectual stimulation and discovery, where ideas foster change and awareness will inspire commitment and success.

The student village is in harmony with the environment and aligned with eco-friendly building principles.

FACILITATORS & ASSESSORS

All courses are taught by our full-time lecturers and ad hoc specialists.

Our team are noted for their contributions to conservation, field-based research, their commitment to teaching, and their bond with the environment. They are renowned for their ability to draw upon practical environmental wisdom and to engage participants in provocative, life-changing class activities that expand their abilities as leaders. In addition to their Eco Academy roles, our lecturers also serve as advisers and consultants of conservation initiatives and academic institutions across the globe.

We offer lecturers who thrive in the vibrant, interactive environment of the Eco Academy classroom where unexpected insights and challenges are a natural consequence of our participatory learning model.

Lecturers encourage productive participant interaction that extends learning beyond the classroom.

Our core team:

JC Strauss (Director of Education & Training)
Beef Sithole
Piet de Clerk

Other instructors / lecturers include:

- Wildlife experts, scientific researchers and professionals in Nature and Wildlife Training
- Leading faculty from South African Universities
- Experienced professionals from community and business organizations



JC Strauss – BIOGRAPHY

JC Strauss is the Director of Education and Training at Eco Academy, where he has a joint appointment at the Anti-Poaching Unit – Eco Ranger, and is the Co-Director of the Environmental Research Initiative.

JC is also on the Board of IAPF – International Anti-Poaching Foundation as Director Training Operations – Globally; and the USA based, Build On Hope Foundation, a non-profit organisation with the aim of creating sustainable communities and the development of new areas of conservation in Africa. In 2008 he started conservation and tourism projects in rural areas, helping children onto career paths in sustainable tourism and wildlife preservation.

Most recently, his projects focus on continuous learning and the ways and extent to which students determine their future using knowledge gained from the environment. In addition to his career in eco and wildlife conservation, JC has held several positions as environmental and safety consultant. He worked with customers from a wide variety of industries including national parks, tourism, media and international diplomats.



In 2005 – 2007, JC trained and developed 350 Wildlife Rangers for Limpopo Parks Board in South Africa and headed the Anti-Poaching teams covering 53 Protected Areas that brought down rhino and elephant poaching to 0% for 3 consecutive years.

In 1998 he launched Eco Ranger, training Wildlife Rangers, Dangerous Game Guides for various Wildlife Parks and organizations such as the South African Wildlife College and Game Rangers Associations. The first 34 Women Wildlife Rangers for African Countries (Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia, Namibia, Tanzania, Kenya, Swaziland, Lesotho and South Africa) were trained by JC's organization Eco Ranger at the SA Wildlife College. Eco Ranger trained more than a 1,000 Rangers and Wildlife Guides that created job opportunities that support and sustain more than 10,000 African people currently.

JC plays a key role in shaping sustainable Eco and Wildlife Conservation in Africa,

JC is a Qualified National Guide with Qualifications on Nature NQF 6, Tracking NQF 6, Dangerous Game NQF 6 Registered Facilitator & Assessor with CATHS SETA (THETA) and SAS SETA Board Director with IAPF, Build on Hope, Eco Ranger Conservation Services Memberships: WRSA, GRAA, SAHGCA, SCI, SDI

ECO ACADEMY Courses

Course Category	Course / Training / Adventure Name	Duration
Eco & Wildlife	Nature Guiding - Field Guide	50 Days
	Tracking	30 Days
	Dangerous Game VPDA	45 Days
	Advance Weapon Handling .458 / .416	7 Days
	Bushcraft & African Bush Survival	7 Days
	Wildlife Photographer	14 Days
	Conservation Guardianship - Field Ranger	40 Days
	Anti - Poaching Ranger - Pseudo Ops	45 Days
GAP Year	Eco Ranger Program + Into the Wild	Sept - May
Into The Wild	Nature	4 Months
	Tracking	Feb - May
	Bushcraft & African Survival	Sept - Dec
	Field Ranger / Conseration Guardian	
	Game Rehabilitation	
	Predator Reseach	
Scuba - Coastal / Cultural		
Eco Adventure	Wildlife, Nature, Tracking, Bushcraft, Photographic	28 Days
Eco Ranger & Wildlife	Predator Monitoring, Primative Living .458 Experience, Life of a Wildlife Ranger	2nd - 30th Every Month
Junior < 18	Junior Ranger	6 Days
	Junior Tracker	6 days
	African Wildlife Experience - Ranger's Life!	3 days
Photography	Learn from the best in African Wildlife Photography	6 Days



ECO ACADEMY

Mantra & Selected Programme Descriptions

Eco Academy sets a high bar for its eco and wildlife conservation programs, and high expectations for its participants. Our programs demand a great deal from both the lecturer who create and deliver the courses aligned with curriculum, and customised when required, and the students who participate.

Once enrolled, students are immersed in education and training that will challenge their assumptions, disrupt their ordinary ways of living, and introduce them to new and unexpected ways of thinking. By participating, they will prepare for the next steps in their careers and lives demonstrating leadership at the Academy, in their classes and among their peers. Most important, they will return to their own communities with fresh ideas, new skills, and a greater capacity for addressing the environmental challenges faced in Africa.



Whichever program you choose you will emerge with the perspectives and strategic skills to drive higher performance and deliver greater results throughout your career.

NATURE GUIDING / 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 man-made environment and cultural-historical aspects. The **Nature Guide** leads people into the natural areas of the environment. This form of guiding is not necessarily confined to walking trails. It could also include vehicle drives, horseback safaris, canoeing and other outdoor activities. The nature guide's interests relate to Ecology and Nature, but the name Ranger is so embedded into 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 at Game Reserves... entertaining tourist to see leopard, lion, elephant, buffalo, rhino... the **Big 5 of Africa!**



DANGEROUS GAME GUIDE / TRAILS GUIDE

(View Potentially Dangerous Animals)

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 far 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 most practical on foot. Learn the golden rules, animal behaviour, anatomy and danger signs / displays and how to let your clients have an unforgettable safe experience, also learn and "Show your Competence through superior knowledge rather than firepower" but just for in case you do need itAdvance Weapon Handling for Guiding on Heavy Calibre Rifles (375, 458, 416) Learn how to use your big bore rifle fast and accurate under pressure on short distances with the correct shot placement to "drop" charging dangerous game. You also qualify for the National Competency Certificate on Act 60 of 2000 on Use of a Rifle.



TRACKING

Man has, in cause of time, developed skills to survive in his natural environment. We know that man had to develop skills in the art of tracking to become more effective hunters. 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 and the fight against poaching, nature research programs and trophy location. However, it is impossible to become a tracker from 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 but enhances the enjoyment of nature.



NOTE: Above Courses are in NQF of SAQA (South African Qualification Authority) – a National Certificate is the Only Courses according to Law (Tourism Act 70 of 2000) that's legal to register as a Tourist-Guide with DEAT (Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism). No other rating or qualification is necessary – such as a Field Guide... Qualification.

FIELD RANGER – ANTI-POACHING 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, you can add a Para-Military Course and become an Anti-Poaching Ranger ...

The course content is both theoretical and practical. The curriculum includes bush craft, tracking and spoor identification, wildlife knowledge and wildlife management.



GAP Year Programme: Eco Ranger (September - May)

If you are looking for a hands-on experience in the Bush that you will never forget, this course is for you! Become an "Eco-Ranger"

GAP year courses have been developed to offer local and international school leavers the opportunity to learn more about the environment and to prepare them for the future. Eco Academy equips participants with life skills to empower them to contribute towards a better global environment.

Fun filled, pupil orientated learning situations are created in the bush to encourage participants to use all their senses in order to discover solutions for themselves. Through questioning and discovery, the pupils are stimulated to develop critical skills and the ability to work as part of a team.



This Gap Year Program is an Eco-Adventure, where you can earn credits for college and experience the true Africa with community projects, wildlife ranching, ranger activities, adventure trips in the Lowveld, Kruger Park, Indian Ocean

Our approach equips young adults with life skills to become future leaders.

INTO THE WILD: (Feb – May) and (Sept – Dec)

Students will be blown away by this unique experience. From rolling savannah grasslands to riverine forests, the region offers unique fauna and flora and also all the Big Game of Africa with 42 mammal species and approximately 350 bird species. This equates to huge natural diversity and includes the famed 'Big 5' - lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo and rhino.

Eco Academy adapted the Nature Guiding (Field Guide) course to include game rehabilitation and predator research for our students in search of the optimal experience in Africa.



Eco Ranger's - Wildlife Research Expedition

is a great opportunity to learn about conservation, enjoy excellent African wildlife viewing and be a part of a comprehensive training programme whilst contributing towards sustainable conservation of African wildlife.



2013 Program Portfolio - a visual time line of our "Eco Adventure" Programmes

Course	Jan	Feb	Mrt	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nature Guiding – Field Guide course		4										
Tracking Course				1								
Survival & Bush-craft												
Dangerous Game - VPDA						3						
Anti -Poaching Rangers							15					
Wildlife Photography					19				16			
Culture / Ocean / Animal Care / PH										1		
Practical's Placements											4	
Into The Wild:		4										
Game Rehabilitation						3						
Predator Research							1					
GAP YEAR PROGRAMME - South		4									31	
GAP YEAR PROGRAMME - North	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July
Full Gap Year Programme		2									30	
Into The Wild		2				22		4				28
Eco Adventure – Eco Ranger Wildlife	2nd	2nd	2-30	2-30	2-30	2-30	2-30	2-30	2-30	2-30	2-30	2-30

FULL TIME STUDENTS:



Combined Year Course: Feb - Dec

Only R 95 000 – All Inclusive

Nature Guiding, Tracking, Survival, Bush Craft, VPDA – Dangerous Game , Anti-Pouching Ranger Wildlife Photography and a Choice of Phase 2 – Culture / Ocean / Animal Care / Predator Research / PH / Practical's

GAP YEAR COURSE: Sept - May

US\$ 19 700

INTO THE WILD: Feb – May & Sept - Dec

US\$ 9 850

ECO ADVENTURE – ECO RANGER 28 Day's: 2nd – 30th each Month

US\$ 3 500

Note: Prices inclusive of Accommodation, Food and Beverages for **Full Time Students** (06h00 - Coffee & Rusk, Cereals / 11h00 - Brunch / 18h00 - Dinner)

SELECTED MODULE / DISTANT LEARNING STUDENTS:

Courses can also be attended in selected modules only and/or as distant/virtual learning – please contact us for detail:

Nature Guiding	R 8 900
Tracking	R 4 900
Dangerous Game / Trails Guide	R 6 900
Survival and Bush Craft	R 2 900
Conservation Guardianship – Field Ranger 1	R 9 900
Anti-Poaching Ranger	R15 900
Wildlife Photography	R 4 900

Note: Accommodation and Food – **Selected Module Students** at R 290 per person per day as an additional cost.

All Exclusive of VAT.

WHY ECO ACADEMY?

- Lecturers are all accredited and optimally skilled in their respective disciplines
- Courses are in NQF of the South African Qualification Authority (SAQA) – You get Credits!
- A National Certificate is the only course according to Law (Tourism Act 70 of 2000) that's legal to enable students to register as a Tourist Guide with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT)
- No other rating or qualification is necessary to commence your career

INVESTING IN CONSERVATION

The rhino is on the IUCN red list and critically endangered. Rhino poaching is an immediate and growing global concern.

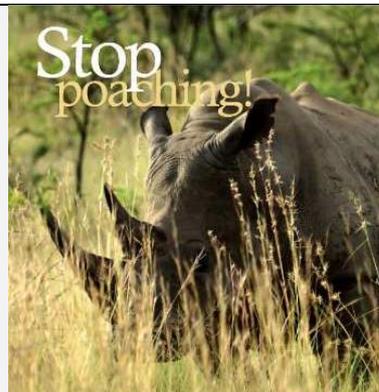
Rhino poachers killed at least 448 rhinos for their horns in 2011 alone. While this statistic is shocking and remains a serious cause for concern, the losses are far greater when the numbers of orphaned and injured rhino calves that have not been successfully rehabilitated back into the wild are added to the equation.

At Eco Academy, we are addressing the challenges of environmental leadership through our campus operations and our teaching, research and student activities.

As an incentive to successful students and part of an effort to increase anti-poaching success, the Eco Academy directors pledge to train one Anti-Poaching Ranger for FREE - for each Gap Year enrollment !

You will meet the Ranger and experience the training together with the Anti-Poaching Ranger that You are sponsoring!

This incentive offers all successful students an opportunity to enjoy an immediate investment as an environmental leader...



Eco Adventure – Eco Ranger Wildlife Training: 28 Day’s (Tailor Made: 7 / 14 / 21 days)

Not everyone is content to sit around and lounge about while they are on holiday, there are just some of us that want to get up and go, acquire new knowledge and skills while enjoying time ‘in the bush’. There is no better adventure to do this than **‘Eco Adventure – Eco Ranger Wildlife Training’**

Eco Academy offer an opportunity to experience Africa in an ‘out of the ordinary’ way. This course are ‘tailor made’ to improve your awareness, sensitize you to environmental issues and create an in depth understanding and appreciation of the African Bush.

Learn Nature, Tracking, Bush Craft & Survival Techniques and Photographing Wildlife. Participate in Predator Research... Experience the inter-action with lion cubs, cheetah, age old traditional living, and predator tracking at night, volunteers can even learn how to shoot a big-bore .458 rifle Feel at One with the Spirit of Ancient Africa The life of a Wildlife Ranger!

Stay 7 / 14 / 21 / 28 Days – you can fall into the program at any stage – Recommend Full Program for the Best Experience!

“Live the bush, don’t just visit it!”



Contact details

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