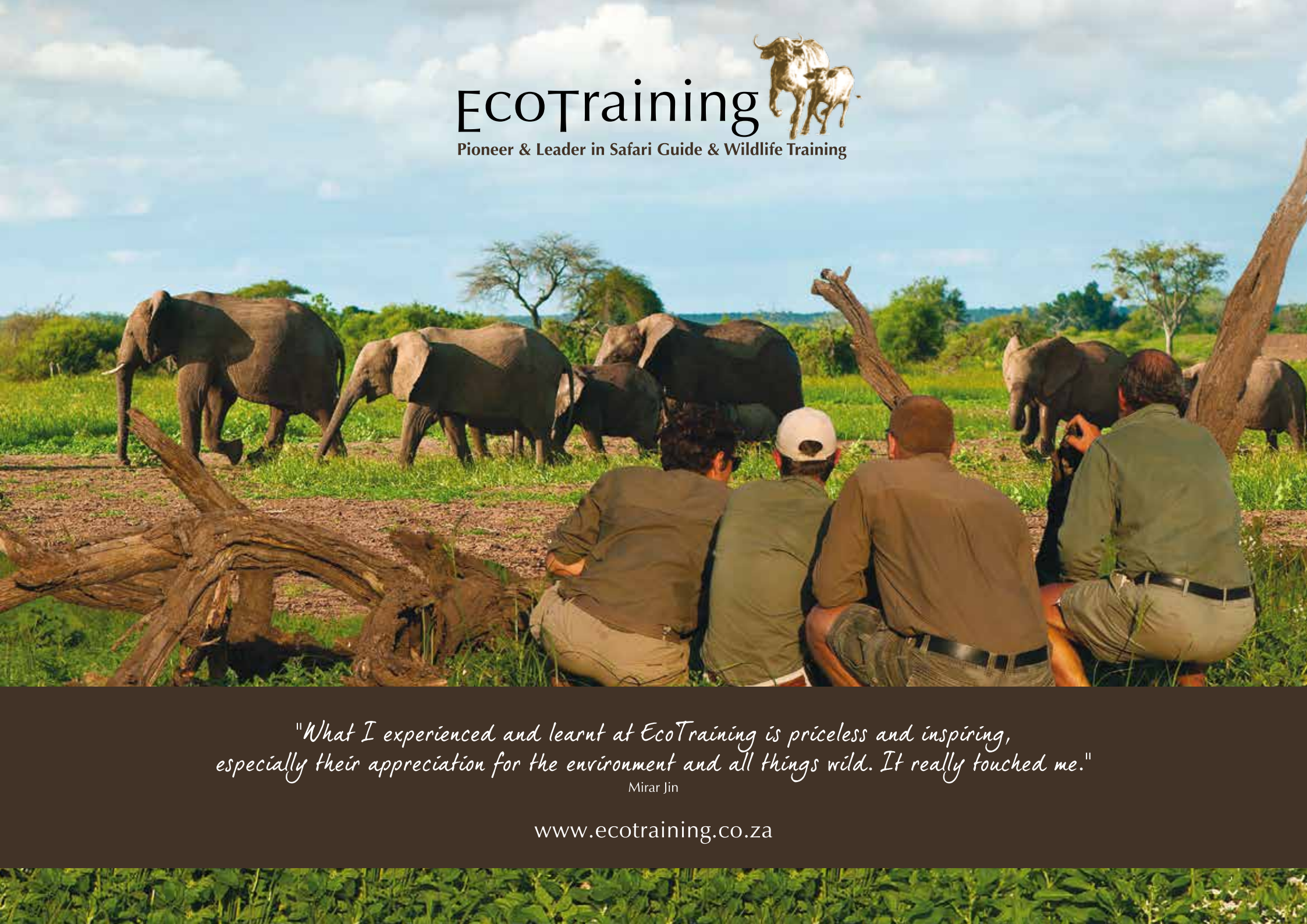

EcoTraining
Pioneer & Leader in Safari Guide & Wildlife Training
"What I experienced and learnt at EcoTraining is priceless and inspiring,
especially their appreciation for the environment and all things wild. It really touched me."
Mirar Jin
www.ecotraining.co.za



Coral Tree

Learn from the wilderness, it will change your life

Learn what it takes to be a Safari Guide at one or more of our six unfenced, tented bush camps in Africa's magical wilderness areas, including the Kruger Park, Botswana and Kenya. Our camps have an abundance of game and a huge diversity of birds. Participants live with the wildlife — as you fall asleep, hear the snap of branches under the elephants weight, hyenas whooping in the distance and the calls of owls in the night.



Get Inspired

You will gain in-depth knowledge about nature, ecology and wildlife … but that is only one aspect of the courses.

Your experience is also about leaving behind frenetic technology-driven lifestyles, to commune with nature and tune oneself into the ecosystems that sustain us — that give us air to breathe, water to drink and beauty for peace and inspiration.

Gain knowledge

Courses comprise morning and afternoon walks and game drives, with potential encounters of big game on foot, on their terms. Daily lectures, study time and most importantly, time to reconnect with nature complete your day.

Our highly experienced instructors take you beyond the rush of the 'big five' to learn about animal and dangerous game behaviour, birds, plant identification, insects, astronomy and more.

Be Adventurous

Thrilling elements of the courses include sleep-outs under the stars, shooting skills, animal tracks and tracking, bush survival skills night drives and evening camp fires.

Navigation and orientation, situational awareness, and wilderness medicine are some of the useful life skills learnt on our courses.

Travel Responsibly

Courses are held at our unfenced tented bush camps in some of Africa's premier wildlife areas; total immersion in the wild.

The camps are based in wilderness areas which involve private conservation efforts and community based employment.

Please see our useful insert showing the location of our camps.





Safari Guide Training

PROFESSIONAL FIELD GUIDE

One Year

If you want to become a Safari Guide or seek to experience all that a Safari Guide will learn and do, enrol on this course for a meaningful and life-changing year. Living and learning at all four of our wilderness camps gives exposure to diverse ecological and geographical terrains, wildlife species, climates and more. Then build up practical work experience under the mentorship of EcoTraining at one of our partner lodges.

Upon successful completion of this course, you could graduate with: FGASA Field Guide Level 1; FGASA Trails Guide Back Up; Firearm Proficiency Certificate; Advanced Rifle Handling; Animal Tracks and Tracking; Birding; Wilderness Medicine: Level 1 & 2 and Navigation and Orientation. Endorsed by FGASA and accredited by CATHSSETA, there is no other course that offers this breadth of wildlife immersion and knowledge.





European bee-eaters

FIELD GUIDE FGASA LEVEL 1

55 days

On this shorter FGASA endorsed Safari Guide course based at two wilderness camps, you will learn about ecology and geology, animal, plant and bird identification, animal tracking, 4 x 4 driving skills, animal behaviour, rifle handling, basic bush survival skills, conducting game drives, and walks, astronomy and much more.

Upon completion of the course, you will be capable of conducting game drives and interpreting wildlife for safari guests.

TRAILS GUIDE

28 days

This FGASA endorsed course aims to develop and practise skills and knowledge learnt on the Field Guide Level 1 course, however it can be done independently of Level 1.

With the majority of time spent on foot, it gives you grounding to conduct bush walks in big game country with an emphasis on safety and sensitivity to the wildlife.

Wildlife Courses

SAFARI GUIDE

28 days

The first of its kind in the safari industry, this course is for those passionate about wildlife and who seek a glimpse into the life and work of a Safari Guide. The knowledge you gain on this condensed version of the Field Guide Level 1 course, will give your safari holidays a whole new meaning.

ECOQUEST

1 or 2 week

Explore and absorb the wild! Gain insight into Africa's wildlife and habitats: ecology; animal behaviour; uses of plants; bird identification; animal tracking; astronomy; animal inter-relationships and more. A good dose of adventure in the form of sleep-outs and bush survival skills and you will leave the course an informed naturalist.

ANIMAL TRACKS AND TRACKING

1 or 2 week

This fascinating course uses the game reserve as the classroom. The tracks, signs, trails and animals are the subject matter you work with. We start with track and sign interpretation and trailing. Then we go onto trailing each other and as skills improve, we work with animal signs and trails to track and find game. It is fun, it is hands on, it is thrilling.

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

6 days

This hands-on workshop in prime wildlife game reserves will give budding photographers time and opportunity to put what they learn into action, under the guidance of an experienced wildlife photographer.

BIRDING

1 week

Birding is possibly the world's most popular nature activity. Visitors to the wilderness want to do more than spot game. This course enables birding enthusiasts to identify a great many species by sight and sound and to also learn about their biology and ecology.

It is a combination of some lectures together with hours spent out in the field.

WILDERNESS TRAILS SKILLS COURSE

6 days

Treat your soul with this purist wilderness trail –– sleep wild under the stars, track and stalk game, and travel light with minimal supplies. It is more about the depth of experience than the distance as you learn to make a fire, find water from natural sources and leave a light footprint behind you.



Chameleon



Why Choose Ecotraining

- The first formal field guide trainers in Africa, training since 1993.
- Courses are run from 5 wilderness camps in 3 African countries.
- Access to over 100 000 ha of biodiverse wilderness, including 24 000 ha in the Kruger National Park.
- Dedicated to and focused on safari guide training exclusively.
- Specialist, highly experienced instructors raise the standard of nature guiding.
- Personal attention to every student — 10 students per instructor.
- Quality above quantity — enough time for thorough training to pass FGASA exams.
- Training of people living near the conservation areas of many African countries,* ultimately providing them with job opportunities.
- Training conducted for prominent tour operators and private game lodges in southern Africa.**

* Our community training includes countries such as Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Gabon, Kenya, Zambia and Swaziland.
**Amarula Conservation Trust , Chitabe (Wilderness Safaris), Chobe Game Lodge, Khutse Community Trust, Kwando Safaris, Limpopo Lipadi, Muchenje Safari Lodge, Nxamaseri Lodge, Orient Express, Tanzania Wildlife Safaris, KZN Wildlife, Amarula Conservation Trust, Heritage Group, Great Plains Conservation and various privately-owned game lodges in southern Africa.



Dung beetle

FGASA

Endorsed by the Field Guides Association of Southern Africa.

EcoTraining

Pioneer & Leader in Safari Guide & Wildlife Training

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SAYTC
SOUTH AFRICAN YOUTH TRAVEL CONFEDERATION

BirdLife South Africa
Giving Conservation Wings
BIRDER FRIENDLY

