



Wildlife Forensic Academy

# Course Brochure

**2-WEEK COURSE:**  
WILDLIFE FORENSICS, CRIME  
SCENE MANAGEMENT AND  
ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE



# ABOUT:



Wildlife  
Forensic  
Academy

## JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST WILDLIFE CRIME

The **Wildlife Forensic Academy** is a specialist training and research centre located within Buffelsfontein Game & Nature Reserve, just one hour from Cape Town, South Africa.

Designed for students, recent graduates, and professionals, this comprehensive **2-Week Wildlife Forensics, Crime Scene Management & Illegal Wildlife Trade Course** offers hands-on training in wildlife conservation, biodiversity monitoring, veterinary science, and wildlife crime investigation. Participants work alongside experienced veterinarians, conservation scientists, forensic specialists, and environmental law experts while developing practical field, forensic, and conservation skills and exploring South Africa's unique ecosystems and conservation challenges.

Using the WFA's dedicated training facilities – including realistic mock wildlife crime scenes, a moot courtroom, laboratory facilities, wildlife post-mortem facilities, and biodiversity monitoring programmes – participants develop practical skills that bridge the gap between academic knowledge and real-world conservation practice.

### Why Join?

- ✓ Gain practical conservation and forensic experience
- ✓ Learn from industry professionals
- ✓ Investigate realistic wildlife crime scenes
- ✓ Develop evidence collection and courtroom skills
- ✓ Explore South Africa's biodiversity hotspot
- ✓ Strengthen your CV and career prospects
- ✓ Build connections with conservation professionals and fellow students

# WHY JOIN:



Wildlife  
Forensic  
Academy

## Key Learning Areas:



## By the End of the Course You Will:

- Understand key conservation challenges facing South Africa
- Apply wildlife forensic investigation techniques
- Basic survival skills
- Evaluate wildlife crime cases and evidence
- Present findings in a courtroom environment
- Gain practical conservation and fieldwork experience

# COURSE OBJECTIVES:



Wildlife  
Forensic  
Academy

## Experience Conservation in Action

Throughout the programme, participants will take part in a range of practical activities designed to build both conservation and forensic skills



### WILDLIFE CRIME INVESTIGATION



Processing realistic wildlife crime scenes



Evidence collection and preservation



Scene photography and documentation



Mock wildlife crime case investigation



### CONSERVATION & BIODIVERSITY



Conservation management activities



Animal and suspect tracking



Basic outdoor survival skills



Species monitoring



### VETERINARY & WILDLIFE HEALTH



Wildlife post-mortem practicals



Biological sampling demonstrations



Wildlife health assessments



Wildlife poisoning investigations



### ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS



Marine conservation experiences



Human-wildlife conflict case studies



Biodiversity hotspot exploration



Conservation field excursions



### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Statement drafting



Courtroom testimony preparation



Moot court practical



Networking with conservation professionals

# WHY:



## **A Unique Learning Experience**

Unlike traditional classroom-based courses, this programme combines conservation science, wildlife management, veterinary practice, environmental law, and forensic investigation into one immersive learning experience.

## **What Makes This Course Different?**

- ✓ Train within a private game reserve
- ✓ Learn through hands-on practical activities
- ✓ Access dedicated wildlife forensic facilities
- ✓ Investigate realistic mock crime scenes
- ✓ Gain experience across multiple conservation disciplines
- ✓ Learn from experienced practitioners
- ✓ Build professional networks
- ✓ Develop skills relevant to postgraduate study and employment opportunities

Whether you are pursuing a career in conservation, wildlife biology, veterinary science, forensic science, environmental law, or protected area management, this course provides valuable practical experience and insight into the realities of conservation work.

# ABOUT:

## YOUR EDUCATORS



### **Dr Greg Simpson**

Veterinarian, wildlife management specialist, and founder of the Wildlife Forensic Academy. Greg brings extensive international experience in wildlife health, public health, conservation, and wildlife crime investigations.

### **Dr Jan Marx**

Former Special Forces Operator and Senior Nature Conservation Scientist with over 30 years of experience in conservation management, environmental research, and operational planning.



### **Landi Retief**

Conservation scientist and reserve management specialist with expertise in biodiversity conservation, habitat restoration, and environmental education.

### **Phil Snijman**

Environmental law specialist and former state advocate with decades of experience in environmental crime prosecution, legal training, and policy implementation across Africa.



### **Petro van der Westhuizen**

Former SAPS Lieutenant-Colonel and forensic investigation specialist with extensive expertise in crime scene investigation, criminalistics, and forensic education.

# PROGRAM:



**\*COURSE SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

## Day 1-2:

- Welcoming talk and tour of facilities
- Introductory lectures on crime scene management and processing
- Crime scene surveillance and searching practical
- Evidence documentation and collection practicals
- Crime scene photography training and scene sketching

## Day 3-6:

- Lectures on drafting of statements and courtroom testimonial presentation
- Practically drafting statements
- Wildlife crime scene management practical
- Practical in evidence documentation on scene
- Final wildlife crime scene practical
- Preparing statements and photography albums for court
- Moot court practical and debrief
- Beach walk

## Day 7-8:

- Experience the West Coast
- Practical: Succulent plant search and the plant poaching trade
- Poaching, anti-poaching, tracking and environmental threats lecture
- Practical: Eye sharpening, tracking, knots, short-term survival
- Navigation and star constellation practicals



# PROGRAM:



**\*COURSE SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

## Day 9-10:

- Lecture and practical: Environmental threats and short-term survival
- Forensic entomology lecture and practical
- Lecture: Veterinary aspects regarding wildlife, poison, first aid
- Conduct a wildlife post-mortem analysis

## Day 11-14: Wine and wildlife - excursions

- San Cultural tour
- Marine bird rehabilitation centre
- Cheetah conservation centre
- Marine conservation centre tour
- Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens
- South African Museum of National History
- Marine conservation and shark ecology presentation
- Human-wildlife conflict
- Surfing
- Guided hike on ecology, marine poaching and biodiversity
- Wine tasting



# QUESTIONS?

Kindly direct any questions and enquiries via email to [admin@wildlifeforensicacademy.com](mailto:admin@wildlifeforensicacademy.com)

# APPLICATIONS:

Please express your interest in joining us for this unique course experience by filling out an application form on our website:

