

FGASA BIOME GUIDING CERTIFICATES



THE FGASA BIOME GUIDE

On achieving this specialist qualification over and above a FGASA nature guiding qualification you will be able to provide a closely integrated interpretation of the natural resources and attractions, showing the interdependence of climate, weather, rock, and soil abiotic factors intermingled with biotic features such as vegetation and animal life. You will be able to apply meaningful interpretations based on a sound ecological and conservationist approach by taking the biome as an integrated entity.

You will be able to conduct a specialist guided biome experience of any of the biomes of South Africa based upon which Biomes you chose to specialise in. This Biome Guiding Qualification will give you the opportunity to guide throughout the biome or several biomes for which you have been declared competent to guide in.

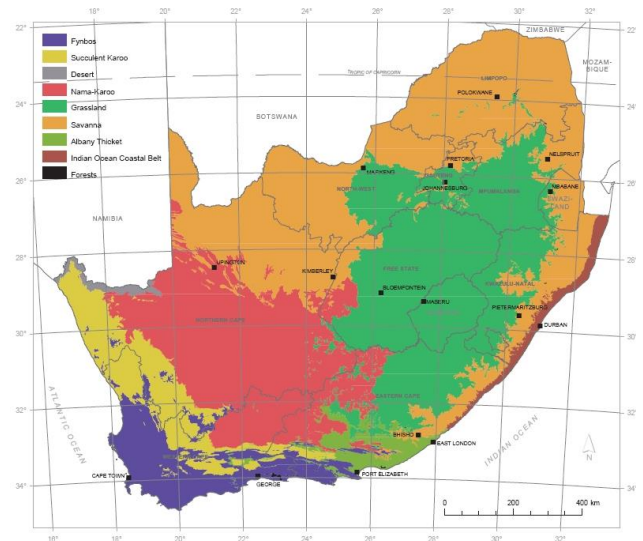
At this level the Biome Guide:

- Is operating as a field guide specialising in a biome at an intermediate level of knowledge.
- Has an intermediate level of knowledge considered essential to register and legally conduct a guided biome experience.
- Has attained at least the FGASA Field Guide (NQF2), or the FGASA Marine Guide (NQF2) qualification.
- Has been declared competent against the relevant Biome assessment.
- Has a valid, up-to-date recognised First Aid certificate.

The following Biome specialisations at NQF4 are available:

Conduct a guided:

- Savanna Biome experience
- Succulent Karoo Biome experience
- Fynbos Biome experience
- Nama Karoo Biome experience
- Forest Biome experience
- Grassland Biome experience
- Albany Thicket Biome experience
- Desert Biome experience
- Indian Ocean Coastal Belt Biome experience



How do I get a FGASA Biome Guide Qualification?

Once you have attained as a minimum a FGASA Field Guide (NQF2) or the FGASA Marine Guide (NQF2) qualification, you can apply to do the FGASA Biome Guiding theory workbook.

There will be separate theory assessment by means of a Biome workbook (portfolio of evidence) submission for each of the relevant Biomes you wish to be assessed against. You would need to specify in the workbook for which Biome you have completed the workbook.

There is **no practical assessment** for this qualification as you would have already been declared competent for your guiding skills in one of the FGASA Field or marine guiding qualifications.

What learning materials do I need for the FGASA Biome Guiding qualification?

The following learning materials are **compulsory**:

1. The FGASA Nature Guide Manual & the Advanced Field Guide Learner Manual
2. The FGASA Biome Guide Learner Manual (*Only Savanna is currently available*)
3. The FGASA Biome Guiding Workbook
4. Trees of Southern Africa – B & P van Wyk
5. Relevant books on geology, plants, and animals for the specific biome

Recommended reading to improve your knowledge:

1. National Parks and Nature Reserves, A South African Field Guide - Matilda & Chris Stuart
2. The vegetation of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland – Mucina and Rutherford (Also available on CD)

The FGASA Biome Guide Syllabus includes the following modules for each of the Biome qualifications with some variation among some of them:

- Geographical regions and associated vegetation types
- Indicator animal and plant species in the biome
- Ecology of the biome and its various sub-divisions
- The geology, climate and general weather patterns of the biome and its geographical sub-regions
- The protected areas of natural interest within the biome
- Conservation management of the biome and the human influences on the biome

THE FGASA NATIONAL BIOME GUIDE

At this level the Biome Guide:

- Is operating as a nature guide specialising in all the biomes at an intermediate level of knowledge.
- Has an intermediate level of knowledge considered essential to conduct a guided biome experience in all the biomes of Southern Africa.
- Has attained a FGASA Field Guide (NQF2), Advanced Field Guide (NQF4), the FGASA Specialist Field Guide or the FGASA Marine Guide (NQF2) qualification.
- Has been declared competent against all the Biome theoretical workbook assessments.
- Has a valid, up-to-date recognised First Aid certificate.

The FGASA Certificate for this qualification will indicate “National Biome Guide”.