

FGASA FIELD GUIDE (NQF4) CERTIFICATE



The **FGASA Field Guide (NQF4)** [Previously known as *FGASA Level 2*] is able to provide a guided nature experience at an elementary scientific level combining knowledge and experience while interpreting the features of the natural environment within the broader ecological context. The level of scientific understanding is distinguished from the Apprentice Field Guide (NQF2) category predominantly on the depth of knowledge required on similar topics with the added active guiding experience.

The FGASA Field Guide (NQF4) Certificate consists of the following:

Compulsory components

- Conduct a guided nature experience
- Care for customers
- Conduct a tourist guiding activity
- Minimise and manage safety and emergency incidents
- South African general knowledge

Elective components

One of the following:

- Conduct a guided biome experience
- Conduct a guided birding experience
- Research and design a guided experience at a prominent tourism site



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At this level the Nature Guide:

- Is operating as a Nature site guide in an advanced capacity but is in the process of further development.
- May be operating as a competent guide in a number of different sites or a region. A Site usually refers to a particular Game or Nature reserve, National Park, Botanical garden, Bird Sanctuary. A region usually refers to a larger area within a particular Biome, such as the Kruger National Park and surrounding Private Game Reserves.
- Has a minimum of 1 year (260 days) practical active guiding experience logged and verified as a nature guide. Of these days, 130 days can be logged as non-guiding activities such as mentored guiding, anti-poaching, tracking, rhino monitoring, etc.
- Has the knowledge considered essential to register and legally conduct guided nature experiences as a FGASA Field Guide (NQF4).
- Has been declared competent against the requirements of the FGASA Field Guide (NQF4) theoretical and practical assessment.
- Has a valid, up-to-date recognised First Aid certificate.

How do I get a FGASA Field Guide qualification?

Once you have attained the FGASA Apprentice Field Guide (NQF2) qualification, successfully completed all the required FGASA Field Guide (NQF4) Workbooks, and **logged 260 days** of verified active guiding experience in the FGASA Green Field Guide Logbook, you will be eligible to apply to write the FGASA Field Guide (NQF4) theory examination. Once you have been declared theoretically competent by means of the theory examination you will be eligible to be practically assessed for the FGASA Field Guide (NQF4) Certificate in a guiding area of your choice.

The **practical assessment** for the FGASA Field Guide (NQF4) Certificate is carried out by a registered FGASA assessor in a guiding area of your choice. You will need to take the assessor on a guided nature experience with or without clients but preferably with clients.

The practical assessment will be explained to you in detail by your assessor in the pre-assessment brief. The assessor will make sure that you know what you will be assessed on so that you may prepare yourself for this assessment. (*Refer to the FGASA Field Guide (NQF4) Learner workbook for details.*) Payment for your practical assessment is made directly to the assessor and does not come via the FGASA office.

Once you have been declared competent for the FGASA Field Guide (NQF4) practical assessment you will have attained the FGASA Field Guide (NQF4) Qualification for the specific site/region in which you have been assessed competent to guide in.



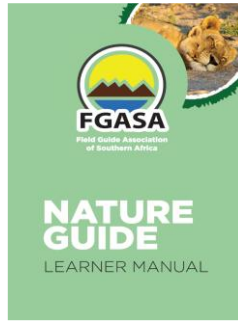
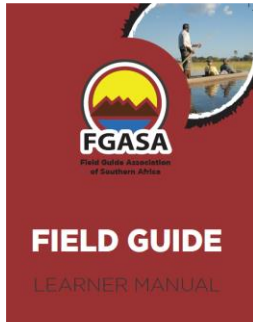
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What learning materials do I need for the FGASA Field Guide Certificate?

The following learning materials are **compulsory**:

- The Nature Guide Learner Manual – Grant & Gillie Hine
- The FGASA Field Guide (NQF4) Learner Manual – Grant Hine
- The Guiding Skills Manual – Grant Hine
- The FGASA Field Guide (NQF4) Study Guide & Workbook

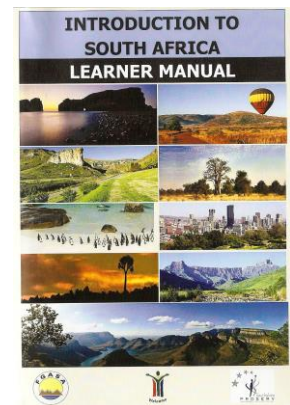


Recommended books to improve your own knowledge:

- Beat about the Bush (Mammals) – Trevor Carnaby
- Beat about the Bush (Birds) – Trevor Carnaby
- Grasses & Grazers of Botswana and the surrounding Savanna – Veronica Roodt
Or Guide to Grasses of Southern Africa – van Oudtshoorn
- The Story of Life and the Environment – Jo Van As. *et al*
- Field Guide to the Tracks & Signs – Chris & Mathilde Stuart

Recommended guide books to make use of while conducting guided experiences:

1. Any one of these **mammal** books:
 - Field Guide to Mammals of Southern Africa – Chris & Mathilde Stuart.
 - Smithers Mammals of Southern Africa
2. Any tree book that includes **trees** for your area of operation:
 - Trees of Southern Africa – B & P van Wyk
 - Sappi – the regional tree book for your area of operation
3. Any one of the following **bird** books:
 - Newman's Birds of South Africa – Sappi
 - Sasol Birds of SA – Sasol.
 - Roberts Field Guide to Birds of Southern Africa
4. The following books are **also recommended**:
 - Birds The inside story – Rael & Helene Loon
 - A Complete guide to Frogs of Southern Africa – du Preez & Carruthers
 - Scorpions of Southern Africa – J. Leeming



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- Filmer's Spiders - Martin Filmer
- Field Guide to Insects of Southern Africa – Picker, Griffiths & Weaving
- A complete guide to reptiles of Southern Africa – Marais & Alexandra
- A general South African History book.
- Stargazing from Game Reserves – Anthony Fairall
- The Guides Guide to Guiding – Garth Thompson
- Game ranger in your backpack (Lowveld area) – Megan Emmett & Sean Patrick
- Tracks and Signs – Lee Gutteridge & Louis Liebenberg

THE COMPULSORY MODULES FOR THE FIELD CERTIFICATE

To complete the module requirements for the FGASA Field Guide (NQF4) Certificate all of the following compulsory Modules have to be successfully completed.

Compulsory components

- Conduct a guided nature experience
- Care for customers
- Conduct a tourist guiding activity
- Minimise and manage safety and emergency incidents
- South African general knowledge



1. CONDUCT A GUIDED NATURE EXPERIENCE

This Module is assessed by means of:

- Workbook
- Theory examination
- Practical Assessment

The following aspects are included in the assessment of this module:

- Design a guided nature experience
- Conduct a guided nature experience
- Review own guiding performance

The following modules are included in this section:

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|--|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Creating a guided nature experience | 6. Taxonomy | 11. Reptiles |
| 2. Geology | 7. The Biomes | 12. Fish |
| 3. Astronomy | 8. Botany and Grasses | 13. Birds |
| 4. Weather and Climate | 9. Arthropods | 14. Mammals |
| 5. Ecology | 10. Amphibians | 15. Animal behaviour |

FGASA FIELD GUIDE (NQF4) CERTIFICATE

2. CARE FOR CUSTOMERS

This Module is assessed by means of:

- Workbook
- Theory examination
- Practical Assessment



The following aspects are included in the assessment of this module:

- Identify customer needs and expectations
- Recognise customer dissatisfaction and take action to resolve the situation
- Identify and use opportunities to enhance the quality of customer service
- Communicate with all customers in a friendly and courteous manner

3. CONDUCT A TOURIST GUIDING ACTIVITY

This Module is assessed by means of:

- Workbook
- Theory examination
- Practical Assessment



The following aspects are included in the assessment of this module:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the guiding activity category
- Plan and prepare for a specific tourist guiding activity
- Prepare participants for a guiding activity
- Supervise a tourist guiding activity
- Conclude a tourist guiding activity

4. MINIMISE AND MANAGE SAFETY AND EMERGENCY INCIDENTS

The assessment for this Module as part of the FGASA Field Guide (NQF4) Certificate is by means of a workbook constituting a Portfolio of Evidence (POE).

The following aspects are included in the workbook assessment:

- Implement policy to promote the prevention of safety and emergency incidents
- Manage emergency incidents, which affect the safety of an individual, group or crowd
- Manage the reaction of an individual, group or crowd to a safety or emergency incident



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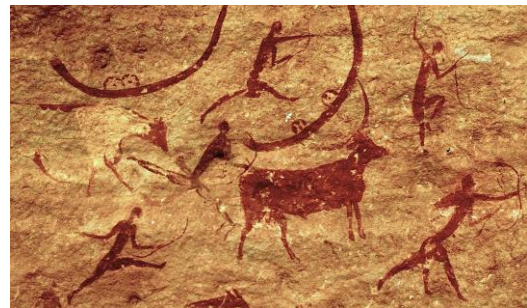


5. FGASA SOUTH AFRICAN GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CERTIFICATE

The assessment for the South African General Knowledge Module for the FGASA Field Guide (NQF4) Certificate is by means of a **workbook** constituting a Portfolio of Evidence (POE).

The following aspects are included in the workbook assessment:

1. The Geography and Geology of South Africa
2. South Africa's Climate
3. Biomes and related species of South Africa
4. National Botanical Gardens
5. Flagship Species
6. Major Parks and Wilderness areas
7. South Africa Demographics
8. Health Care
9. Education
10. The Economy
11. South Africa's Transport
12. Tourism Attractions and SA's World Heritage Sites
13. Regional names in South Africa
14. The Constitution and Governance
15. Arts and Culture
16. South Africa's National Symbols and Public Holidays
17. Laws and the administration of justice
18. History: SA – From Cave-age to the Nineteenth Century
19. History: The South African wars and Union
20. The Government of National Unity
21. South Africa's Cultural Heritage: Languages
22. Religious practices in South Africa
23. The Diversity of South African Cultures
24. The Travel and Tourism Industry
25. Lighthouses and Shipwrecks



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THE FIELD GUIDE (NQF4) THEORY EXAMINATION

There is **one theory examination** that evaluates the following three compulsory modules:

- Conduct a guided nature experience
- Care for customers
- Conduct a tourist guiding activity

THE ELECTIVE MODULES FOR THE FIELD GUIDE

To complete the module requirements for the FGASA Field Guide (NQF4) Certificate one of the Elective Modules has to be successfully completed.

The Elective components include the following:

- Conduct a guided birding experience
- Conduct a guided biome experience
- Research and design a guided experience at a prominent tourism site



1. CONDUCT A GUIDED BIRDING EXPERIENCE

This module consists of the following components:

- The Regional Bird Guide **Workbook**
- The relevant Regional (Biome) **Slide and Sound** assessment
- The **Core** Slide and Sound assessment
- A Bird Guiding Skills **practical** assessment

The following aspects are included in the birding assessment:

- Conduct a tour to locate, identify and interpret birds
- Discuss avian behaviour
- Describe seasonal changes in distribution and behaviour of important species
- Use a bird field guide

Refer to the FGASA Bird Guiding Qualifications Brochure for the details of this Module



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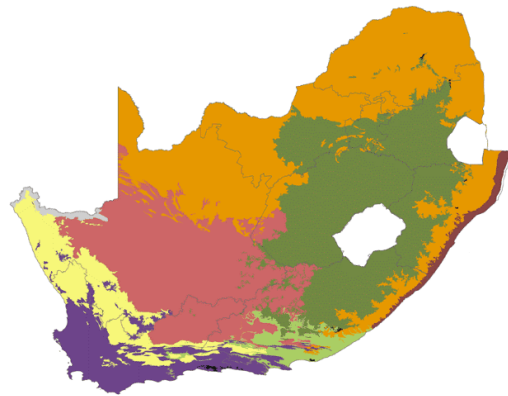


2. CONDUCT A GUIDED BIOME EXPERIENCE

The assessment for the Biome Module as part of the FGASA Field Guide (NQF4) Certificate is by means of a **workbook** constituting a Portfolio of Evidence (POE).

The following aspects are included in the workbook assessment:

- Identify the geographical regions of a biome and associated vegetation types.
- Name, identify and describe the indicator animal and plant species in a biome.
- Explain the ecology of a biome and its various sub-divisions.
- Describe the geology, climate and general weather patterns of a biome and its geographical sub-regions
- Explain the protected natural areas of interest within the biome.
- Design and plan various Nature tours within the biome



3. RESEARCH AND DESIGN A GUIDED EXPERIENCE AT A PROMINENT TOURISM SITE

The assessment for the Research and Design Module as part of the FGASA Field Guide (NQF4) Certificate is by means of a **workbook** constituting a Portfolio of Evidence (POE).

The following aspects are included in the workbook assessment:

- Conduct and research a tour in preparation of a guided experience in a designated tourism site
- Develop an inventory for a selected site in support of the design of a guided experience
- Design a guided nature, culture or adventure experience for a designated tourism site



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