



FGASA News: February 2023



Welcome to 2023!

Hey {{ contact.FIRSTNAME }}, can you believe that we're already in February? The year 2023 is already well underway and so are we here at FGASA. So far, we've already conducted our first Assessors' and Training Providers' meetings for the year, sharing important FGASA updates and receiving feedback from our Assessors and endorsed Training Providers. We're also in the process of hosting our regional meetings for FGASA regional representatives across South Africa.

We've officially launched [Safari Guide of the Year 2023, nominations are now open](#) and we're looking forward to a successful event to be held at a secret, 5-star location in the Lowveld, near Hoedspruit. This year's event promises to be one to remember as we take on new partnerships, sponsors and even the production of a Safari Guide of the Year series. You'll have to wait and see what that's about!

[Junior FGASA](#) is also off to a stellar start this year with a record number of signups for our very own, children's and teens' Pangolin and Nature Ambassadors training programs. We're hoping to see many of these young, passionate future environmental ambassadors and custodians becoming members of FGASA and pursuing their careers in field guiding or conservation.

From all of us at FGASA we sincerely wish every one of you all the best for the year ahead!

FGASA Calendar February 2023

Wednesday 15 NQF2 Exam workshop at 7pm	Thursday 16 NQF4 Exam workshop at 7pm	Thursday 16 ARH Eastern Cape	Friday 17 Online exam registration closes	Monday 20 Trails Guide Exam workshop at 7pm
Friday 24 FGASA Online exam sitting	Saturday 25 FGASA National exam sitting	Monday 27 FGASA Regional Meeting Eastern Cape	Tuesday 28 FGASA Regional Meeting Eastern Cape	Wednesday 1 FGASA Info Evening

In the News



Safari Guide of the Year 2023

Safari Guide of the Year 2023 is officially open for nominations along with a new look and feel to the official webpage as well as a detailed 'About' page to help everyone become more familiar with the competition and its goals. For those who don't know, Safari Guide of the Year is a competition aimed at recognising the skills, knowledge, expertise and years of experience it takes to become a successful guide. Field guiding has often been viewed as a lesser career option, something to keep you busy in your early 20's until you find something 'real' to do. Many don't realise that safari guiding is its own career, filled with its own challenges and requiring years of study, practical experience and dedication. It's a career that not only brings wealth and success but also fulfillment in a career that very few other employment options offer. If you'd love to nominate a guide for this year's competition, please head over to the [Safari Guide of the Year](#) webpage and download the nomination form. If you'd like to know more about Safari Guide of the Year visit our new About page.

[Read more](#)



Training Providers welcome new students and future field guides

The start of a new year always means an influx of bright, new safari guide student hopefuls. The FGASA endorsed Training Providers are packed with eager students, hungry to learn more about the natural world around them and how to share this knowledge with potential guests from all over the world. We thank our endorsed Training Providers for their tireless efforts in helping to grow and maintain the high-level professionalism and gold standard guiding that FGASA aims to achieve in the safari-tourism and ecotourism industries. Read more about our endorsed training providers by clicking the button below.

[Read more](#)

Industry transformation is the name of the game

We are ecstatic to see how many of our endorsed Training Providers are taking industry transformation by the horns and helping to create an inclusive and equitable industry that is open to all. Many of our Training Providers have undertaken the task of finding, training and assisting previously disadvantaged individuals from areas in and around South Africa's iconic game reserves to enter the industry as fully qualified guides. Not only are these individuals sponsored to train and qualify, but many of them are also guaranteed placements at various lodges across the country once their training is complete, giving them the best possible chance at starting a successful career in safari tourism. Read more about these initiatives below:



Image credit: Bushwise/GVI

Bushwise Field Guides and aha Hotels & Lodges

We are pleased to announce an exciting new initiative between Bushwise Field Guides, aha Hotels & Lodges and Mankwe Gametrackers...

[Read more](#)



Image credit: Wildlife Wizards

Wildlife Wizards: meet the rural youth selection of 2023

We aim to select and develop between 20 and 40 Rural Youths per year. We select them through a specifically designed selection process...

[Read more](#)



Image credit: NJ More

NJ More: Kruger Campus making a difference

We are sure all our prospective students are excited at the news that MORE Field Guide College is set to open a new campus in the...

[Read more](#)



FGASA Info Evening: a slithering success

Our first Info Evening was a roaring (slithering?) success. So successful in fact that some of our members and friends had to be seated outside! It was a huge turnout and no doubt thanks to our speaker for the evening, Johan Marais, Director of the African Snakebite Institute. In the short hour or so we spent together we all learned so much about the snakes of the Lowveld. We

covered myths and misconceptions, safety, first aid and some basic snake anatomy. Once the talk was concluded we gathered outside to peruse the merchandise brought along by Johan (some of us walking away with signed copies of his reference books), had a few snacks and chatted more about all the cool stuff we'd learned. If you missed our Info Evening, no stress, you can watch the whole presentation on our YouTube channel by clicking the button below.

[Watch here](#)



I am FGASA

We're bringing back our "I am FGASA" campaign and invite all our members to participate. If you're a proud FGASA qualified guide then please do let us know! We'd love to hear and share your stories of success. Who knows, maybe you could inspire someone to follow in your footsteps and pursue a career in guiding! Take a selfie or share a video of yourself in the field, send them through to Louise on marketing@fgasa.org.za and tag us on social media using #IamFGASA. Everyone who shares an #IamFGASA post with us will go into a draw and one winner will be picked each month to receive a prize from FGASA.

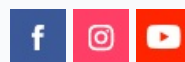
We've already got some great feedback from our members this year:

George Goma, FGASA Member - "It has been a great year so far for FGASA and the team, thank you so much for your support and commitment to the organisation and your members."

Ruan Roos, FGASA Member and Assistant Lodge Manager Jabulani - "Thank you so much for what you guys are doing for the field guides in South Africa."

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