

FGASA TRAILS GUIDE SKS (DG) QUALIFICATIONS PROCEDURE



1. You need to have already obtained the FGASA Professional Field Guide Qualifications AND have the FGASA Professional Trails Guide Certificate. You will not be permitted to register for the FGASA Trails Guide SKS (DG) Qualification without first obtaining these two.

2. You need to be an up-to-date member of FGASA

3. You need to purchase and complete the FGASA SKS (DG) Workbook.

4. You need to log a MINIMUM of 1200 hours as either 1st or 2nd rifle. Your logbook must be signed off by FGASA.



5. Required Hours:

- Need to have guided or participated for at least **200 hours on backpack/primitive style trails in dangerous game areas.**
- A **maximum of 100 hours** can be **non-guiding activities** e.g. rhino monitoring, security on tracking assessments, or as a participant on a FGASA approved Wilderness, Primitive or Backpacking Trail specifically designed to mentor Trails Guides.
- A **minimum of 100 hours (of the 600) must be mentored hours**
- A **minimum of five different FGASA Mentors must be involved during the 100 hours.**
- **Three of the five mentors must be SKS (DG) Assessors.**



6. Required Encounters:

- Log a **minimum of 600 encounters** with at least **30 encounters from each of the animal categories** and must **include all seven categories**. This must be in the workplace during guiding based activities.
- A **maximum of 100 encounters** can be **non-guiding activities** e.g. rhino monitoring, security on tracking assessments, or as a participant on a FGASA approved Wilderness, Primitive or Backpacking Trail specifically designed to mentor Trails Guides, etc

↓

The Animal Categories are as follows:

- Elephant bull
- Elephant breeding herd
- Buffalo bull
- Buffalo breeding herd
- Lion and/or leopard
- White and/or black rhino
- Hippopotamus out of water


↓

7. You need to **complete the SKS (DG) practical assessment:**

- This is a **multi-day backpacking/primitive trail in a dangerous game area** where all the **different dangerous game categories occur.**
- **Minimum number of candidates is two** to allow for peer review.
- It is conducted by an **External Assessor and one Assessor** if only **two candidates**, or an **External Assessor plus two Assessors** when **more than two candidates** are on the assessment.
- Each **candidate needs to be assessed as 1st Rifle for at least 1½ days (including 1 night)** and as **2nd Rifle/Back-up for at least 1½ days (including 1 night)**. Therefore the duration will slide as the minimum two candidates will take **3 full days and 2 nights**, three or four candidates will take 6 full days and 5 nights.
- It must include a **minimum of two encounters as 1st Rifle.**



8. You need to have an up-to-date valid ARH (Advanced Rifle Handling) on your Trails Guide Certificate.



9. You need to undergo the FGASA SKS (DG) shooting assessment and be declared competent (pass) by and SKS DG Shoot qualified Assessor.



10. You must have the Tracker Level 3 Certificate, this comprises of a minimum of Animal Track & Sign level 3 and Animal Trailing level 3.



11. You need to have the Wilderness First Aid Level 2 Certificate



12. You will be awarded the FGASA SKS(DG) Certificate.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The FGASA SKS (DG) Trails Guide Certificate rests solely with FGASA, no additional registration with CATHSSETA is required.