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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement from FGASA: A Positive Resolution

[Hoedspruit, South Africa] We wanted to give you an update following the amicable resolution of a recent disagreement between FGASA, Bushwise and IFGA.

In May 2025, FGASA published a statement concerning Bushwise and IFGA.

We now retract that statement entirely and apologise unconditionally to Bushwise and IFGA for it.

FGASA would like to make clear that we see Bushwise and IFGA as highly respected organisations which each make a valuable contribution to the field guiding sector.

We would also like to take this opportunity to clarify the legal framework for field guiding in South Africa:

1. Membership of FGASA is entirely voluntary.
2. In order to work as a guide in South Africa, a person only needs to be registered with the relevant authorities and hold the requisite qualification. FGASA membership is not a requirement.
3. FGASA is not currently a Recognised Professional Body under SAQA. We currently operate as a voluntary professional body and have applied to SAQA for recognition as such, and when there are developments, we will let you know. In any event, FGASA membership will remain voluntary.
4. We believe healthy competition is positive for the sector, and we welcome other organisations providing professional membership and training options.
5. Every field guide has a right to work for or with any organisation they choose. This applies to all FGASA and IFGA members.
6. The quality of a training programme should be assessed on its curriculum and trainers.

Everything has now been resolved with IFGA and Bushwise, and we look forward to working towards a better field guiding sector as a whole.

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