



Tel: 011 886 8245 Email: MD@fgasa.org.za

Physical address: The Farm House, Stables 1-3
Zandspruit, Hoedspruit

Postal address: Postnet Hoedspruit
Postnet Suite 430, Hoedspruit 1380

17 September 2024

Western Cape Government Launches Marine Guide Training Program in Partnership with FGASA

[Hoedspruit] The [Department of Economic Development & Tourism of the Western Cape Government](#), in collaboration with the [Field Guides Association of Southern Africa](#) (FGASA), proudly announces the launch of an exciting Marine Guide Training program. This initiative, aimed at equipping future guides with essential skills and knowledge, will take place over the next five months, combining online and practical training to offer a comprehensive educational experience.

Principal facilitator Schalk Pretorius from [Ulovane Environmental Training](#) leads the online lectures, bringing his extensive expertise in marine and environmental education to students. The practical component will be conducted in two key locations: Hermanus, under the guidance of Dalfrenzo Laing at the DeHoop Collection, and Mossel Bay, where Schalk Pretorius will offer hands-on training and activities.

Candidates in the program will be working towards the FGASA Marine Guide (Nature Site Guide NQF2) programme, covering an array of topics that are crucial for delivering high-quality guided marine experiences.

Some examples of the modules include:

- First Aid and safety protocols
- Understanding weather patterns and climate
- The marine coastal environment and the two oceans
- Marine ecosystems: fish, shells, seaweed, and ocean life
- Astronomy and geology
- Historical human habitation and conservation management
- Tidal knowledge and its impact on marine life
- Guiding skills and techniques for providing immersive and informative guided tours

The Marine Guide Training program is a unique opportunity for aspiring guides to gain both theoretical knowledge and practical skills in the field, with a strong focus on sustainable marine tourism. As the Western Cape continues to attract global attention for its rich biodiversity and marine ecosystems, this program will ensure that future guides are well-prepared to educate and inspire visitors about the region's incredible marine life.

For further details on the program, please contact the Western Cape Department of Economic Development & Tourism or the Field Guides Association of Southern Africa.