2027 Intake — Training Information

For Prospective Students and Parents

Programme commencement: 15 February 2027 • Version 1.0

Dear Prospective Student and Parent,

As the founder and CEO of Limpopo Wildlife Eco College, I write to you not only as an educator, but as someone who has dedicated over thirty years to wildlife conservation and professional training. Since establishing the College in 1995, I have had the privilege of watching more than a thousand young people turn their passion for wildlife into meaningful, successful careers.

When I founded LWEC as South Africa's first woman-led professional hunting academy, I had a simple but powerful vision: to produce not merely qualified guides and hunters, but conservation leaders who make a lasting difference to Africa's wildlife heritage. Today we have built something genuinely distinctive in the wildlife-education sector.

WHY LWEC STANDS ALONE IN WILDLIFE EDUCATION

■ The Only Triple-Accredited Wildlife Training Provider in South Africa

LWEC is the only wildlife training institution in the country accredited by CATHSSETA and QCTO and registered with LEDET:

- **CATHSSETA** — Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality & Sport SETA
- **QCTO** — Quality Council for Trades & Occupations
- **LEDET** — Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism — Registered Professional Hunting School Director (LEMA 2003, Permit CPM 35616)

This means your qualifications carry national credibility and are recognised across multiple industries and internationally.

■ Unmatched Breadth of Qualifications

The breadth and credibility of what you walk away with matters to every student and parent. While many providers offer a single qualification over a short course, our **7-Month Career Course** delivers a full suite of nationally recognised qualifications in one structured programme. To achieve the same elsewhere you would need to enrol with several providers over a far longer period — and still miss qualifications that only we provide.

Please also see the optional advanced add-on programme described later in this document.

■ Results and Track Record

- Consistently high course-completion and examination pass rates, well above typical industry levels
- Strong graduate employment: our graduates are actively recruited by premier lodges across Southern Africa
- More than 1,000 graduates trained since 1995

Specific performance figures are available on request and are supported by our records.

WHAT MAKES OUR PROGRAMMES EXTRAORDINARY

■ Comprehensive Career Preparation

Our programmes do more than teach you about wildlife — they prepare you for a career. Graduates of the Career Course earn nationally recognised qualifications spanning:

- Professional Hunting (including Dangerous Game)
- Nature Guiding (**L2 & L4)**
- Nature Guiding – Dangerous Game (**L2 & L4**)
- Culture Guiding (**L2 & L4**)
- Tourist Guiding L4 (**all nine provinces**)
- Business Management and Entrepreneurship (***New Venture Creation***)
- Hospitality and Accommodation Services
- Eco-Ranger certification (***QCTO qualification***)
- Wilderness First Aid & Safety (**Levels 1, 2 & 3**)

■ Real-World Industry Experience

Unlike classroom-based competitors, our students gain hands-on experience with:

- Live wildlife darting and translocation
- Dangerous game tracking and handling
- Client interaction with international guests
- Lodge operations and management
- Professional hunting expeditions

■ A Campus That Is Genuinely in the Wild

Our 24-hour secured campus in the heart of Limpopo provides:

- Thatched chalets with private bathrooms
- Meals prepared fresh daily (*weekdays*)
- Wi-Fi, DSTV, and swimming pool
- Modern lecture facilities and study areas
- Laundry services and emergency support

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOUR SUCCESS

■ Personalised Attention

With a maximum of 12 students per programme, every learner receives individual mentoring and support. We know each student by name, understand their goals, and work personally to ensure their success.

Lifelong Career Support

Our commitment does not end at graduation. We maintain an active recruitment network and continue supporting our alumni throughout their careers. Many graduates have started their own successful businesses or risen to senior management at top-tier operations.

A Special Message to Parents

I understand the concerns every parent has when considering their child's future — you want assurance that this training will lead to real opportunities. As a mother myself, I promise you this: every student who comes to LWEC receives the same care, attention and commitment I would want for my own child. We do not simply educate; we mentor, support and guide young people toward becoming responsible, skilled professionals.

Our campus offers a safe, structured environment in which students develop independence while receiving the support they need. Our 24-hour security, supervised activities and regular communication with families give parents peace of mind.

LOOKING FORWARD: THE FUTURE OF CONSERVATION

The wildlife-conservation industry is evolving rapidly. Tourism is recovering, conservation funding is growing, and global awareness of Africa's conservation needs continues to rise.

Our graduates are positioned at the forefront of this growth — and, *more importantly, they are equipped with the knowledge, skills and credentials to make a real difference in protecting Africa's wildlife heritage for future generations.*

YOUR NEXT STEP

I personally invite you to visit our campus — meet our instructors, tour our facilities, and speak with current students and recent graduates.

Application Deadlines — 2026/2027 Intake

- **Early Bird:** 31 October 2026
- **Regular:** 30 November 2026
- **Programme commencement:** 15 February 2027

To arrange a campus tour or discuss your goals, please contact me directly on 072 929 7167. I personally review every application and would welcome the opportunity to discuss your future with LWEC.

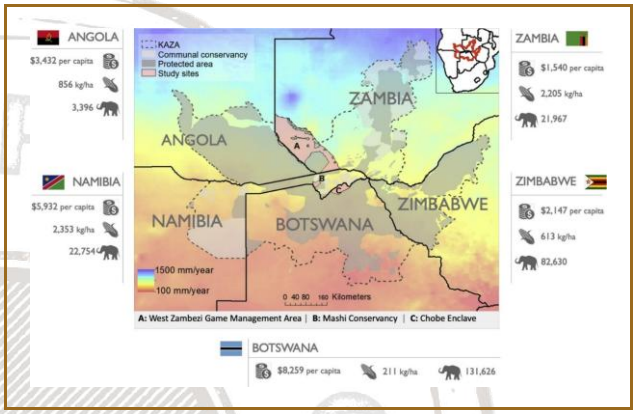
We do not offer the largest campus or the biggest marketing budget. We offer what matters: legitimate, government-backed qualifications from institutions that set industry standards rather than follow them.

Warm regards,

Elfrieda Zeriah Wessels
CEO & Founder
Africa's Only Female Registered Professional Hunting School Director
Limpopo Wildlife Eco College
Established 1995 • Over 1,000 graduates • South Africa's premier wildlife training institution

***Optional Add-On*: Advanced Dangerous Game & Natural Sciences Training**

> ***A 30-day intensive field programme*** *in which regular dangerous-game exposure is combined with university-level natural-sciences instruction.* ***Offered as an optional advanced complement to Professional Hunter training.*** *Encounter frequency and field activities are weather- and wildlife-dependent.*



■ Who This Programme Is For

Your Professional Hunter training laid a foundation; this programme is for guides ready for genuine advancement rather than another level progression.

It is an intensive field immersion in which you engage with real dangerous-game situations while mastering the natural sciences that distinguish true professionals.

What Makes It Distinctive

- Frequent dangerous-game field exposure over the programme (*weather and wildlife permitting*)
- Personal mentoring by an LWEC master mentor throughout
- University-level natural-sciences content most guides never receive
- Rigorous preparation for high-risk field situations that builds well-founded confidence
- Bush-camp living within and bordering a major national park

■ Why Encounter Frequency Matters

Many programmes provide only a handful of dangerous-game encounters in total. Here you engage with such situations regularly. It is not about a headline number — it is about building the situational judgement and instinctive responses that keep you and your guests safe.

No two situations are identical; each presents different animal behaviour, environmental conditions and group dynamics, and ***each is treated as genuine preparation rather than a box to tick***.

A Representative Field Day (*weather permitting*)

- **Morning:** Buffalo herds at water as day breaks
- **Mid-morning:** Elephant along established paths
- **Afternoon:** Hippo activity, as temperatures drop
- **Evening:** Lion and leopard as darkness approaches

■ Skills You Will Develop

- **Rapid, sound threat assessment** — *reading body language quickly*
- **Predictive awareness** — *anticipating animal behaviour*
- **Calm decision-making under pressure**
- **Guest management while handling demanding situations**
- **Well-practised responses that become second nature**

UNIVERSITY-LEVEL NATURAL SCIENCES FOUNDATION

Most guides know basic animal facts. True professionals understand the scientific principles behind animal behaviour, ecosystem function and environmental relationships — knowledge that turns a guide who can identify animals into an educator who can explain why things happen.

■ Geological Foundations

How landscape shapes everything above it.

- Rock formations and their influence on water flow and mineral content
- Soil types and their impact on vegetation communities
- Topography and its effect on animal movement
- Mineral licks and their role in animal distribution
- Water sources and how geology creates permanent versus seasonal resources

■ Meteorological Mastery

How atmospheric conditions drive life around you.

- Seasonal weather patterns and their impact on behaviour
- Pressure systems and animal responses before weather changes
- Wind patterns and their effect on movement and territory
- Rainfall cycles and their influence on breeding and migration
- Temperature variation and thermoregulation across species

■ Astronomy for Professional Guides

Southern-hemisphere skies and natural navigation.

- Constellation identification for southern skies
- Lunar cycles and their effect on animal activity
- Seasonal star movement and its link to migration timing
- Traditional navigation using celestial markers
- Cultural connections between astronomy and local communities

■ Advanced Ecological Systems

Energy flow and interconnected relationships.

- Primary production and solar-energy capture
- Trophic levels and energy-transfer efficiency
- Food webs versus simple food chains
- Decomposition and nutrient cycling
- Keystone species and their outsized ecosystem impact

■ Savannah Systems Specialisation

Southern African savannah dynamics.

- Seasonal rainfall patterns and drought cycles
- Fire regimes and their ecological role
- Grass and tree species and their ecological niches
- Browse versus grazing and animal preferences
- Herbivore interactions, predator–prey relationships and competition

■ Botanical Mastery

Plant identification and ecological roles.

- Identification using leaves, bark and growth patterns
- Ecological function in soil stabilisation and habitat
- Seasonal and phenological patterns
- Traditional and modern plant uses, with sustainable, respectful harvesting
- Animal self-medication behaviours you can observe

■ Wildlife Studies: Invertebrates to Megafauna

Comprehensive animal-kingdom understanding.

- Invertebrate communities and their ecosystem roles
- Fish, amphibian and reptile identification and safety
- Bird species as ecological indicators
- Mammal behaviour and social structures
- Human history and its ongoing influence on wildlife

■ Advanced Animal Behaviour Analysis

Reading wildlife for safety and education.

- Body-language signals indicating mood and intent
- Vocalisations, scent-marking and territorial communication
- Pre-charge behaviours and stress indicators in dangerous game
- Seasonal behaviour changes affecting encounters
- Human–wildlife conflict prediction and mitigation

YOUR BUSH-CAMP EXPERIENCE

Our camp sites are along a river within a major national park. The largely unfenced layout creates an authentic wilderness experience that immerses students in the environment they are learning to interpret and respect.

A Typical Day (weather and wildlife permitting)

- **05:30 —** coffee and rusks at dawn, then straight into early-morning field scenarios
- **06:00–10:00 —** morning field sessions: tracking, careful approaches under personal guidance, real-time behavioural analysis

- **10:00–15:00 —** brunch and intensive study: encounter debriefs, applied scientific principles, one-on-one mentoring
- **15:30–19:00 —** afternoon and evening sessions as animals prepare for night

Authentic Bush Living

- Canvas tents with bucket showers and chemical toilets
- Solar power only (*no grid electricity*)
- Communal meals around the fire
- Shared camp duties that build teamwork

■ Essential Packing List

- Solar power bank and solar charging devices (camp has no grid electricity)
- Quality binoculars and field notebooks
- Neutral-coloured clothing; hat, sunglasses, high-quality sunscreen
- Good rain jacket or waterproof poncho
- Well-worn, comfortable walking shoes; gaiters for ankle protection
- 4–5 L water capacity (backpack) plus hydration sachets
- Head torch with spare batteries
- Personal bedding, pillow and extra sheets; portable camp chair
- Basic first-aid kit and personal medication
- Insect repellent (e.g. Peaceful Sleep, Tabard) and tick protection (e.g. Bayticol spray)

THE TRANSFORMATION YOU WILL EXPERIENCE

Over 30 days you will accumulate substantial documented dangerous-game field experience, a deep scientific understanding of ecosystem function, well-founded confidence in demanding situations, and a personal mentoring relationship with one of Africa's most respected trainers.

Career Opportunities

- Premium positions at top-tier safari lodges
- Dangerous-game specialist recognition (*when combined with Professional Hunter Dangerous Game training*)
- Advanced guide status
- Lodge management, conservation leadership and training roles
- Consultation work and research collaboration

Note: career and remuneration outcomes vary with experience, employer and market conditions.

OPTIONAL *ADD-ON* - INVESTMENT AND VALUE

Programme investment — 2026 enrolled students only: R55 000 (normal rate R75 000).

Includes: accommodation, meals, personal mentoring, dangerous-game field exposure and comprehensive certification.

■ Application Process

Entry requirements:

- Nature Guide or equivalent (*Professional Hunter training is accepted*)
- First-aid certification (Wilderness First Aid preferred — **offered at our campus**)
- Physical fitness for daily bush activities
- Mental readiness for demanding dangerous-game field work

Steps:

1. Initial application with experience documentation
2. Personal interview with Craig or Zeriah (video call available)
3. Programme acceptance and enrolment

Please contact us with any questions about the programme, packing or arrangements — we support our students' success at every step.

Welcome to the world of professional field guiding. Your adventure begins now.

Warm regards,

Craig & Zeriah Wessels
Limpopo Wildlife Eco College