



Chrysalis Nature College

We strive to provide top quality nature and conservation education

Field Research and Monitoring Techniques

Chrysalis Training and Skills Development runs a research and monitoring techniques course over 2, 4 or 6 weeks, intended for:

- People working in the field of conservation and assisting with field research and conducting monitoring in the terrestrial and marine environments
- People interested in different research methods and learning how to apply these in the field for their own research or to assist researchers
- People working in the guiding/tourism industry who are interested in research methods and assisting visiting researchers in the field
- Anyone who is planning to or is currently completing an ecology, conservation or environmental sciences qualification
- Anyone who is interested in being a volunteer for organisations that offer volunteer programmes that include research and monitoring

We work on different reserves and private game farms, that often have all or some of the Big 5. We provide a service of collecting data to suit a need of the reserve or farm owner, the techniques that we use are in line with the required technique on the reserve and are techniques used internationally, allowing for the skills learnt to be used in research and monitoring worldwide. The data that we collect are not only used by our participants to do their assessments, but to assist reserves and private farm owners to better manage their properties, and ultimately lead to better conservation decisions being made.



An introduction to Terrestrial Field Research and Monitoring Techniques:

Duration: 2 Weeks

2019 Dates:

12 August – 26 August 2019

Cost: R 14 000

This is an introduction to the field of Research and Monitoring.

The course covers:

- An introduction to Conservation principles and Ethics
- An introduction to ecology and ecological principles
- An introduction to research and monitoring techniques
- How to use a field guide
- The focus is on doing vegetation surveys- using Alien Invasive Plants in a Nature Reserve or on a Private Farm as a case study
- The techniques learnt are in line with techniques used by researchers and monitors worldwide.
- This ensures that what is learnt can be adapted and applied worldwide.

You receive a certificate of participation, which lists the modules and techniques learnt during the course.



Terrestrial Field Research and Monitoring Techniques:

Duration: 4 Weeks

2019 dates:

12 August – 6 September 2019

Cost: R 28 000

This course goes into more depth than the introductory course, with more time spent in the field, and has assessment tasks attached. The final assessment task is a report and can be completed and submitted after the course.

If students wish to complete the final assessment for the opportunity of receiving a certificate of achievement for the Skills Programme, the final assessment will be completed after the course and submitted no later than one month after the course.

We work on different reserves and private game farms where we provide a service of collecting data to suit a need of the reserve or farm owner. The techniques that we use are in line with the required technique on the reserve and are techniques used internationally, allowing for the skills gained to be used in research and monitoring worldwide.

The course covers:

- An introduction to conservation principles and ethics, with assessment tasks
- Ecology and Ecological principles, with the focus on the ecology of the area that we will be working in. Students complete practical assessment tasks where they apply what is learnt in this module
- How to use a field guide, with practical application assessments tasks

Much of the course is spent out in the field, practising and perfecting various research and monitoring techniques, these may include:

- Conducting basic rapid biodiversity assessments.
- Conducting basic visual encounter surveys.
- Qualitative assessments of dominant indicator species.

These are done in conjunction with:

- Vegetation surveys
- Data collection on Alien invasive plant species infestations
- Camera trap surveys
- Game counts
- Collecting and preserving specimens, such as tree and grass samples

Other survey techniques may be included if there is a need expressed by the partners that we are working with, for example, a vegetation survey focussing on Elephant Damage Assessment in a Game Reserve.

Successful candidates will receive a certificate of completion for Field Research and Monitoring Techniques. The option of converting this to the accredited Research Assistant skills programme will



be available to all successful candidates who wish to receive the certificate for the Nationally Accredited Skills Programme.

This conversion will be offered to those who qualify for free, once Chrysalis has confirmation of accreditation as a training provider with CATHSSETA.

Terrestrial and Marine Field Research and Monitoring Techniques:

Duration: 6 Weeks:

2019 dates:

12 August – 20 September 2019

Cost: R 42 000

This course is our premium offering, with the added modules of Marine Ecology- focusing on Rocky Shores- and Marine Survey techniques, and where opportunity presents itself, we conduct surveys for marine researchers.

The course affords participants the opportunity to spend a large portion of their time in the field, learning not only about the research and monitoring techniques taught, but also having the opportunity to spend time in nature and learn by being immersed in nature and the marine environment.

Where time and opportunity allow, we also do guided bush walks and early morning or evening game drives, for the enjoyment of it, and for participants to learn more about the African bushveld, and have some photo opportunities.

The course covers:

- An introduction to conservation principles and ethics, with assessment tasks
- Ecology and Ecological principles, with the focus on the ecology of the area that we will be working in. Students complete practical assessment tasks where they apply what is learnt in this module

Much of the course is spent out in the field, practising and perfecting various research and monitoring techniques, these may include:

- Rapid Conducting basic rapid biodiversity assessments.
- Conducting basic visual encounter surveys.
- Qualitative assessments of dominant indicator species.

These are done in conjunction with:

- Data collection on Alien invasive plant species infestations
- Vegetation surveys
- Camera trap surveys
- Game counts
- Collecting and preserving specimens, such as tree and grass samples

Other survey techniques may be included if there is a need expressed by the partners that we are working with for example, a vegetation survey focussing on Elephant Damage Assessment in a Reserve.



During the course, you will complete various assignments and practical tasks, with a final report that needs to be submitted.

Should you successfully complete all of the requirements of the assessments, you will receive a certificate of completion for this course stating the modules and techniques covered in the course.

All training, and assessments are in line with a nationally accredited Skills Programme, Research Assistant.

The skills programme includes the following unit standards / modules:

Unit Standard ID	Unit Standard Title
8336	Demonstrate knowledge of conservation ethics
14584	Explain basic ecological principles
8418	Do basic research
252451	Collect field specimens
252462	Identify and monitor local wildlife

The course is already structured to meet all of the requirements of the Skills Programme and Chrysalis Training and Skills Development is currently applying for accreditation as a training provider with CATHSSETA and will shortly be able to offer the course as an accredited skills programme at NQF level 2. There will be an option for those who have successfully completed the course prior to accreditation, to apply for Recognition of Prior Learning – this will be offered free of charge to those who wish to convert their Certificate of Completion to a CATHSSETA accredited Skills Programme certificate.

The requirements of these unit standards meet the needs of property owners and managers for conducting research and monitoring activities. Chrysalis is committed to making learning and the practical application of learning relevant to learners, and thus works with property owners and managers to have our students conduct meaningful surveys that lead to a useful outcome.



Dates:

2019 (2nd intake): 12 August

Course Costs:

2 Weeks	R 14 000
4 weeks	R 28 000
6 weeks	R 42 000

The course cost includes:

- A Training Manual
- An assessment workbook
- Cost of all assessments
- Food
- Accommodation
- Transfers from KSIA on day of arrival and departure
- Transfers to the reserve/s that we will be working on
- 2 x Chrysalis T-shirts and a cap

Not included:

- Filed guides – we have some spare copies, but it is recommended that you have your own
- Binoculars
- Costs of visas
- Cost of flights

For further information contact:

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