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PSG PROGRAMME (NCQF LEVEL 5).

MODULE 1.

OBJECTIVES (1.1)

- **On completion of this module you will:**
  - Have an understanding of what a professional nature guide does in terms of job function and where s/he fits into the tourism guiding industry.
  - Know what the aims of nature guiding are.
  - Have an understanding of guiding ethics and how to carry out an ethical guided experience in the natural environment.
  - Have been introduced to asset of guiding principles and a code of conduct for guides from both a FGASA and a Dept of Tourism point of view.
  - Have an understanding of the legal requirements pertaining to tourism guiding, qualification, certification and registration.
  - Know what a natural environment is.
  - Know what a biome is.
  - Be able to name the nine major biomes in Southern Africa.
  - Know where the nine biomes are situated.
  - Be able to explain the amount of seasonal rainfall and temperature.
  - Know what the main indicator species are for each of the biomes in terms of animals and dominant vegetation types.

INTRODUCTION TO GUIDING AND PRINCIPLES OF GUIDING (1.1.2).

WHAT IS A PROFESSIONAL SAFARI GUIDE?

- As per the Wildlife Conservation and National Parks Act of Botswana; a Professional safari guide is as follows:
  - "A person available for here or reward who conduct visiting, viewing or photographing tours of animals and places of interest." Or "A professional guide could be a person guiding/leading visitor to/through or around places of interest within a country/countries.
  - According to **FGASA**, a Field guide/professional guide is as follows:
  - "A professional safari guide/field guide is a person who leads visitors into natural areas of the environment.

- **The Aims of Field Guiding (FGASA):**

  - The aims of guiding are to reveal and expose people to the natural heritage, history, folklore and the beauty of the country; creating an awareness of the complexities of the environment, by sharing factual knowledge and meaningful interpretation of the environment. Nature guiding is carried out within the framework of providing a high standard and quality service with the safety and enjoyment of people as a priority, and also promoting conservation and sustainability through responsible tourism.
  - Nature guides interpret the natural and cultural world, foster a deeper connection between people and the environment, and encourage ethical and respectful behaviour towards the places they visit.

- **Key aims of nature guiding:**
  - Environmental education – to interpret the natural environment, explaining its ecosystems, wildlife and cultural history to visitors.
  - Visitor experience – to create exceptional, engaging and memorable experiences for diverse groups of people/guests.
  - Conservation and sustainability – to promote awareness and encourage responsible tourism practices that minimize impact and support conservation efforts.
  - Safety and security – to ensure the well-being of guests by managing risks and ensuring safety during excursions. **Safety is paramount!!!**
  - Cultural sensitivity – to interpret the cultural resources associated with a natural area and promote respect for local traditions and knowledge.
  - Inclusivity – to accommodate guests of all genders, ages, cultural backgrounds and physical abilities.
- **In the Guest mind, what is a Professional Guide?**
  - In the guest`s mind their guide is a number of things besides a "Basic Guide" – **The Best Thing Since Sliced Bread!!!** They are also a leader, entertainer, host, mediator, educator, assistant, advisor and naturalist. Guides must be tolerant of all people and have an acceptance of different characters, personalities, cultures (race, beliefs, traditions and religion). This applies to both working with colleagues and guests. **NB// DO NOT CROSS-LINES; THEY ARE NOT YOUR FRIEND!!**
- **What is expected of a professional Guide?**
  - The guests expects the guide to be very knowledgeable, to be polite, to be an entertainer, to be honest and sincere, uncompromisingly professional, and perhaps above all, to be an exemplary host who will always keep them safe and make their interests a priority; in addition to being an assistant with travel arrangements and general advice. This advice will extend to

clothing, camera goods, meals etc. As far as the guiding is concerned, they want a **naturalist** that can enlighten them about wildlife and nature in general, in all the areas they will be traveling to, - and even those they won`t.

- This may involve talks and discussions during the guide's off-time and the use of maps etc., it is a must in order to facilitate understanding. It is important therefore that the professional guide have a sound knowledge of the wildlife of Southern Africa and of all pertinent conservation issues. In addition, they want someone who can educate them about the culture, history, politics and religion of the country and region. NB// with regards to politics and religion they are wanting an understanding of how things work, - **not** the guides personal opinions. Remember; guests want to feel special – none just wants to feel like an **average tourist** and also they want a guide that is themselves, and not a **Prima Donna!!**
- To accomplish this, a detailed knowledge of the geographical history of your area of operation is required. The professional guide must know the basics of soils, plants, weather and climate, weathering, erosion and plant succession as well as environmental principles and management practices.

➢ **Game Ranger and Tour Guide.**

- A field guide/professional guide is often incorrectly referred to as a "**Game Ranger".**

The term game ranger refers to a person whose concern is mainly with the conservation management of a specific area; and usually does not deal with the general public in an educational role.

- A field guide/professional guide is also not the same as a Tour guide. Tour guiding involves the guiding of people on tours in specific areas of the entire country, in game parks, cities, museums and other places of interest with a focus on the cultural and historical aspects rather than environmental.
- The field guide/ professional guide by definition is a person that leads and guides people into the environment considered to be a natural area. The field guide may operate on foot (walking safari), from horse backs, from vehicles (game drive), or on a boat, canoe/mokoro; in natural areas including Game Reserves and National Parks. The areas may consist of many different types of terrain, including riverine areas, mountains, savannah and coastline, encompassing many vegetation types within the Biomes of Southern Africa.
- The field guide acts as a link between the natural surroundings and the guests, taking on an educational role. He/she provides a learning experience in a manner that the individuals learn more from the environmental interaction in the company of the field guide, than without his/her presence. **NB//** "You hold in your hands the opportunity of realising your guests dreams and fantasies of Africa, or possibly destroying them. It all depends on one little thing that plays the biggest part in life "**YOUR ATTITUDE!!!"**

TYPES OF GUIDES (1.1.3).

- **Parrot-Fashion Guide:** Memories and repeats the information he has read, having little understanding of it and then says it to guests in exactly the same wording each time. Repetitive and uses the same plan for activities, often going to the same places, stopping at the same points of interest each time --- **No Variety!! Note: "Knowledge means nothing if you don`t understand it!!"**
- **Macho Guide:** Thinks he is special, better and tougher than everyone else. **Takes Risks!!**
- **Watch Guide (9 to 5):** Operates activities on set times and is uncompromising and inflexible. They will not go the extra mile and have no passion for their job.
- **Bored Guides:** Have no real interest in what they are doing. They have lost interest and have begun to stagnate because they don`t have the will to learn. They think they know everything!

- **"I Hate People" Guide:** Does the job for prestige and money. Treats people badly, having no respect for them. They are usually anti-social with poor or non-existent people skills. **Note: Guiding is 80% about people and 20% the rest (flora/fauna etc.)**
- **Prima Donna Guide:** Behaves like a celebrity and like to be the centre of attention. They do not want to get their hands dirty. **Note: Guide to observe, not to be observed!!**
- **Big- 5 Guide:** Obsessed with big game and races from one sighting to another with little regard for anything in between. **Cannot deliver a Holistic Experience!!**
- **Passionate and Eager- Ethical guides:** Always wanting to improve and ready to impress and go the extra mile. They are passionate about wildlife and conservation and sincerely love their job.
- **Escapist:** In the bush because they want to get away from responsibilities and problems in their live.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITY OF A GUIDE (1.1.4).

- The safety of their guests and operating within the laws that regulate guiding and protocols of the company they are working for, and the area of operation.
- Creating a wilderness experience to their guest's **# A Wow Factor!!**
- Giving interesting information on wildlife and the environment **# identify and elaborate!!**
- Availing the beauty of Africa, it`s environment and making their safari a memorable one.

➢ **READING GUESTS:** This is one of the important skills a field guide needs to master.

- **How do you read your guests?**
  - **Awareness:** The watchful eye tells you all you need to know **# Act on what you see; act on what you hear and act on what you know!!**
  - Before picking up your guests, find out where they come from, what they have experienced and what their names are.
  - Think about what you know about them. Meet them, ask questions, get to know them and thereafter ask yourself the most important question a field guide should ask—how can I as a guide give them the real Africa experience they want and came here for! Set yourself apart and make the magic!!
  - Forget about tips and they will surprise you.

➢ **Communication Skills:**
  - An essential skill for those in the tourism industry is the ability to communicate with guests. No matter how well you know your facts, and no matter how wonderful your camp`s accommodation and food is; if communication skills are lacking, you and your camp will be unsuccessful.
  - To have good communication skills means to be able to wilfully pass on interesting and important information to any person no matter where they come from and who they are. It is also the ability to keep the person you are communicating with interested and in order to get your message across successfully at any given time.

PROFESSIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS (1.1.5).

- **What is expected of a field guide?**
  - To adhere to the current laws of Botswana, Wildlife Conservation and National Parks Act, policies and regulations.
  - To up hold the integrity of Botswana and it`s nation.

- To be professional; abide by company rules and industry code of conduct & ethics at all times.
- To be an ambassador; positive representation of the industry, region and country.
- Safe looking after guest's security and their safety at all times.
- To be diligent; adhere to company policies, and regulations.
- To be consistent and reliable; somebody that can be depended upon.
- To be cooperative; must be a team player and buy into company ideals.

- **The Ethics of a Field Guide:**
  - A good field guide is an individual that has passion, knowledge and above all respect for the environment and wildlife. Field guides have a responsibility towards their guests and even greater responsibility towards the natural environment. A professional guide should **not** sacrifice any aspect of the environment, be it abiotic or biotic elements in order to satisfy their guests needs.
  - Being an ethical guide means giving guests the best guided nature experience without interfering with, damaging or influencing the natural environment in which they are guiding. For example, when driving an open game drive vehicle in an area that allows off-road driving, guides need to be aware of where they can and cannot drive. This refers to the type of soil and vegetation of the area.
  - It is important to respect the **personal space** of any animals that are being viewed. Guides need to understand the behavioural signs of all the different species of animals that they may potentially come across. In this way the guide will know how close s/he can go to a particular species and also know when not go any closer and when to move away. As soon as the guide causes the animal to alter its own natural behaviour, then the guide has invaded its space and influenced its natural behaviour. Observe nature as it occurs naturally and **not** as how it responds to your presence there.

USE OF TWO-WAY RADIO (1.1.6)

- Two-way radios are used for communication when one is in the field, or in remote areas where other means of communication are not available. A radio is an extremely useful tool, and understanding how it works makes the user more efficient. The proper use of radio is also important in emergencies.

- **Parts of a Radio** - The main components of a radio are:
  - Power Source – the battery provides electrical power in a portable set. In order to save battery power, switch off the radio when not in use. Batteries are rechargeable and should always have a spare battery.
  - Transmitter – The transmitter converts voice into radio waves, which are then transmitted via the aerial.
  - Receiver – the aerial receives transmitted waves and converts them back to audible sound waves.
  - Microphone – The microphone receives sound waves from your voice.
  - Speaker – The speaker produces audible sound waves.

- **The Phonetic Alphabet:**
  - When spelling words over the radio, the phonetic alphabet is used to ensure that the letters are identified correctly. Many letters sound very similar (e.g. b & v) and using the phonetic alphabet avoids confusion.
  - A – Alfa
  - B – Bravo
  - C – Charlie
  - N - November
  - O - Oscar
  - P - Papa

- D – Delta
- E – Echo
- F – Foxtrot
- G – Golf
- H – Hotel
- I – India
- J – Juliet
- K – Kilo
- L – Lima
- M – Mike
- Q - Quebec
- R - Romeo
- S - Sierra
- T - Tango
- U - Uniform
- V - Victor
- W - Whiskey
- X – X-ray
- Y - Yankee
- Z – Zulu
- A word as Tourism will thus transmitted as: Tango, Oscar, Uniform, Romeo, India, Sierra, Mike.

- **<u>Relay Stations, Networks & Call Signs:</u>**
  - Relay stations are used when two stations are too far apart to be in direct contact. A third station in the middle then relays the messages between the two stations. Such conversation could be as follows:
  - The Initial Request – Oscar Bravo, Oscar Bravo, this is Alfa Lima, Over!
  - Oscar Bravo is standing by, over!
  - Oscar Bravo, please request Kilo Bravo to get the standby vehicle ready, over!
  - Will do, Alfa Lima, over!
  - Thank you, Alfa Lima out.
  - Kilo Bravo, Kilo Bravo, this is Oscar Bravo, over!
- **The Relay.**
  - Kilo Bravo standing by over!
  - Kilo Bravo, Alfa Lima request that you get the standby vehicle ready, over!
  - Kilo Bravo has received you loud and clear. We will get the standby vehicle ready in 5 minutes, over!
  - Thank you, Oscar Bravo out.
- **The Confirmation of the Relay**
  - Alfa Lima, Alfa Lima, this is Oscar Bravo, over!
  - Alfa Lima standing by, over!
  - Kilo Bravo confirms he will get the standby vehicle ready within 5 minutes, over!
  - Thank you, Oscar Bravo, over!
  - Alfa Lima out.

THE FUNDAMENTAL AIMS OF NATURE GUIDING (1.1.7).

- To unveil the beauty of the natural areas of the country/areas of operation.
- To bring credit to the country and the tourism sector.
- To share the joy and wonders of nature – **Wow factor!!**
- To relate the natural heritage, history as well as folklore and the beauty of the country.
- To share factual knowledge and interpret the environment in a meaningful way.
- To create an awareness of the complexities of the natural environment.
- To give quality service with safety and enjoyment of the guests as a priority.
- **What is expected of a Field guide/Professional Safari Guide?**
  - Guides must be tolerant of all people and have an acceptance of different characters, personalities, cultures (race, belief`s, traditions and religion). This applies to both working with colleagues and guests. **NB// "Do not cross-lines, they are not your friends!!"**

- The guests expect the guide to very knowledgeable, to be polite, to be honest, to be sincere and to be an entertainer, uncompromisingly professional and perhaps above all; to be an exemplary host who will keep them safe and make their interest a priority in addition to being an assistant with travel arrangements and general advice. This advice will extend clothing, camera goods, meals, etc. As far as the guiding is concerned, they want a naturalist, that can enlighten them about wildlife and nature in general and in all the areas they will be travelling to - - and even those that they won't. This may involve talks and discussions during the guide's off-time, and the use of maps is a must to facilitate understanding.
- It is important therefore that the professional safari guide have a sound knowledge of the wildlife of Southern Africa and pertinent conservation issues. Note: In the guests mind, their guide is a number of things besides a **Basic Guide**; they are also a leader, entertainer, host, educator, assistant and advisor **# "The Best Thing since Sliced Bread!!"**

BIOMES (ECO REGIONS) OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (1.1.8).

- **What is a Biome?**
  - A biome is a broad ecological group representing major life zones of large natural areas, and defined mainly by the plant structure, climate as well as major large-scale disturbance factors such as fire.
  - Each biome has a characteristic set of plant animal species as well as a characteristic overall physiognomy (the physical features of a landscape). Thus, for example; grasslands have mostly grass, deserts have much bare ground for most of the year but a lot of annual plants after the rains, forests have mostly tall trees with plants growing beneath the canopy at ground layer and various other levels.
  - Southern Africa (and the world) can broadly be divided into regions with different types of dominant vegetation. These are a direct result of the soils and topography (shape of the land) and climate in the region. These Eco regions are correctly called Biomes and there 8 major types in southern Africa.

- **The Eight (8) Biomes of Southern Africa.**
  - **Fynbos** - Only occurs in South-western South Africa and is dominated by the fine-leaved plants collectively referred to as "Fynbos" (fine bush) and short scrubby bush called "Renosterbos" (rhino-bush). It is only a part of the Floral Kingdom, which has 25% of South Africas`plants.
  - **Forest** – Only covers 0.25% of Southern Africa, making it the smallest biome. Generally, only where annual rainfall is above is above 725mm and up to a maximum of 2100mm. Occurs in patches, most of which occur along the mountains of the moist east. Much has been destroyed by man for wood! The high humidity and moisture content of this biome means that it rarely burns.
  - **Succulent Karoo** – Confined to the coastal plain area along the west of South Africa and Southern Namibia which has hot dry summers and very little winter rainfall (20mm – 290mm). The soil is shallow and is rich in lime, meaning that it is alkaline. Vegetation is dominated by leaf succulents (xerophytes) and semi-desert scrubland. Mass flowering displays occur in spring and grasses are rare. There are a lot of endemic animal and plant species.
  - **Nama Karoo** – Confined to the central western plateau of South Africa and Southern Namibia at altitudes of mostly 1000 – 1400m. It is the second largest biome in Southern Africa. Topography (landscape) is characterized by flat topped rocky hills (called mesas) and rocky plains. It is usually windy and has high summer temperatures and very low winter temperatures. Summer rains are 100mm – 520mm per annum Soil is mostly shallow and

alkaline with sparse grass and dwarf shrub land. Small trees are found only along drainage lines and on rocky slopes. There are also a lot succulents and annual forbs. Termites are the main nutrient recyclers in this biome and feature in the diet of many animals. Fires are very rare because due to the fuel load. High reptile and invertebrate diversity.

- **Savanna** – The largest biome in Southern Africa. It is dominant over much of South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe. Characterised by a well-developed grassy layer at ground level and a well-developed woody layer higher up. The height of the woody layer determines the name; lower being scrubland, middle being bushveld and higher being woodland. Grass dominates because of the dominance with summer rainfall, and lightning leads to annual fires, but all grass species are adapted to dealing with fire. Because of the size of the biome, characteristics are varied with rainfall being 235mm to 1000mm per annum; altitude from sea level up to 2000m and there are a number of different soil types and topography. This leads to high biodiversity of fauna and flora.
- **Thicket** – Occurs almost exclusively along the Southern South African coast and extends in some places into the Karoo biome. Dominates in the Eastern Cape and has the highest of woody plants in Southern Africa. Predominantly spiny, evergreen shrubs with small trees of varying proportions. A lot it is succulent-leaved shrubs with the Addo Spekboom being a type of thicket.
- **Grassland** – Found on the very high central plateau of South Africa (Highveld) and some parts o Botswana and Central Zimbabwe. The landscape is usually flat or slightly undulating. Altitude up to2850m, and summer rainfall varies from 450mm to 1900mm. Vegetation is a single layer of grass with virtually no trees and these are then widely scattered. Frost, fire and grazing maintain grass dominance and prevent trees establishing themselves. This is the main habitat of large herds of antelope. The grasses within this biome (and others) can generally be divided into 2 broad categories, namely:
  - Sweet Grass – Has a low fibre content but because they maintain their nutrients in the leaves (not roots) in winter, they are palatable all year.
  - Sour Grass – Has a high fibre content and unpalatable. Dominate at higher rainfall (625mm+) and on acidic soils.
- **The desert Biome.**
  - A true desert environment is found under harsh conditions which are more extreme than those found in the Succulent Karoo biome and Nama-Karoo biome. The desert coincides with the Namib Desert. It consists of a roughly 100 – 150 kilometres wide. The climate is characterised by summer rainfall, but high levels of summer aridity. Mean annual rain fall is from about 5mm in the western parts, to 85mm on the inland on the eastern limits of the desert. In reality, the rainfall is highly variable from year to year. Most of the true in Southern Africa is found in Namibia, although an outlier does occur in small part of South Africa, mainly in the Springbok area of the Rictersveld in lower Orange River valley. The underlying geology of the Desert biome is one of metamorphic rock. The vegetation of the Desert biome is characterised by dominance of annual plants (often grasses). This means that after a season with rarely abundant rains, the desert plains may be covered with a sea of short grass annual grass. Whereas in more normal years, the plains may appear bear with the annual plants persisting in the form of seed.
  - Perennial plants are usually encountered in specialized habitats associated with local concentrations of water. Common examples of these are brad drainage lines or washes. The well-known shrub Welwitschia mirabilis, of the Namib Desert, occurs in such areas. The perennial grass, Stipagrostis sabulicola, occurs on the large dunes which contain substantial stores of water and other desert plants include the Succulent-stemmed Commiphora. Another important often overlooked form of desert vegetation is the Lichen (are a symbiotic relationship (mutualism) between an algae and a fungus. Lichens are

specialized to deal with extremes in moisture and temperature and can therefore live and grow in deserts and other environments that most plants find too difficult to survive in.

LAWS PERTAINING TO THE SAFARI INDUSTRY.

- Professional Guides must be well vested in the laws that govern the safari industry. As you will be entering and operating in Game Reserves, National Parks, Wildlife Management areas and others, you have to be aware of the parameters you are operating under.
- The following are Acts and Laws that you will need to know. Listed under each Act/Law are the relevant laws you as a guide will need to know. All these Acts/Laws are available from the relevant government departments at relatively cheap prices. They are also part of this study package.

1. **Wildlife Conservation and National Parks Act.**

- National Parks, Game Reserves, Sanctuaries and Private Game Reserves in Botswana.
- Wildlife management and Controlled hunting areas.
- Protected animals, Birds, Reptiles and Game animals.
- Requirements to operate as a Professional Guide (refer to your notes - "what is a Guide?"

2. **National Parks and Game Reserves Regulations.**

- Layout of the regulations.
- Part lll – entry and movement within the protected areas.
- Part lV – facilities within Parks and Reserves.
- Part V – means of travel within Parks and Reserves.
- Part VI – Tour operators.
- Part VII – Archaeological and Cultural Sites.
- Part VIII – general conduct within National Parks and Reserves.
- Part IX – Miscellaneous – Park fees. This changes from time to time, so you must keep up to date with the fees.

3. **Arms and Ammunition Act.**
4. **Tourism Policy, Act and the Regulations.**
5. **Road and Traffic Act.**

- Section on public service vehicles.

- All National Parks are protected areas of State Land. Game Reserves and Sanctuaries are situated on Tribal land. National Parks, Game Reserves and Sanctuaries make up 17% of the total land in Botswana.

WILDERNESS AREAS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (1.1.9).

- Southern Africa has a great diversity of wild areas. These are not only places with concentration of 'big game' but some are exclusively dedicated to conserving rare species or delicate ecosystems.

  It is important that field guides acquire knowledge about wilderness zones throughout Southern Africa as they are dealing with many international guests that have either visited these areas or are wanting to know more about them. It also helps to broaden the guide's knowledge of what each area has to offer, because every park (no matter how small) has some form of unique plant or animal that people are interested in seeing. It is also very important to learn and understand how these areas operate in terms of tourism management and what facilities are on offer. Although it is true to say that wilderness areas are protected to conserve bio-diversity, the

development of each park is designed for specific purposes and a firm understanding of this purpose is needed before anyone can comment or criticize. Wilderness areas are given different levels of protection, dependant on what is at stake. National Parks are afforded the highest protection by Government and invariably constitute state land. These areas are usually controlled by central government. Game or nature reserves also usually constitute areas of ecological importance where agreement has been reached to limit development of the land. Lastly, private reserves (areas of private land) are on the increase and are a major component of 21st Century eco-tourism in Southern Africa.

- **Why are Wilderness areas proclaimed?**
  - The main idea is to protect the ecosystem in as pristine way as possible to ensure that maximum biodiversity is maintained.
- **What is bio-diversity?**
  - It is the amount of different species of plants and animals within an area.
- **What is Conservation?**
  - It is a sustainable wise use of a resource (long term without running out).
- **What is Preservation?**
  - It is the "hands- off" approach to making sure something does not run out **# it is not used at all.**
- **What is a hectare?**
  - A unit of land that is 100m x 100m square (10,000m = 1Ha). One hectare is 2.2 acres. From kilometre squared to hectares, you multiply by 100, and from hectares to kilometre squared, you divide by 100.
- **What are square kilometres?**
  - A unit of land 1000m x 1000m square. One square km is 100 hectares.
- **WHAT IS CITES?**
  - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. There are 183 member parties and trade is regulated in more than 35 000 species.
  - Appendix 1 of CITES and Appendix 2 of CITES. In Appendix 1, about 1 200 species are species that are threatened with extinction and are or may be affected by trade. Commercial trade in wild caught specimens of these is illegal; permitted only in exceptional licensed circumstances. Examples: Riverine rabbit, African wild dog, Black/white rhinos, Roan antelope, Pangolin and African wild cat.
  - Appendix 2 includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival; e.g., elephants and lions.
- **WHAT IS W.M.A?**
  - Wildlife Management Areas. They act as buffer zones between agricultural and cattle lands, and protected areas. They are areas set aside for sustainable use of wildlife outside protected areas. There are 9 wildlife management areas in Botswana making 22% of the land. They are: Kwando, Matho-a-phuduhudu, Nata state land, Ngamiland state land, Nunga, Okavango, Okwa, Quago and Southern district Wildlife Management Area.
  - All national parks are protected areas of state land and game reserves/sanctuaries are situated on tribal land. National parks, game reserves and sanctuaries make up 17% of land in Botswana.
- **WHAT IS C.B.N.R.M?**
  - Community Based Natural Resource Management.

EACH OF THE MAJOR COUNTRIES IN THE REGION WILL BE DEALT WITH SEPARATELY

- **<u>BOTSWANA.</u>**
  - **Major Wilderness Areas.**
  - **Okavango Delta (including Moremi Game Reserve).**

- Location: North-Western Botswana.
- Size: 1.5 – 1.8 million hectares (15 000 – 18 000 sq. km) of which Moremi is 480 000 Ha (4 800 sq. km).
- Specials: Great sightings! Wattled Cranes, Black heron, Salty egret, Pel`s fishing-owl, Western-banded snake-eagle, Swamp musk shrew, Randall's serotine bat, African Wild dog, Statunga (in the north), Red lechwe, Water figs.
- Attractions: Probably the largest single genetically viable population on the continent, with more than 400 dogs. Dug-out canoe safari`s, supreme birdwatching, a RABSAR site (international convention protecting wetlands), and a World Heritage site (historically important) and Exclusivity of space. The Delta being divided into large concessions along with Government's policy of "High Cost, Low Impact Tourism". Scenic flights in both little aircraft and helicopter are offered, horseback safaris, elephant back safaris are also offered. Excellent fishing, especially for tiger fish in the Panhandle.

- **Chobe National Park.**
  - Location: North-eastern Botswana.
  - Size: 1.50 Ha (a million & 50 hectares) – 10 500 sq. km.
  - Specials: Puku, Chobe bushbuck, Red lechwe, Zambezi teak trees, Dobson`s fruit bat, Africa skimmer, Narina trogons, Trumpeter hornbills
  - Attractions: Around 65 thousand elephants in the area; Savuti marsh – the sand ridges and the water-eroded cliffs of Savuti indicate the presence of the ancient lake, Paleo-Makgadikgadi that covered most of Botswana in the past. Large concentration of general game and attendant predators in the Mababe depression after the rains. Has the greatest plant and tree diversity in Botswana, with large herds of free-roaming sable and roan antelopes.
- **Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR – the largest reserve in Botswana).**
  - Location: Central Botswana.
  - Size: 5.18 million Ha (51800 sq. km).
  - Specials: Suricates, Eland, Barking gecko, Brown hyena, Pale chanting-goshawk interactions with honey badgers, Wild sesame flowers.
  - Attractions: Game species here, both herbivores and carnivores can go the whole year without surface water. Huge open spaces with virtually no people and great night skies (good for star gazing). High concentrations of the game along the fossil riverbeds in the summer months. The bushman people still live in the South of the reserve. Sand ridge to the east of the park indicates where the shoreline of the ancient lake Paleo-makgadikgadi was. One of the only areas in Africa where the game seems to have had no bad experience with people – the lions in particular are very curios.

- **Makgadikgadi Pans National Park.**
  - Location: Eastern central Botswana – South of Nxai Pan NP.
  - Size: Makgadikgadi Pans NP is 490 000Ha (4 900sq.km). Total Pans area (Ntwetwe, Sua and all the smaller pans) is 1.2 million Ha (12 000 sq. km).
  - Specials: Sparrowlarks, Greater kestrels, interactions between pale chanting- goshawks and honey badgers, Suricates, Brown hyena.
  - Attractions: The migration of Zebra and wildebeest in autumn. The perfect night skies, free from light pollution. Quad bike rides into the pans. Fossil hunting for ancient bones or signs of 400 000 years old man visiting Chapman`s and Green`s Baobabs
  - Great sightings of Flamingos after the summer rains.
- **Nxai Pan National Park**
  - Location: Eastern central Botswana – north of Makgadikgadi NP.

- Size: 257 000 Ha (2 570 sq. km).
- Specials: Kori bustards, BarAking geckos, Ground squirrels.
- Attractions: Impala and Springbok occur together. Baines's baobabs – after Thomas Baines (1862). High concentrations of Kori bustards.

- **Gemsbok NP/Kalagadi Transfrontier Park (TFCA second largest in Botswana).**
  - Location: South-western border with South Africa.
  - Size: 2.6 million Ha (26 000 sq. km).
  - Specials: Social weavers, Pygmy falcons, Brown hyena, Lanner falcons.
  - Attractions: One of the best places in Southern Africa to see Brown hyena and also famed for black maned Kalahari lion. One of the largest parks in Africa – a true wilderness. **NB// the first transfronteir park in the world.**
- **Tuli Block.**
  - Location: Far eastern border with South Arica.
  - Size: 120 000 Ha (1200 sq. km)
  - Specials: Mountain reedbuck, Verreaux`s eagle, Rock hyrax,.
  - Attractions: High concentrations of baobabs (the land of the giants). Boulder strewn koppies are a good place to see Verreaux`s eagle hunting hyraxes. Walking trails, bicycle and horse safari`s to see notoriously wild elephants. Called the land of the giants` because of all the elephants and the baobab trees.

- **Tshodilo Hills.**
  - Location: Far north-western Botswana near Namibia border.
  - Size: 1 000Ha (10 sq. km).
  - Specials: Tsodilo rock gecko is found nowhere else (endemic).
  - Attractions: 3 500 rock paintings, step cliffs of the highest hills in Botswana. Hiking trail along the top of the hills reveals fossilised dinosaur footprints and areas where centuries of game movements have left hoof-marks in the rock. The western side of the hill reveals a permanent spring that sustains wildlife, people and livestock year-round.

➢ **<u>NAMIBIA.</u>**
  - **Major wilderness areas.**
- **Etosha National Park.**
  - Location: Northern Namibia.
  - Size: More than 2 million hectares (20 000 sq. km). The pan itself is 130 km long and 50 km wide, covering an area of 500 000 Ha (5000 sq. km).
  - Specials: Black-faced impala Damara dik-dik and Black rhino (around 300). Hartlaub`s spur fowl, Ruppell`s parrot, Monteiro`s and Damara hornbills, Violet wood-hoopoe, Black faced and Bare-cheeked babblers, Carps tit, White-tailed shrike, Herero chat and Chestnut weaver.
  - Attractions: The pan when full of water attracts thousands of flamingos. Lions are some of the biggest in Africa and are free of **Feline AIDS** (virus that kills cats). Black rhinos are part of the largest free-roaming population in Africa and the Black-faced impala (subspecies – **petersii**) is found nowhere else (endemic).
- **Namib-Naukluft Park (the largest in Namibia, nearly the same size with ckgr in Botswana- 51 800 sq. km).**
  - Location: Central west coast.
  - Size: 5 million hectares (50 000 sq. km)
  - Specials: Hartmann`s mountain zebra, Peringuey`s adder, White lady spiders, Namaqua chameleon, Welwitschia plants, Grant`s golden mole, Mountain ground squirrel and Damara dik-dik.

- Attractions: The Namib is the world`s oldest desert. Sandwich Harbour, a sandy delta of the Kuiseb River hosts thousands of pelicans and flamingos. Sossusvlei has the world's highest sand dunes (up to 385m. The wild horses (feral horses) – left by German troops almost 1oo years ago.

- **Skeleton Coast.**
  - Location: Northern west coast.
  - Size: 700 km x 25 km, over 2 million Ha (20 000 sq. km – same size as the Kruger).
  - Specials: Stripped tree squirrels, Desert elephant, Cape fur seals, Welwitshia plants, Black rhino, Hartmann`s mountain zebra, Setzer`s hairy-footed gerbil and Damara dik-dik.
  - Attractions: One of the richest lichen grounds (over 100 species) in the world. Cape Cross has 250 000 cape seals. A population of about 100 desert elephants, thought to be the tallest and most water dependent elephants in Africa. The wrecks and skeletal remains of whales on the beaches – hence the name. The semi-nomadic Ovahimba and Tjima people cling to their culture (great for cultural tourism).
- **Cunene River/Damaraland Region.**
  - Location: North-western border with Angola.
  - Size: 1 million Ha (10 000 sq. km).
  - Specials: Angolan epauletted fruit-bat, Mountain ground squirrel, Cape clawless otter, Kaokoveld rock dassie, Hartmann`s mountain zebra, Black rhino, Desert elephant and Damara dik-dik.
  - Attractions: The Cunene riverfront is a swathe of green through the desert and is home to crocodile, otter and a few hippos.

- **Caprivi Strip/Kavango Region**
  - Location: North-eastern Namibia.
  - Size: 450 km long and 80 km wide with a few reserves and national parks.
  - Specials: Sitatunga (in some places), Giant and Swamp musk shrews, Shortridge`s mouse, Red lechwe, records of both Ross`s turaco and the Shoebill stork.
  - Attractions: African skimmers breed in Mahango Reserve. Big herds of elephant, Sable and Roan antelope. The extension of Linyanti swamp and Lake Liambezi are rich with game and beautiful scenery.

- **Fish River Canyon.**
  - Location: Southern border with South Africa.
  - Size: 160 km long, up to 27 km wide, 550m at its deepest. The second biggest canyon in the world (after Grand Canyon, USA).
  - Specials: Hartmann`s mountain zebra, social weavers, African fish-eagle.
  - Attractions: Spectacular, rugged scenery. The 86 km (5 day) hiking trail. The hot springs at Ai-Ais; water temperature is 65 degrees Celsius and has healing properties (e.g. Rumatism).

➢ **<u>ZIMBABWE.</u>**
  - **Major Wilderness areas.**
  - **Hwange National Park.**
  - Location: Western Zimbabwe bordering Botswana.
  - Size: 1.5 million Ha (15 000 sq. km).
  - Specials: Racket-tailed roller, Black and white rhino (numbers uncertain).
  - Attractions: Probably has the highest concentration of large animals in Africa and has a decent infrastructure catering for all budgets. Hides and viewing platforms at waterholes enhance the experience. Huge elephant population of over 30 000 and healthy populations of sable, roan, buffalo and the big cats.
  - **Lake Kariba/Matusadona.**
  - Location: North-western Zimbabwe bordering Zambia.

- Size: Lake Kariba is 280 km long and is 116m wide at its deepest. Covers 500 000 Ha (5 000 sq. km).
- Specials: Taita falcon (Zambezi gorge).
- Attractions: Kariba is on the Zambezi River – 4th biggest in Africa (2 700 km long). Excellent fishing and houseboat experiences. Small fish called Kapenta (introduced from Lake Tanganyika) are harvested at night by special boats with powerful lights and special nets.
- **Mana Pools/Lower Zambezi.**
- Location: North-east of Kariba bordering Zambia.
- Size: 70 km Zambezi riverfront – 250 000 Ha (2 500 sq. km).
- Specials: Suni, Greater slit-faced bat, Bushy-tailed mongoose, Black rhino, Nyala.
- Attractions: The huge concentrations of game attracted to the river spring. Canoe trips on the Zambezi. Elephants that wander around the camp-sites. Excellent fishing and exceptional birdlife.
- **The Eastern Highlands (between Southern Africa & Central East Africa – able to see different bird species).**
- Location: Eastern Zimbabwe bordering Mozambique.
- Size: 300 km north to south. Nyanga park is 47 000 Ha (470 sq. km).
- Specials: Arends`s golden mole, Dark-footed Forest shrew, Samango monkey, Sun squirrel, Silinda rat, Nyika veld rat, Tree civet, blue duiker, Livingstone's turaco.
- Attractions: Worlds view. Mtarazi Falls is 760m high (second highest waterfall from Tugela in the Drakensberg Mountains SA). Lots of waterfalls, fishing, hikes and many bird species found nowhere in Southern Africa. Bvumba National Botanical Gardens. The Chimanimani Mountains further to the south are Zimbabwe`s biggest.
- **Gonarhezou National Park (part of the great Limpopo TFCA/Transfrontiers).**
- Location: Southern border with S.A. and Mozambique.
- Size: 500 000 Ha (5 000 sq. km).
- Specials: Nyala, Suni, Silvery-cheeked hornbills, Peregrine falcons.
- Attractions: The burial site of John Cecil Rhodes. Excellent rhino viewing by vehicle, on foot or horseback safaris. Boulder hills are renowned for the interactions between verreaux`s eagle and rock hyraxes.

- **Matetsi Wilderness area.**
- Location: West of Victoria Falls bordering Zambia.
- Size: 200 000 Ha (2 000 sq. km).
- Specials: Lilian`s lovebirds, Taita falcons, Peregrine falcon, Souza`s shrike, Schalow`s turaco and Wild dog.
- Attractions: Walking trails and boating/fishing trips on the Zambezi. Superb miombo woodland and forest.
-

➢ **<u>MOZAMBIQUE</u>.**

- **Major Wilderness areas (part of the great Limpopo TFCA).**
- Location: South-western border with S.A. / Kruger NP.
- Size: 1.2 million Ha (12 000 sq. km).
- Specials: Nyala, Suni, Spotted creeper.
- Attractions: Virgin Forest and mountain area has not been properly charted yet but its inclusion in the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Park make for an exciting future.
- Attractions: Great explorations in the virgin forests and mountain.

- **Gorongoza National Park.**
- Location: Central Mozambique – East of eastern Highlands (Zimbabwe).
- Size: 150 000 Ha (1 500 sq. km).

- Specials: Yellow baboon, Gorongoza gerbil, Groove-toothed rat, Tree civet, Green-headed oriole is endemic, Nyala, Suni, Oribi, Red duiker and Blue duiker.
- Attractions: Transition zone between East and Southern Africa, so there are a lot of interesting species on show, especially among birds.
- **Maputo Elephant Reserve.**
- Location: South of Maputo bordering South Africa/Tembe Park.
- Size: 2 million Ha (20 000 sq. km).
- Specials: Nyala and Suni.
- Reputed to be the tallest of all African elephants – part of one of the only natural elephant populations that made regular use of the beaches of Maputoland (both Mozambique and S.A.). There have been records of them walking far offshore into the surf at low tide.

➢ **SOUTH AFRICA.**

- **Major Wilderness Areas.**
- **Kruger National Park.**
- Location: North-eastern South Africa bordering Mozambique and Zimbabwe (Limpopo & Mpumalanga Provinces.
- Size: 2 million Ha (20 000 sq. km).
- Specials: Greater dwarf shrew, White and black rhino. King Cheetah, Nyala, Mountain reedbuck, Lichtenstein`s hartebeest, Suni, Oribi, Pel`s fishing-owl, Red duiker, Bat hawk, Silvery-cheeked hornbill.
- Attractions: The elephant hall of fame in Letaba camp where the skulls and tusks of the parks biggest elephant are on show. The only place in the world where King cheetah naturally occur and has a number of white animals of various species. Has the greatest diversity of plants and animals of any park in Africa. Has the biggest population of rhino in the world –about 4 000 white and 350 black. Its population of about 2 000 lion is one the biggest in Africa. Has the Thulamela and Masorini sites of archaeological importance and also famous lodges such as Singita Lebombo are in the park. The best run and organized NP with the highest standard and variety of facilities for a user-friendly visit of any park in Africa. 4 day walking trail camps are popular.

- **Ado Elephant National Park.**
- Location: Eastern Cape Province – Coastal.
- Size: 400 000 Ha (4 000 sq. km).
- Specials: Black rhino, Cape Mountain zebra, Black wildebeest, Blesbok.
- Attractions: The highest concentration of elephants in Africa – most females do not have tusks. The spekboom vegetation has 4 times higher carrying capacity (2.7 elephant per Ha) than other elephant habitats. The only park in Africa to cater for all biomes and offer big-5 in addition to whales, dolphins and the great white shark.
- **Tsitsikamma (noisy water) National Park.**
- Location: Western Cape/Eastern Cape border.
- Size: 80 km long, 2 km out of sea and 2 km inland.
- Specials: Duthie`s golden mole, Olive and knysna woodpecker, Cape clawless otter.
- Attractions: The world-famous otter trail (48 km, 5 days); underwater trail in the marine reserve for snorkelers, seeing otters in the sea.
- **Knysna Forest and Lakes Area (including wilderness).**
- Location: Western Cape 0 Southern Coast.
- Size: About 50 km long and about 3 – 5 km wide.
- Specials: Long-tailed forest-shrew, Elephant, Cape grysbok, Narina trogon, Knysna turaco, tree ferns and Knysna woodpecker.

- Attractions: Home to the southernmost naturally occurring elephant in Africa – only a few survive in the dense forest. One of the only true rainforests (mist belt forests) in Southern Africa. The Garden of Eden part of the forest is home to flocks of narina trogons and knysna turaco, and also home to the rare Knysna seahorse and famous Knysna oysters.
- **Pilanesburg National Park.**
- Location: North-west Province – West of Pretoria.
- Size: 55 000 Ha (550 sq. km).
- Specials: Black and white rhino, Mountain reedbuck, Gemsbok, Red hartebeest.
- Attractions: largest Mountains ever to exist in Africa. One of only 2 alkaline volcanic ring-complexes in the world. Impala and springbok occur together. Third biggest rhino population in the world – about 220 white, 45 black. Hot air balloon game viewing trips in the crater. Sun City adjoins the park and is an entertainment mecca for water sports, golf, gambling and live shows. Elephant back safaris also operate from here and the Kwena Gardens crocodile has the biggest crocodile in captivity (over 6m long).
- **Hluhluwe – Umfolozi Park.**
- Location: Northern KwaZulu- Natal (natal means Christmas in Portuguese).
- Size: 96 000 Ha (960 sq. km).
- Specials: Black and white rhino, Nyala, Crowned hornbills.
- Attractions: Proclaimed in 1895 – Africa`s oldest reserve. Home to the highest concentration of rhino in the world, over 1 550 white and 420 black and is probably the best place in Africa to see them.
- **Ndumo Game Reserve (birding site).**
- Location: KwaZulu- natal / Mozambique border – West of Tembe.
- Size: 10 000 Ha (100 sq. km).
- Specials: Nyala, Red and blue duiker, White and black rhino, Suni, Pel`s fishing owl, Palmnut vulture.
- Attractions: the beautiful fig and fever tree lined pans. Over 420 bird species.
- **Tembe Elephant Park.**
- Location: KwaZulu-Natal / Mozambique border.
- Size: 30 000 Ha (300 sq. km).
- Specials: Elephant, Nyala, Suni, Black and white rhino Red and blue duiker.
- Attractions: Some of the tallest elephant in Africa. Home of the highest concentration of suni in Southern Africa.
- **Sabi sands – Greater Kruger.**
- Location: Southern Kruger – western border.
- Size: 56 000 Ha (560 sq. km) – open to Kruger.
- Specials: Nyala, Crowned eagle, Narina trogon, Bush pig, African finfoot.
- Attractions: High concentration of all members of the big-5, especially leopard. Home of some leading in Africa, e.g. – Singita Ebony, Boulders, Ulusaba, Londolozi, Sabi sabi, Mala mala and Leopard Hills. Very organized and effective system of tracking game with high success rate makes the area very popular.
- **Cap Floristic Kingdom.**
- Location: South-western Cape, surrounding Cape Town.
- Size: 15 million Ha (15 000 sq. km).
- Specials: Cape gerbil, Cape spiny mouse, Verreaux`s mouse, Grey rhebok. Cape grysbok, Cape sugarbird, Pretoria canary, Orange-breasted sunbird, Cape rock jumper and Cape francolin.
- Attractions: One of the world's six floral kingdoms. Occupies only 0.04% of the earth's surface but has about 25% of all plant species (more than 8 600 species). Over half of these species are found nowhere else in the world – one of the highest rate of endemism in the world. Home to South

Africa`s National flower – the King Protea. Home to the world`s smallest tortoise – the speckled padloper and the most species of tortoise in the world (6). South Africa`s world famous winelands.

- **Aghulhas National Park.**
- Location: Western Cape Province – south-east of Cape Town.
- Size: 1 000 Ha (10 sq. km).
- Specials: Cape grysbok, Fynbos.
- Attractions: The mostsouthern tip of Africa. The official site where the Indian and Atlantic oceans meet and the Historical lighthouse is now a museum.
- **Great St Lucia Wetland Park**
- Location: Northern KwaZulu – Natal – Coastal.
- Size: 260 000 Ha (2 600 sq. km).
- Specials: Samango monkey, Red and blue duiker, Suni, Loggerhead and leatherback turtles, White-eared barbets, Black rhino, Pulmnut vulture, Richnow`s turaco.
- Attractions: Lake St Lucia itself is 36 000 Ha (360 sq. km) and is home to over 700 hippo and thousands of crocodiles. The area is World Heritage Site (Historically Important). South Africa`s prawn habitat and breeding ground for turtles from as far as East Africa. Excellent fishing and diving at Sondwana Bay. Game as buffalo moves onto the beeches. The Tembe tribe use kraals to catch fish.
- **Cape Peninsula NP (including Boulders Beach).**
- Location: Western Cape Province- South of Cape Town.
- Size: 60 km long, including the city of Cape Town.
- Specials: African penguins, Cape fur seals, Cape grysbok, Bontebok, Cape Mountain zebra, Cape sunbird, African black oystercatcher, African fish-eagle.
- Attractions: Table Mountain is 1 113m high and is one of the most recognized natural landmarks. Part of the Cape Floral Kingdom, it has 2 600 plant species. A revolving cable-car takes people to the summit but one can also hike up (500 routes). Boulder's beach has one of the only mainland colonies of African penguins. Robben Island where Mandela was imprisoned for a long time, is now a World Heritage Site that can be visited by boat. False Bay is the only place in the world where great white sharks breach.
- **Kalahari Gemsbok NP / Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.**
- Location: Northern Cape Province bordering Botswana and Namibia.
- Size: 967 000 (9 670 sq. km) – Kgalagadi totals 3, 6 million Ha.
- Specials: Suricate, Brown hyena, Cape fox, Warthog, Pygmy falcon, social weaver.
- Attractions: The Auob riverbed is said to be the best place in the world to watch cheetah hunting. One of the best places to see brown hyena. The floodlit hides are great for nocturnal game viewing at camps. Beautiful flowers and game concentrations in the riverbeds in summer.

INTRODUCTION TO TOURISM AND ECO-TOURISM (1.2.1)

- **<u>What is Tourism?</u>**
  - Tourism is travel for pleasure or business; also, the theory and practice of touring, the business of attracting, accommodating and entertaining tourists and the business of operating tours. Tourism is the fastest growing industry in the world. As modern technology progresses and cities expand, "Mother Earth" gets smaller and smaller. Destinations that were in the past fairly inaccessible, become far more accessible every year. And in the past, most countries on most continents adopted the mass tourism concept. Naturally this led to mismanagement of the country`s wilderness areas and natural resources. Not too long ago, because of the degradation caused not only by mass tourism, but the general degradation of our planet, the term Ecology came about in the

1970`s and from there on, a new and fashionable environmentally friendly tourism concept evolved **# "Eco-Tourism".**

- **What do you mean by Tourism?**
  - Tourism is the activities of people traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for leisure, business or other purposes for not more than one consecutive year. Worldwide there two major kinds of tourism – Mass tourism, which generally revolves around low cost and maximum numbers of tourists, as opposed to high cost, low impact tourism. In Botswana the government gears its tourism industry toward the **"high cost, low impact tourism model - Quote: take only photographs, leave only your footprints".**
- **Why is it important?**
  - Tourism is vital for the success of many economies around the world. There are several benefits of tourism on host destinations. Tourism boosts the revenue of the economy; creates thousands of jobs, develops the infrastructures of a country/countries and plants a sense of cultural exchange between foreigners and citizens. Some time ago surveys were conducted worldwide as to the importance of tourism. These surveys concluded that, in every 14 jobs, were directly or indirectly related to the tourism industry. Tourism provided about 12% of the G.D.P. (Gross Domestic Product).
- **Types of Tourism.**
  - Domestic Tourism: Taking holidays and trips in your own country.
  - Inbound Tourism: Visitors from overseas coming into the country – international tourism.
  - Outbound Tourism: Travelling to a different country for a visit or business (long distance/short distance).
- **Travel and Tourism.**
  - Businesses that cater for tourists/visitors.

➢ **Eco-Tourism.**

- **What is Eco-Tourism?**
  - It hit the world around the mid 1980`s and since then it has been misconceived in many places. Various internationally accepted definitions of Eco-Tourism are as follows:
- **The Eco-Tourism Society.**
  - Purposeful travel to natural areas to understand the cultural and natural history of the environment while taking care not to alter the integrity of the ecosystem when providing economic opportunities that make the conservation of natural resources beneficial to local people.
- **Rebecca Senthumoleng – Conservation International.**
  - It is taking tourists to natural settings where emphasis is placed on conservation of the environment and the empowerment of local people.
  - Unfortunately, due to the fashionable new words like environmentally sensitive, sustainable use, ecologically friendly and so on; many companies adopted this concept on paper, purely for a marketing ploy, and did not and still not practice what they preach.
- **Eco-Tourism`s Benefits.**
  - Whichever way you look at it, Eco-tourism`s benefits are the involvement of local people living in and around conservation areas of various kinds, as well as international cultures. This involvement sets its goals on 3 focal points:
  - Educating and training of local communities in the environmentally sensitive use plan of their natural resources.
  - Creating awareness and placing some kind of sustainable economic value on conserving wildlife and wilderness areas; cultural values and enlightening experiences for all people.
  - And above all, survival of our planet – "Mother Earth".
- **Guiding Principles of Eco-Tourism.**
  - Some basic guiding principles of Eco-tourism are:

- That the wilderness has an infinite (limitless) place our world.
- Through Eco-tourism, the visitors gain insight to the importance of conservation.
- The positive effects of tourism out-weigh the negative effects.
- Respect is placed on international cultures to ensure that all cultures are equal and beneficial.
- Wise and sustainable use of our resources.
- Promote understanding and involve partnerships between a wide range of players at all levels.
  NOTE: The African dream is becoming a reality; peace parks/trans frontier parks are slowly being formed which encompasses all of the above basic elements of Eco-Tourism.