



Are you passionate about nature, plants and animals?
 Want to make your contribution to the conversation of our planet?



Close to nature

Conservation staff manage the ecosystems and incredible biodiversity on and off our nature reserves. Here **conservation managers** take the lead. They are assisted by **conservators** and **field rangers** to run conservation projects like alien clearing and veld fire control. They also monitor and manage plant and animal communities, and ensure the day-to-day maintenance of the nature reserves.



What you need:

A genuine passion for nature and the outdoors, backed by a national diploma in Nature Conservation.



Sharing knowledge

Ecologists and **Scientists** constantly analyze the biological processes and patterns occurring in nature to assist with conservation planning and problem solving. Their sound knowledge of plants, animals and the world they live in are backed by comprehensive computer analysis programmes. Sharing their know-how, they ensure that adequate conservation strategies are formulated and that decision-makers are informed about the threats to the Western Cape's environment.



What you need:

A love of nature and detail, backed by university degree in a specialist ecological field focusing on the dynamics of plant and animal life and the ecosystems that they are part of, and adequate computer skills.



Beyond our boundaries

Stakeholder engagement, **environmental education** and **law enforcement** staff promote the public's understanding of conservation. They give guidance to landowners, do inspections and enforce legislation to protect natural resources such as wildlife and wildflowers. They are involved with education programmes and eco-community projects.

What you need:

A national diploma or university degree in Nature Conservation, or a degree relevant to the particular field.



Running the show

General Managers and **Administrators** are an important component in the field of nature conservation. The administrative hub also includes **financial planners**, **communications** and **marketing staff**, as well as **lawyers**. **Human resources staff** are an important function in conservation.



What you need:

Sound financial, managerial and administrative skills. Depending on the management level of each post, training requirements range from a minimum Grade 12 qualification to tertiary education in the relevant field of expertise, such as marketing, law, business development, human resources or finance.



Bringing people to nature

Tourism staff, ranging from **guides** and **housekeeping staff** to **reservation clerks** and **tourism managers**, fulfil an important task to welcome visitors to accommodation, camping and recreational facilities at reserves. Through tourism development and promotion they ensure top quality products and excellent customer service.

What you need:

Background in tourism, computer literacy, a keen business sense, exceptional client care skills, patience, initiative and a friendly smile. A degree or diploma in tourism is an advantage.



Study tips

Honing your skills

School subjects like mathematics and biology, agricultural science or physical science will be an advantage in your further studies.

The following institutions and organisations offer courses in environmental or nature conservation, and related fields:

Cape Peninsula University of Technology	www.cput.ac.za	021 959 6767
Tshwane University of Technology	www.tut.ac.za	012 382 4414/4922
University of SA	www.unisa.co.za	012 441 5888
University of Johannesburg	www.uj.ac.za	011 559 2911
Rhodes University	www.ru.ac.za	046 603 8111
University of Cape Town	www.uct.ac.za	021 650 9111
Nelson Mandela University (George Campus)	www.georgecampus.mandela.ac.za	044 801 5111
(Port Elizabeth Campus)	www.mandela.ac.za	041 504 1111
University of the Western Cape	www.uwc.ac.za	021 959 2911
University of Pretoria	www.up.ac.za	012 420 3111
University of Stellenbosch	www.sun.ac.za	021 808 9111
University of KwaZulu-Natal	www.ukzn.ac.za	031 260 8596
Southern African Wildlife College	www.wildlifecollege.org.za	015 793 7300
Delta Environmental Centre	www.deltaenviro.org.za	011 888 4831
Eco Training	www.ecotraining.co.za	013 752 2532

Nature-wise, without being a nature conservator

Consider these other careers to make your passion for the outdoors your life's calling. You could become a **landscape architect**, **environmental journalist**, an **eco-tourist guide**, a **sustainable tourism developer**, an **environmental engineer** or a **waste manager**.

