

## Practical field course: Behavioural ecology and animal communication

Application deadline: **16 April 2023**

Arrival to the field site: **1 August 2023**

Departure from the field site: **15 August 2023**

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**Day 1:** Where are we?

- a. Field safety
- b. Kalahari habitat, flora and fauna
- c. Basic telemetry

**Day 2:** How to observe animals?

- a. Ethics
- b. Ethograms
- c. Data collection schedules

**Day 3:** Why study communication?

- a. What are signals?
- b. Basic acoustics
- c. Recording audio in the field

**Day 4:** Camera traps – what are they good for?

- a. Which questions can be answered?
- b. Camera deployment
- c. How to analyse camera data

**Day 5:** What to do with all the audio?

- a. Acoustic analysis
- b. Soundscape
- c. Animal vocal repertoires

**Day 6:** How accurate is GPS, really?

- a. GPS errors
- b. Types of movement
- c. Home range maps

**Day 7:** Meet the meerkats, squirrels and mole rats

- a. Visit to the projects
- b. Analysing camera trap data

**Day 8:** Planning your research

- a. Writing research proposal
- b. Choosing tools
- c. Data collection and management

**Day 9:** Field work

- a. Data collection
- b. Troubleshooting
- c. Data logging, processing and backups

**Day 10:** Field work

- a. Data collection
- b. Progress reports
- c. Designing analytical pipelines

**Day 11:** Field work

- a. Data collection
- b. Data summary
- c. Preliminary results

**Day 12:** How to deal with all these data?

- a. Data management and processing
- b. Summary stats
- c. Visualisations

**Day 13:** So, what have we learned?

- a. Reevaluating predictions
- b. Project presentations
- c. Course summaries