



Conservation Science Officer Vacancy

Purpose of the Position: To assist with the development of a Species Distribution Modelling (SDM) database to improve objectivity, accuracy and efficiency in Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs). Through an online web application, this SDM database will allow for a robust measure of biodiversity and increase ability to flag sensitive species for early stage EIAs anywhere in the country. This will ensure that no sensitive species are overlooked in any EIA scoping phase assessment and will guide not only early stage rejections, but also inform the selection of specialists for in-depth EIA surveys. This position will also drive strategic fieldwork to fill data gaps where threatened or endemic species are thought but not yet confirmed to occur. Finally, this position will assist with the process of driving legislative amendment and capacity development towards an improved EIA process.

Activities: The incumbent will assist with all operational aspects of producing predictive threatened species models and maps, data formatting and collation, organising workshops, procurement, paper and report writing, planning and conducting field work (ground-truthing and surveys to fill gaps in species data) and general office administration. The majority of the work under this post will be office based with provision for fieldwork to assist field specialists with data collection as well as driving community engagement work towards improving capacity for responding to EIA applications in rural communities.

Qualifications, experience and competencies required:

The minimum requirements for this position will include:

- A minimum of a MSc in conservation/environmental science or relevant field;
- Two years' proven experience in the sector;
- Experience using the R programming language and GIS applications;
- An understanding of Species Distribution Models;
- Experience with biodiversity databases and proficiency in all Microsoft Office programmes;
- An understanding of and experience with conservation planning is highly desirable;
- Strong interpersonal and organising skills including administrative work (including procurement) are essential;
- Possession of a valid South African or international driver's license, and suitable driving experience;
- Good oral and written communication skills and confident presentation skills are important;
- Report writing and production experience is highly desirable; and
- Good research and data collection skills.

Additional requirements that would be advantageous:

- Demonstrable experience in developing and implementing threatened species field surveys is advantageous.
- Ability to undertake tasks that are physically demanding;
- Willingness and ability to work in remote areas is valuable.
- Excellent communication ability in English is compulsory, and one other relevant South African language would be advantageous;
- Some budget management experience is advantageous;
- Workshop and event planning experience is advantageous;
- Some knowledge of Environmental Impact Assessment processes and legislation would be advantageous;
- Some community engagement experience would be beneficial.

Interpersonal skills:

- Disciplined, innovative and energetic;
- The ability to work both independently and as part of a team; and
- Self-motivated, with strong people skills and an approachable manner.

This position will be based at the EWT office in Cape Town. The Endangered Wildlife Trust is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants who have not been contacted within 10 days of the closing date must please assume that their applications were not successful. The EWT reserves the right not to make an appointment. All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence. Closing date **20th June 2019**. Applicants are requested to submit a CV, and a detailed motivation as to how and why they would be the best possible candidate for the post plus contact details of at least three references to Emma Chisare on emmac@dewt.org.za.