



In
partnership
with



Vacancy

Department: African Crane Conservation Programme (ICF/EWT Partnership)
Title: Resource Extension Officer
Reports to: ACCP South Africa Regional Manager

Purpose of the Position: The International Crane Foundation (ICF) / Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) Partnership's African Crane Conservation Programme (ACCP) is looking to fill a Resource Extension Officer position. This dynamic partnership works across sub-Saharan Africa to maintain stable wild populations of the four threatened crane species: Wattled, Blue, Grey Crowned, and Black Crowned Cranes. We achieve this through conservation actions that effectively reduce threats to the species and their habitats, and through working closely with local communities and key local, national and global stakeholders. We empower individuals, community groups and organisations to manage catchments for the benefit of both people and cranes, ensuring that conservation is mainstreamed into local decision-making and practices for sustainable species and habitat conservation impacts. The ICF/EWT Partnership currently has three regional hubs across Africa, located in South Africa, Zambia and Uganda, and will be expanding into West / Central Africa in the near future.

This exciting new position will assist the ICF/EWT Partnership in developing and implementing our first carbon trading project in South Africa. The incumbent will be responsible for the practical, on the ground implementation of the project by providing farmers and landowners the extension support required to participate in what could be South Africa's largest land-based (soil) carbon offset project. This position will require the incumbent to draw on his/her skills in agricultural and/or natural resource management and passion for conservation to demonstrate additional benefits of sustainable land management for species conservation and carbon sequestration.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Provide extension support to farmers (private, commercial and communal) to improve agricultural and natural resource management.
- Play a leading role in gaining farmer buy-in to the ICF/EWT/WeACT Carbon offset project across the project range.
- Support landowners in achieving improved land management objectives as outlined under the carbon trading methodology "Adoption of sustainable grasslands through adjustment of fire and grazing" and other methodologies under VERRA's Agriculture, Forestry and land use scope, that may be included.
- Where appropriate support farmers in the development and implementation of agricultural resource management systems to enhance farm planning, food security, environmental sustainability and carbon sequestration.
- Facilitate protected area expansion with landowners within key catchments of the Drakensberg using the Biodiversity Stewardship approach or other mechanisms such as carbon trading.
- Develop, support, and share the business case for sustainable agriculture that supports and enhances conservation of species and natural habitat.
- Collaborate with other stakeholders and NGO's working in the landscape to enhance project impact;
- Implement all species and land based monitoring protocols and ensure that all data are captured accurately in the ACCP database on a monthly basis.

OTHER DUTIES

- Provide input into ICF/EWT Partnership communications, campaigns and professional communications.
- Represent the ICF and the EWT at meetings internally and externally as required.
- Support the Drakensberg Project Coordinator and South African Regional Manager in monitoring and evaluating project progress and success using the Conservation Standards approach and Miradi (software).
- Provide written reports on project progress and impact for donors and management.
- Give presentations on project activities and relevant topics to external and internal audiences.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- A minimum four-year Degree in Natural Resource Management or Agricultural Resource Management or a related field.
- Five or more years' experience in the natural and/or agricultural resource management sector.
- Proven experience in providing extension support and advise to the agricultural sector of South Africa (private, commercial and/or communal farmers)
- Analytical, problem solving, and decision-making skills, including the ability to identify problems, research and analyze issues from different perspectives, organize information, reach sound conclusions, and work cooperatively with others to develop and implement effective solutions.
- Good written communication skills, including the ability to write correspondence and reports in a clear, concise, logical, and grammatically correct manner.
- Attentive to detail and thoroughness, with good judgement skills.
- Verbal communication skills, including speaking clearly and persuasively to individuals and groups; listening effectively; and responding effectively to questions from conservation colleagues, visitors, the media, and the public.
- Experience and comfort using word processing and spreadsheet software (MS Office).
- Valid driver's license and acceptable driving record.
- Confidence in and ability to travel, work in remote areas and work independently.
- Flexibility to work the number and schedule of hours needed to accomplish regular and ad hoc job responsibilities.
- Able to work independently as well as within a team.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Experience using spatial software such as ArcGIS or QGIS would be beneficial.
- Proficiency in at least Zulu or Afrikaans would be beneficial (Fluent in English is essential).
- Experience working at the nexus of agriculture and conservation would be preferred, with at least a demonstrable interest in environmental sustainability, nature conservation, natural and agricultural resource management is highly recommended.

The Endangered Wildlife Trust is an equal opportunity employer. To apply, please email your CV and a detailed letter of motivation of why you are the best candidate for this position to Emma Chisare on emmac@ewt.org.za. Applicants who have not been contacted within 10 working days of the closing date must please assume that their application was not successful. The EWT reserves the right not to make an appointment. All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Closing date: 21 April 2021