



## Niche Model Specialist Vacancy

**Purpose of the Position:** To develop a strategic predictive and accessible bio-informatics map to improve and streamline EIA accuracy and efficiency. The incumbent will develop a strategic predictive map for scoping phase assessments of threatened and endemic vertebrates (sensitive species) using both a national and multi-taxa focus. This strategic predictive map will increase both the efficiency and ability to flag sensitive species for early stage EIAs anywhere in the country. The map will act as a central database housing distributional data for multiple species across the country and will use ecological niche models to predict the expected distributions of all the sensitive and data deficient species for which development applications will have the most detrimental impacts. 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 assessments. Once trialed, the strategic predictive map is intended to be incorporated into the national land-use screening tool.

### Qualifications, experience and competencies required:

*The minimum requirements for this position will include:*

- A minimum of a Master's degree in conservation science or relevant field;
- Two years' proven experience in the sector, which includes GIS and Ecological Niche Modelling;
- Some experience in mentoring and managing staff at various levels is essential;
- Proven experience in conceptualizing and implementing of large projects at a landscape level, with strong facilitation and coordination skills and ability demonstrated;
- Demonstrated ability to manage large budgets is an advantage;
- An understanding of and experience with conservation planning and Environmental Impact Assessment legislation in South Africa is advantageous;
- Demonstrated peer-reviewed publication record;
- Strong interpersonal skills which must include proven ability to develop partnerships with and create a network of a range of stakeholders at both the project and strategic levels;
- Possession of a valid South African or international driver's license, and suitable driving experience;
- Proficiency in all Microsoft Office programmes, Maxent (or similar species distribution modelling software) and GIS;
- Being conversant in English is compulsory, and one other relevant South African language would be advantageous;
- Good oral and written communication skills and confident presentation skills are important;

*Additional requirements that would be advantageous:*

- Experience with strategic partnerships with the private and public sector, and with large scale funding agencies;
- Good research and data collection skills;
- 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.

**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 Head Office. The Endangered Wildlife Trust is an equal opportunity employer. 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. 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 27 March 2018. To apply please e-mail your CV and a detailed motivation letter of why you are the best candidate for this position plus at least three references contact details to Emma Chisare on [emmac@dewt.org.za](mailto:emmac@dewt.org.za) or mail to Private Bag X11, Modderfontein, 1645 or fax to +27 (0)86 636 5823.