



Landscape Conservation Specialist Vacancy

Purpose of the Position: The Endangered Wildlife Trust, one of the largest biodiversity conservation NGOs in southern Africa, is seeking to employ a highly motivated, professional individual as a Landscape Conservation Specialist, with a specific focus on the Mpumalanga Highveld in South Africa, for the African Crane Conservation Programme (a partnership between the International Crane Foundation (ICF) and Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)).

The Landscape Conservation Specialist will focus their efforts on the Chrissiesmeer Lakes District and the Steenkampsberg on the Mpumalanga Highveld, each area home to a large Protected Environment, declared through South Africa's Biodiversity Stewardship Programme. This newly created position will develop and demonstrate sustainable, landscape-level conservation within working agricultural landscapes that integrates long term conservation impact, improved human wellbeing and associated sustainable economic growth. This will include understanding the Socio-ecological system within the regions in order to coordinate and manage projects in these two areas and empowering landowners and users under this new paradigm; connecting with the private and public sector and with relevant funders to develop partnerships that further the conservation importance and socio-economic sustainability of the areas; and fully integrating community wellbeing and socio-economic growth into the protected area and agricultural landscape, through identifying and implementing feasible economic opportunities that support or are supported by sustainable land management; and exploring options to expand the current protected areas within private and communal land tenure.

Building on current experience and the model developed under this project, the Specialist will provide guidance and assistance to other African Crane Conservation Programme projects across sub-Saharan Africa that aim to secure biodiversity and natural resources in human dominated, agricultural landscapes. They will also provide guidance to other EWT Programmes working in similar situations across South Africa.

Qualifications, experience and competencies required:

The minimum requirements for this position will include:

- A minimum of a Master's degree in Natural Resource Management or Natural Resource Economics, or relevant field; with an interest or experience in the conservation sector;
- Five years' proven experience in the sector, which includes significant experience in landscape level integrated management of natural resources (sustainable land management);
- At least 3 years' experience in mentoring and managing staff;
- Proven experience in conceptualizing and implementing projects at a landscape level, with strong facilitation and coordination skills and ability demonstrated;
- More specifically, experience in developing and implementing strategies for conservation based agriculture and socio economic development is essential;
- Critical thinking and the ability to challenge conventional thinking and think innovatively;
- Strong interpersonal skills which must include proven ability to develop partnerships with and create a network of a range of stakeholders, including landowners, communities and government representatives at both the project and strategic levels;
- Experience with skills development and livelihood improvement projects;
- Possession of a valid South African or international driver's license, and suitable driving experience;
- Proficiency in all Microsoft Office programmes;
- Being conversant in English in compulsory, and one other relevant South African language would be advantageous;
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- Good oral and written communication skills.

Additional requirements that would be advantageous:

- Experience with strategic partnerships with the private and public sector, and with large scale funding agencies;
- An understanding of and experience with the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme in South Africa;
- A good understanding of water and catchment management, and the role agriculture plays in conservation of natural resources and vice versa;
- Good research and data collection skills;
- Adept in using Geographic Information Systems would be advantageous;
- Ability to undertake tasks that are physically demanding.

Interpersonal skills:

- Disciplined, innovative and energetic;
- Excellent communication and networking skills and fluency in English, the ability to convers in an additional relevant language would be advantages;
- The ability to work both independently and as part of team; and
- Self-motivated, disciplined and energetic with strong people skills and an approachable manner.

This position will be based in Chrissiesmeer. 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 9 February 2018. To apply please e-mail your CV and a detailed motivation letter of why you are the best candidate for this position to Emma Chisare on emmac@ewt.org.za or mail to Private Bag X11, Modderfontein, 1645 or fax to +27 (0)86 636 5823.