



29th July 2014

VACANCY at WESSA

Project Manager: Biosphere Reserve

Fixed term contract: 10 months

Howick based

WESSA will be playing a leading role in the establishment of the first UNESCO registered Biosphere Reserve (BR) in KwaZulu-Natal. The role of this position is to initiate the Midmar to Albert Falls Biosphere Reserve concept until a steering committee is established that will be responsible for the implementation and running of the BR. This project will look to improve the ecosystem services of the area and to promote the value of the natural environment to support the socio-economic and biophysical environments.

Biosphere Reserves (BRs) are national sites designated under UNESCO's MAB programme to promote conservation and sustainable development based on local community efforts and sound science. BRs are voluntary, cooperative conservation reserves which are created to protect biological and cultural diversity of a region whilst promoting sustainable economic development. They provide a platform for local people, citizens and government authorities to come together and build consensus around shared visions to solve problems relating to sustainable development as well as a platform for research and modelling of research into the impacts of human and natural phenomena e.g. climate change and ecosystem degradation. The authority over the land and water usage in the areas do however not change with the implementation of such a reserve but they assist in better management of these resources.

Key Performance Areas include:

- Manage the project according to the contract with the external funder and internal planning requirements
- Profile the project work in such a way that it raises both the project and WESSA's profiles
- Share knowledge within WESSA to build staff and institutional capacity
- Management of general budget

Minimum qualification required for this position:

- Relevant tertiary qualification in Environmental Management/Sciences or Conservation

Minimum experience required for this position:

- At least 3 years of project management experience
- Understanding of integrated environmental management

Behavioural skills required for this position:

- Excellent communication and facilitation skills
- Ability to engage sensitively with a range of stakeholders, ranging from landowners, community members to all tiers of government.

Technical Skills Required:

- High level of computer competence
- Strong facilitation, networking and presentation skills
- Mentoring of the project team
- Excellent reporting writing skills
- Excellent time management and project co-ordinating skills
- Sound budget management and resource allocation skills
- A well-established network in the proposed project area would be advantageous
- Conservancy management and stewardship would be advantageous
- Valid drivers licence essential

Other attributes that would be considered advantageous:

- Creative, innovative and entrepreneurial
- Strong commitment to promoting public participation in caring for the earth and to working in an NGO environment
- Strong commitment to building the capacity of WESSA

This position reports to the Biodiversity Business Unit Leader: Chris Galliers.

Salary to be discussed

Please forward your application to:

Sarah Alcock, Human Resources: sarah@wessa.co.za

Closing date for applications: 8th August 2014