



**CONSERVATION SCIENTIST  
(BOTANIST)  
JONKERSHOEK, STELLENBOSCH  
3 Year contract  
R 414 264 per annum (TCoE) – Production A**

The Scientific Services Unit of the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board is offering a position for an experienced botanist to join their team. With the Western Cape and the Cape Floristic Region, including the Succulent Karoo Ecosystem as primary work areas, the post will comprise the following:

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Conduct focussed botanical field surveys in the Western Cape, including in nature reserves, in support of baseline data collection and monitoring of priority species, and in support of CapeNature's State of Biodiversity Project
- Conduct botanical site inspections in the Western Cape in support of CapeNature's Land-use Advice Section, and to add value to specialist biodiversity comments on development applications
- Close liaison with and contribution to conservation initiatives such as CapeNature's Conservation Stewardship Programme and related private conservation initiatives
- Close liaison with and contribution to regional and national conservation initiatives, including support to reserve managers and regional ecologists during reserve management planning
- Ensuring that the relevant botanical biodiversity data and other information are collected in the right format and entered into the CapeNature Biodiversity Database, and conducting data quality management and analysis
- Assist in coordinating field excursions, supervise field assistants and ensuring a safe working environment

**REQUIREMENTS**

- A tertiary qualification in Botany and at least three years experience working in the botanical field of expertise, including plant ecology and conservation biology
- The ability to identify plants of the Western Cape to species level, with the focus on Fynbos flora, as well as the identification of SA vegetation types
- Proven ability to conduct fieldwork in varied environmental conditions, including inclement weather using a variety of sampling methods
- A good working knowledge of Geographical Information Systems
- Candidates must be in a good physical condition and capable of long hikes in rugged terrain or doing strenuous fieldwork, while carrying a backpack with field equipment
- Good organisational skills and an enthusiastic and positive attitude
- A valid driver's licence and a proven ability to drive a 4x4 vehicle over variable terrain
- A good working knowledge of the MS Office suite

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- A strong background in Fynbos plant identification, experience in conducting vegetation sampling and assisting in the training field staff in basic botanical field methods
- A good working knowledge of the National Biodiversity Assessment and recent conservation planning products, and a good understanding of the principles of systematic conservation planning and landscape ecology
- Proven ability to identify plant species in the Fynbos and Succulent Karoo Biomes
- Ability to lead assistants in the field while promoting safe working conditions, including navigating in remote terrain using topographic map and compass
- Proven ability to work independently and interact well with team members
- Ability to coordinate daily field tasks and manage data for field team, ensuring data are recorded and entered accurately and consistently
- Experience in using GPS (Global Positioning System) units and other plant survey equipment (e.g., tape measure, compass)
- A good working experience with databases and/or spread sheets
- A high degree of enthusiasm and commitment towards conservation, botany, and plant ecology and taxonomy

**ENQUIRIES: Mr G Palmer, Tel: 021 866 8009**

Applications should include a covering letter and must be sent to the HR Manager, Private Bag X29, Gatesville, 7766 or fax to 086 210 5242 or e-mail [hrinfo@capenature.co.za](mailto:hrinfo@capenature.co.za) on or before **21 June 2013.**

*CapeNature is an equal employment opportunity organisation and applicants from historically disadvantaged groups are encouraged to apply. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Candidates who have not been contacted within 14 days of the closing date must please accept that their applications were not successful. CapeNature reserves the right not to make an appointment. Late and/or incomplete applications will not be considered.*