



27<sup>th</sup> November 2013

## **VACANCY AT WESSA**

### **2.5 YEAR GROEN SEBENZA INTERNSHIP – BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION**

The Groen Sebenza Jobs Fund Partnership Project is a major skills development and job creation pilot programme that is aimed at developing priority skills in the biodiversity sector and to create sustainable job opportunities for unemployed youth. WESSA is one of 38 environmental or biodiversity organisations, from all tiers of government, NGO and private sectors, who have joined Green Matter and SANBI to help implement the Groen Sebenza project. WESSA is currently recruiting for a Biodiversity intern for a 2.5 year internship to be based in the Johannesburg / Pretoria area. This exciting work involves species audits in the Magaliesburg area and beyond.

The primary function of this position is the identification of 'difficult to identify' plant and animal species in the Magaliesburg area. DNA barcoding is a new tool that promises to speed-up the identification of species and to discover new species. It is expected that the incumbent will focus primarily on the wealth of biodiversity found in the Magaliesburg area and to network with state and other institutions in contributing to the building of a DNA library for South Africa's biodiversity.

#### **Key Performance Areas include:**

- 1. Develop a priority list of biodiversity species found in the Magaliesburg area and network with stakeholders to DNA barcode each species (contribute to the building of South Africa's DNA barcode library).**
- 2. Together with taxonomists and other stakeholders, discover new species in the Magaliesburg area (participate in field expeditions).**
- 3. Contribute to the conservation of biodiversity in the Magaliesburg area.**
- 4. Promote the use of DNA barcoding to assist with the identification of alien invasive species and pests; identify food products that may have been miss-labelled; combating the illegal trade in wildlife etc.**
- 5. Conduct short courses on DNA barcoding for learners and students (promote student entry to Biological sciences) .**
- 6. Presentations to the public (promote citizen scientist involvement in biodiversity conservation) .**

#### **Minimum requirements:**

- BSc in Biology, Biotechnology, Genetics or Molecular Biology
- Drivers licence, own car is preferable.
- Ability to work extended hours and weekends, due to the nature of the work
- A genuine commitment to conservation and the environment
- A PDI candidate aged between 18 – 35, as per the contractual requirements of the funder.



**Please forward your application to:**

Sarah Alcock, Human Resources Manager, via email to: [sarah@wessa.co.za](mailto:sarah@wessa.co.za)

Please write a short description of your career plans to get to this ideal, and what your ideal career in the environmental sector is. Please also write a short motivation for placement – Why do you think you are ideal for this placement opportunity? . Max half a page.

Closing date of applications: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2013