

Scientist: Vegetation classification

Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience in terms of the SANBI career ladder for scientists

Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, Newlands, Cape Town

SANBI is seeking to appoint a highly motivated individual to undertake research and provide research related services for mapping of vegetation types in South Africa. The position requires a scientist with good collaboration skills.

The key focus of the post is to provide scientific evidence to support updating of the national vegetation map for South Africa. The successful candidate must have skills that will enable him/her to undertake field surveys and research projects to inform the vegetation mapping process. The vegetation map is key to the classification of terrestrial ecosystems. To facilitate the successful completion of research projects the appointee must also be able to work effectively with partner organizations through the SANBI managed network model.

Appointment requires at least a Masters degree in a relevant discipline, with strong botanical background. A PhD qualification and/or previous relevant work experience would be an added advantage. Qualification and experience must be enhanced by proficiency in computer programmes, particularly MS Office and ArcGIS.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES WILL INCLUDE:

- Undertake field surveys and research projects to provide services for the vegetation mapping process and produce scientific reports and/or papers
- Collaborate with SANBI staff on land cover or similar research projects and source small grants
- Participate in relevant forum/committees with external stakeholders in Threatened Ecosystems Research
- Supervise students or interns OR develop own skills further in vegetation science.

Please note that the successful candidate should have a good spoken and written command of English and another official language. Possession of a valid Code B driver's license with at least one year's driving experience is compulsory.

SANBI offers an all-inclusive annual salary package commensurate with qualification and experience. The incumbent will be placed on the SANBI career ladder for scientists.

Please Note: 1) Portfolio of evidence (Scientists application form) must be accompanied by a letter motivating why the applicant should be favourably considered for the position and confirming that the minimum qualifications are met (applicants lacking evidence of relevant experience will not be considered). Portfolio of evidence template can be requested by recruitmentct@sanbi.org.za 2) A competency test may be conducted as part of the selection process. 3) Applicants must also provide the full names, address and telephone number and if possible e-mail address of at least three referees. 4) Failure to submit the requested information may result in your application not being considered.

Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. SANBI reserves the right not to fill this position.

All applications will be considered with the understanding that, in terms of the SANBI Employment Equity Plan, preference will currently be given to candidates from the designated groups.

Contact Ms Zena Appollis on 021 799 8647/8800 or, preferably, forward the completed portfolio of evidence form (available from recruitmentct@sanbi.org.za) a motivational letter, certified qualifications and concise CV via e-mail to recruitmentct@sanbi.org.za or fax 021 762 3229. Postal applications are to be addressed to the Deputy Director: Human Resources, South African National Biodiversity Institute, Private Bag X7, Claremont, 7735.

Closing Date: 27 December 2013

Candidates are expected to be available for selection interviews on a date and time as determined by SANBI.

If no response has been received within 30 days of the closing date, candidates may consider their applications were unsuccessful.