



Interested in a Career in Biodiversity/Ecosystem Management?

Groen Sebenza (Jobs Fund) Programme

What is this programme about?

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), in partnership with 32 environment/biodiversity organisations has embarked on a major skills development and job creation pilot programme, Groen Sebenza, a Jobs Fund Partnership Project. Groen Sebenza is aimed at developing priority skills in the biodiversity sector to create sustainable job opportunities for 800 unemployed graduates and matriculants. The partnership is made up of organizations from all tiers of government, NGO's and the private sector. The programme is based on an "incubator model" giving 800 unemployed youth the opportunity to gain meaningful workplace experience through a structured mentoring programme, together with skills development and training opportunities for a period of two-and-a-half (2½) years.

AWARD (Association for Water and Rural Development) as one of the partners in this programme is looking for a total of 1 (graduate) interested and or qualified in the following occupations to participate in the Groen Sebenza Programme:

Internship Programme on the RESILIM-Olifants Program, Biodiversity (1 post)

Groen Sebenza internship: The RESILIM Olifants Program at the Association for Water and Rural Development (AWARD)

This post is for an internship on the USAID Resilience of the Limpopo River Basin Program, within the Biodiversity theme. The overarching aim of the RESILIM-Olifants Program is to reduce vulnerability through building improved transboundary governance and management of the Olifants Catchment so as to enhance the resilience of its people and ecosystems through systemic and social learning approaches. The project spatially refers to the Olifants Basin from source to sea (i.e. both South Africa and Mozambique) and focuses on IWRM and biodiversity. This is supported by an emphasis on learning and integration. The primary objective of the Biodiversity theme is to conserve biodiversity

and sustainably manage high-priority ecosystems in the Olifants catchment in a way that constitutes reflective systemic enquiry and utilises social learning widely.

The Biodiversity theme within RESILIM-Olifants will through systemic inquiry identify priority biodiversity areas, and practices necessary to improve. Functions and responsibilities within this position and the RESILIM-Olifants program will also closely interlink where relevant with other bioregional programs such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) PA, GEF SGP, relevant fora and institutions etc. AWARD is a research and development NPO based in the Lowveld, with 15 years' experience in the fields of water and biodiversity and specializes in innovative approaches that recognise the complex nature of natural resources management issues and that foster stakeholder – centered processes. This post aims to provide exposure to the incumbent within the field of social-ecological systems, and the incumbent will participate in learning practices within a multi-stakeholder and transdisciplinary environment. The incumbent must be flexible, dynamic and self-motivated to learn about new approaches. They must be willing to work with multiple and different types of stakeholders from rural communities through to private landowners and government, and will be exposed to and collaborate within the fields of:

- Ecosystems, natural resource and species management and monitoring;
- Protected area management effectiveness;
- Governance and institutional arrangements;
- Biodiversity stewardship;
- Systematic conservation planning;
- Capacity Development, learning and systemic inquiry.

Tasks and responsibilities:

- Field data collection activities
- Data queries
- Data entry and management
- Scribing or note taking for planning and workshop activities
- Mapping of relevant biodiversity/ecosystem features
- Providing support for data analysis
- Support report writing and presentation of reports
- Assist with the development of monitoring programs
- Protected area, production sector, government and community visits

• Taking notes on various activities being undertaken in Protected areas, production sectors and communities pertaining to biodiversity and ecosystem services and land-use (currently focusing on the following themes: social, biophysical and reporting)

• Minor support on facilitation activities

Applications from rural, distressed and peri-urban unemployed youth from previously disadvantaged backgrounds are invited for the above positions. People with disabilities are encouraged to apply. Applicants need to have the following requirements:

- A national diploma or first B-degree;
- SA citizenship;
- A demonstrated and clearly articulated commitment to the environment;
- A commitment to career development in the environmental sector;
- Good leadership potential;
- Completed degree in any social or environmental health discipline (Preferably);
- Proven report-writing skills;
- Proven involvement with communities and/or private landowners;
- Willingness to travel and work irregular hours;
- Preferably some previous internship experience in the field of biodiversity, natural resource management, community-based natural resources management, protected area management, systematic conservation planning;
- Knowledge of Biodiversity and ecosystem services, protected area and Natural resource management is a distinct advantage;
- Demonstrable ability to reflect and learn.

How to apply

Applicants are required to fill in an application form (herewith attached). Applicants are also required to provide recently certified copies of the following documents:

- A certified copy of your ID.
- Matric Certificate and or degree/diploma certificate.
- An abridged CV of no more than 3 pages.

Applications are to be emailed, posted and or delivered to the contact details below by the closing date of 2^{nd} March 2014.

The programme offers a stipend of R7, 100.00 per month. Successful candidates will commit to a contract of two-and-a-half (2½) years with their host employer.

Candidates are expected to be available for interviews on a date and time as determined by **AWARD.** If no response has been received within 21 days of the closing date, candidates may consider their applications are unsuccessful.

For all submissions and enquiries contact:

The Office Manager, Association for Water and Rural Development, P.O.Box 1919, Hoedspruit, No. 14 Safari, Raptors view, Hoedspruit, 1380. Telephone: 015 793 0503, Email: <u>kelvin@award.org.za</u>