

SAEON is recruiting for an experienced field botanist for the South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON) Fynbos Node (www.saeon.ac.za).

SAEON is funded by the Department of Science and Technology, and managed by the National Research Foundation. SAEON is mandated to create knowledge of environmental change through six geographically distributed nodes. The SAEON Fynbos Node is hosted in Cape Town by South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI).

Applicants with sound experience performing vegetation surveys will be duly considered.

Botanist
(Voëlvlei Reserve and Elandsberg Private Nature Reserve)

The contract should be completed before the 25th October 2014, with fieldwork performed during the peak flowering time (1 August – 30 September). Accommodation will be provided on site.

Requirements:

- Proven skills in conducting vegetation surveys in fynbos and/or renosterveld particularly but not limited to the Swartland Shale Renosterveld and Swartland Alluvium Fynbos vegetation types.
- Experience in identifying species in these vegetation types to ensure the accuracy of identifications and the timeous completion of the work.
- Experience in identifying plants from vegetative material and collecting voucher specimens for future reference.
- Willingness to live in isolated areas for extended periods of time.
- Compliance with land managers conditions of access.
- Willingness to supervise a SAEON Intern who will assist with fieldwork and sample processing.
- Provision of own transport.

Applicants are required to provide a brief outline of their likely approach to deliver on the responsibilities mentioned below. The outline should include a detailed budget (with daily rates and anticipated transport expenses indicated) and a project plan with time frames.

Responsibilities:

To survey a set of 18 pre-selected 30x30m plots, comprised of nine 10x10m subplots that contain two 1x1m quadrats each (18 per plot).

The botanist will need to provide:

1. Species lists for each of the nine 10x10m subplots within each plot indicating **percent cover** of each species.
2. Species lists for each 1x1m quadrat within each subplot indicating **numbers of individuals** of each species.
3. Qualitative descriptions of environmental conditions of each plot and subplot (a template will be provided).
4. Soil samples for each plot (one from each corner).
5. Fixed-point photographs of each 10x10m subplot from each corner.
6. A photograph, a pressed and annotated voucher specimen, and a DNA voucher specimen (silica gel and zip-lock bags will be provided) of all species encountered in plots during the survey, including specimens that could not be identified.

Applications should include a detailed *Curriculum vitae*, covering letter and contact details of two references. Completed application forms **must** accompany your application. Forms can be downloaded from the SAEON webpage www.saeon.ac.za

Applications should be forwarded to leazill@saeon.ac.za or alternatively posted to SAEON, P.O. Box 2600, Pretoria, 0001, Attention: Human Resources.

Queries and points of clarification can be directed to Dr Jasper Slingsby on jasper@saeon.ac.za.

Closing date for receiving applications: 31 May 2014.

SAEON is committed to employment equity and redress. SAEON reserves the right not to make an appointment to the position as advertised.