



BOTANY EXPERTISE

DETAILS

EcoHealth Alliance is seeking to contract with an organization that can provide the services of a full-time field botanist, to join an international team of scientists investigating the epidemiology and ecology of Rift Valley fever virus (RVFV) in South Africa. This project is a U.S. funded initiative and seeks to: 1) determine how immunity to RVFV changes over time in sheep; 2) determine the herd immunity in wild and domestic ruminants; 3) understand the ecology of the virus in the mosquito vector and 4) determine the immunity level in people working on the study farms and detect new infections. This project is being undertaken through a collaboration of Centre for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases, The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), SANParks Veterinary Wildlife Service, Provincial Departments of Agriculture and Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Universities Space Research Association, among others.

Services would be required on a full-time basis for 6-8 months, located around Kimberly or Bloemfontein, South Africa. The services needed include conducting vegetation transects in the Free State and Northern Cape Provinces, collecting adult mosquitoes and mosquito larvae and collaborating with partners listed above. The applicant should be highly self-motivated and interested in ecology, vector ecology and public health.

The applicant will be responsible for the timely execution of field activities. The applicant will be expected to enter all field data into the RVFV database. The applicant will also be expected to communicate (in English) verbal and email updates to EcoHealth Alliance when requested. The applicant will work closely with entomologists at NICD and climate specialists at USRA.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants should have at least 3 years experience working in the field of botany and have experience conducting vegetation transects and plant identification. Team and collaborative spirit and excellent communication skills are expected. A driver's license is required. Basic proficiency in Excel is required.

Applications are restricted to African nationals with a preference to South Africans. Please send a CV and Letter of Interest to Dr. Melinda Rostal at rostal@ecohealthalliance.org, Professor Janusz Paweska at januszp@nicd.ac.za and Mr. Alan Kemp at alank@nicd.ac.za by July 25, 2014. Please have references available upon request.