



## **SARCHI Chair on Biodiversity Value & Change in the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve Hosted by University of Venda & Centre for Invasion Biology Call for applications: MSc and PHD bursaries**

The vision of the Chair is to create a vibrant hub for biodiversity science, training and conservation application within the SADC region, based in the newly proclaimed UNESCO Vhembe Biosphere Reserve of northern Limpopo Province, South Africa. The Chair is hosted by the University of Venda and co-hosted by the Centre for Invasion Biology (C·I·B) at University of Stellenbosch. The candidate will be registered at University of Venda, a rural-based university in northern Limpopo Province. Activities will be organised across four major themes: 1) Conservation biology & practice; 2) Ecosystem services and livelihoods; 3) Invasion biology; 4) Climate change. Successful candidates will join an active research team and complement a growing body of exciting ecological research centred in the Soutpansberg Mountains, a recognised Centre of Plant Endemism and a hotspot of plant and animal diversity.

Applications are invited for one MSc bursary and four PHD bursaries to commence in 2015.

**Requirements:** Students should have an appropriate degree (Honours for MSc; MSc for PHD) and a good academic record in ecology. As projects will generally involve a fair amount of field work, preference will be given to candidates who can work independently, have a Code 08 driver's licence, and are well organised.

**Conditions:** Preference will be given to South African citizens. Bursars should not hold concurrent bursaries.

**Value:**

MSc bursaries are R70,000 pa for two years

PHD bursaries are R100,000 pa for three years

Additional project running expenses are provided.

**How to apply:** Students should send a written application with a sample project proposal, a CV that includes your academic record, any scientific publications on which you have been an author, and proof of your ability to be organized and work independently, academic transcripts and the names of at least two academic referees. Please submit your application by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

Submit applications (or request additional information) directly to: Prof Peter Taylor, SARCHI Chair, University of Venda ([Peter.Taylor@univen.ac.za](mailto:Peter.Taylor@univen.ac.za))

