



The **South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON)** is a research platform funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and managed by the National Research Foundation (NRF). SAEON is mandated to establish and manage long-term environmental observatories; maintain reliable long-term environmental data sets; promote access to data for research and/or informed decision making; and contribute to capacity building. The mandate is executed through six geographically distributed nodes that are coordinated by the SAEON National Office in Pretoria.

ECOLOGIST: KAROO SHALE GAS (2 year contract position)

Requirements:

- PhD in ecology or environmental science.
- Proven record of field research and scientific publications.
- Experience with remote sensing and GIS.
- Knowledge of projects, institutions and scientists conducting environmental projects in the Karoo.
- Experience with performance management of working teams, budget control, project planning and reporting.
- Language proficiency in English and Afrikaans (desirable).

Responsibilities:

- To identify environmental impacts of shale gas mining other than on groundwater and environmental change in general in the Karoo at/near ground surface levels as it relates to global change.
- Conduct a comprehensive review of literature and inventory of available environmental data on the Karoo, especially the Nama-Karoo, and to identify current key questions for future research in the Karoo by SAEON, its partners and the research community at large.
- Review existing geospatial information on Karoo ecological features and refine them to those of importance to this project.
- Prepare an overview of the impacts on natural capital of shale gas mining that has been documented during past and current shale gas mining projects elsewhere in the world, and project how these may potentially affect the Karoo environment.
- Compile a (collaborative) publication and GIS maps, to facilitate obtaining and publishing data and derived products on the SAEON information platform.
- Drafting of detailed proposals for baseline studies at potential gas fields and reference sites that include recommendations for the SAEON Arid Lands Node conducting research and monitoring programs, to be initiated by the baseline studies.
- Assisting with the sourcing of additional funds for the further development of the project.

Applications should include a detailed *Curriculum vitae*, covering letter and contact details of at least three referees. 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. Posted applications should reach SAEON on or before the specified closing date.

Closing date for receiving applications: 3 February 2015.

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