



WWF South Africa, the local arm of one of the world's largest independent conservation organisations, has a vacancy for a:

EXTENSION OFFICER: BIODIVERSITY AND WINE INITIATIVE

Salary: R200,000/ annum

Contract position

In the last five years, the biodiversity conservation sector in South Africa has become engaged in the development of several initiatives that seek to promote responsible environmental practices in the food production sector. The Biodiversity and Wine Initiative (BWI) is one of the leading initiatives in this regard.

The BWI aims to minimise the loss of further threatened natural habitat, whilst also promoting the implementation of best practice guidelines for managing biodiversity within the vineyard landscapes. Furthermore, BWI promotes market recognition and reward for participating producers using various incentives mechanisms including branding, marketing, and strengthening and diversifying the wine tourism portfolio and most importantly, providing free advisory support and extension services to producers accredited by BWI.

To date, the BWI has focused primarily on providing an extension service to producers in order to attain critical mass and industry buy-in. This strategy has proved to be very successful, with industry interest and support surpassing all expectations. Due to ever increasing membership, an additional BWI extension officer is required to support the demand for extension services, processing member applications, development of basic management plans and quality control and auditing of the implementation of these plans.

Objectives:

1. Provide expertise and information regarding responsible sustainable production practices within the Cape winelands;
2. Develop basic holistic farm level management and action plans;
3. Provide a co-ordinated point of engagement with industry partners and partners from provincial government and conservation sector;
4. Assist in internal quality control and auditing process to measure and monitor the continual improvement of BWI producers.

The South African wine industry has the opportunity to transform their proactive stance on biodiversity and sustainable production into a long term competitive advantage for the industry, in order to do so, these programmes must continue to provide real value addition through extension support to the producers who have indicated a willingness and dedication to support sustainable production and maintain South Africa as world leaders in this regard.

Terms of Reference:

The primary focus for this extension officer will be the provision of advisory services and extension support to local producers, development of management plans, auditing and quality control of progress with implementation. Other activities will focus on maintaining an updated BWI membership data base and spatial layer, maintenance of BWI data on website, organisation of events and activities pertaining to training and capacity development of producers, project administration function. This individual would work within a small project team and report to the BWI coordinator and WWF-SA Living Lands Unit, under an employment contract to WWF-SA and be based at the WWF offices in Stellenbosch.

The additional BWI extension officer would focus primarily on:

- Provide extension capacity to BWI members and champions (e.g. farm visits, developing and processing BWI applications, drafting management plans, etc.)
- Technical development of guidelines and integration of latest better practice research
- Internal BWI quality control, auditing and follow-up site visits.
- Maintaining BWI database, website updates and spatial layer of membership.
- Assist with BWI coordination: arranging workshops and events, producers communications, database management,
- Provide capacity for BWI engagements with different stakeholder groups in terms of presentations and representation of key meetings.

The project invites applications from suitably qualified individuals. The following qualities as being advantageous in performing this job:

1. Sound understanding of biodiversity conservation issues in Southern Africa
2. Basic tertiary qualification or diploma in environmental sciences, viti-viticulture, soil sciences or nature conservation required (Strong background and undergraduate studies in the viti-viticulture would be an advantage)
3. Spatial, GIS mapping skills, and a solid technical grounding in farm sustainability would be key recommendations
4. Strong written and verbal Afrikaans and English communications skills are a pre-requisite
5. Excellent inter-personal communication skills required
6. Strong negotiations skills
7. Highly self-motivated and self-driven
8. Good research and information management skills
9. Valid driver's license
10. Willingness to travel extensively within Western Cape

To apply send a curriculum vitae of a maximum of three pages, including the names, current e-mail addresses and telephone / fax numbers of three references by 30 August 2009, to the HR Manager at hr@wwf.org.za; fax 021-888-2888.

Candidates who have received no response within three weeks of the closing should kindly assume that their application has not been successful. WWF-SA reserves the right not to fill this position.