



# Interested in a Career in Biodiversity/Ecosystem Management?

# <u>Groen Sebenza (Jobs Fund) Programme</u>

# What is this programme about?

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), in partnership with 32 environment/biodiversity organisations has embarked on a major skills development and job creation pilot programme, Groen Sebenza, a Jobs Fund Partnership Project. Groen Sebenza is aimed at developing priority skills in the biodiversity sector to create sustainable job opportunities for 800 unemployed graduates and matriculants. The partnership is made up of organizations from all tiers of government, NGO's and the private sector. The programme is based on an "incubator model" giving 800 unemployed youth the opportunity to gain meaningful workplace experience through a structured mentoring programme, together with skills development and training opportunities for a period of two-and-a-half (2½) years.

Living Lands, as one of the partners in this programme is looking for a total of 03 graduates interested and or qualified in the following occupations to participate in the Groen Sebenza Programme:

# 1. Knowledge Broker (One position available)

Description of the position as per the OFO (Organising Framework for Occupations) code is "Agricultural Extension Officer and Landcare Officer". The main task of this position is to facilitate ground research: being responsible for front-line research implementation by means of identifying academic research projects and communicating the process and outcomes to the public. Although this position will demand a basic academic background when dealing with the description of research projects and the understanding of students' academic requirements, communication with partners (especially national and international

academic institutions) will be the main undertaking. In this regard the candidate must have an interest in interacting with people, good oral and writing skills, and a willingness to involve partners in a learning process. Lastly, and most importantly, this position requires that the candidate provides general support to Living Lands' project managers; therefore undertaking similar roles as a Junior Project Manager (described at position number 3). As Living Lands is involved in a participatory approach on the landscape, an important task for this intern position would be to effectively engage with local communities, landowners and other stakeholders on the landscape – building trust and gaining factual-action understanding. The above-mentioned outline demands of the candidate to be flexible in their approach: having the ability to manage changing priorities, being an effective networker with a high level of interpersonal skills, and having an eagerness to engage in conservation and restoration efforts.

#### 2. PRESENCE Learning Village Coordinator (One position available)

Description of the position as per the OFO (Organising Framework for Occupations) code is "Garden/Park Manager". This is a backbone position in the organization as it keeps the structure and facilities of the learning network up and running. The PRESENCE Learning Village (PLV) is a hub of knowledge to the learning network, hosting not only Living Lands' staff and collaborating researchers, but also events and outreach programmes. Research facility management, field logistics, general organizational support, hospitality, events organization, and the village's administration and maintenance are among several of the duties foreseen for this position. This individual will be supervised by the PLV manager. An important responsibility of this position is to engage in the establishment of a botanical garden in the area and to propose and implement sustainable measures at the facilities. These latter roles call for the candidate to enjoy hands-on activities; using their creativity and not being afraid to get their hands dirty. An additional role will be to collect (restoration) monitoring data and support research projects undertaken by the network's individuals. This intern will learn how to multitask, and become flexible and social as the position demands managing a group of researchers and network's stakeholders hosted at the PLV.

# 3. Junior Project Manager (One position available)

The junior project manager works to support the senior project managers. Part of their duties are to undertake resource management; correspond and communicate with partners; support project administration work; assist in project reporting; provide administrative, strategic planning, and operational support; report to and advise senior management. Lastly,

and most importantly, this position requires that the candidate provides general support to Living Lands' project managers. As Living Lands is involved in a participatory approach on the landscape, an important task for this intern position would be to effectively engage with local communities, landowners and other stakeholders on the landscape – building trust and gaining factual-action understanding. The above-mentioned outline demands of the candidate to be flexible in their approach: having the ability to manage changing priorities, being an effective networker with a high level of interpersonal skills, and having an eagerness to engage in conservation and restoration efforts.

To aid in your decision with applying for the above positions, please take a look at Living Lands' website and become acquainted with our Mission & Vision and Approach, at: http://www.earthcollective.net/livinglands/.

### Requirements

Applications from rural, distressed and peri-urban unemployed youth from previously disadvantaged backgrounds are invited for the above positions. Applicants need to have the following:

- For the School leaver placement: a national matriculation certificate.
- o For the Graduate placement: a national diploma or first B-degree.
- SA citizenship.
- A demonstrated and clearly articulated commitment to the environment.
- o A commitment to career development in the environmental sector.
- Good leadership potential.

#### How to apply

Applicants are required to fill in an application form (herewith attached). Applicants are also required to provide recently certified copies of the following documents:

- A certified copy of your ID.
- Matric Certificate and or degree/diploma certificate.
- An abridged CV of no more than 3 pages.

Applications are to be emailed, posted and or delivered to the contact details below by the closing date of **Thursday**, 31<sup>st</sup> **January 2013 at 16h00**.

Contact details: Silvia Weel - Living Lands manager silvia@earthcollective.net

The programme offers a stipend of R7,100.00 to graduates and R4,500.00 to school-leavers (matriculants) per month. Successful candidates will commit to a contract of two-and-a-half (2½) years with their host employer.

Candidates are expected to be available for interviews on a date and time as determined by Living Lands on email or phone communication (foreseen to be between 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> February). If no response has been received within 21 days of the closing date, candidates may consider their applications are unsuccessful.

For all submissions and enquires contact Silvia Weel preferably via email <a href="mailto:silvia@earthcollective.net">silvia@earthcollective.net</a> or with Eberhard Van der Merwe on the phone number 0218139121 or email Eberhard@earthcollective.net