



**ENDANGERED  
WILDLIFE TRUST**  
Protecting forever, together.

## **Field Officer – Drakensberg (Landscape Protected Area Expansion and Support African Crane Conservation Project)**

### **1. Purpose of the job:**

This position will work within the ICF/EWT African Crane Conservation Program partnership, specifically focusing on protected area expansion, landscape restoration, and post-declaration support across the Drakensberg Grassland Landscape. This position will aim to expand and support South Africa's protected areas network for the benefit of people and biodiversity. This will be achieved through ground truthing and implementing the landscape-level priority plans for expanding the protected area network using the Biodiversity Stewardship approach and exploring alternative options to securing critical biodiversity habitats, improving the ecological integrity of priority sites, developing and implementing post-proclamation support, empowering land users in sustainable management practices, providing support for species monitoring, increasing awareness of and addressing key threats to biodiversity. This will all be underpinned by working closely with local communities and exploring habitat restoration opportunities across key areas. The field officer will also focus on landowner relationship development, developing management plans, and securing sustainable finance opportunities (particularly carbon offsetting projects) to unlock post-proclamation support.

### **2. Main Responsibilities and Tasks:**

- 1) Secure critically important grassland, wetland, and forest habitats for key species (including Blue, Grey-crowned, and Wattled cranes) within the northern Drakensberg in collaboration with other EWT programmes, government and NGO stakeholders, landowners, and communities.
- 2) Implement all relevant aspects of the ReLiSA project as per the project work plan and donor contract.
- 3) Collaborate with other stakeholders and NGO's working in protected areas expansion to build sustainability within the Biodiversity Stewardship Programmes.
- 4) Support the development of carbon offsetting projects as a financing mechanism for improved conservation and land management.
- 5) Support landowners, both private and communal, in drafting and implementing protected areas and species management plans to improve ecosystem/species health.
- 6) In collaboration with landowners, explore and drive restoration activities within priority sites.
- 7) Engage in education and awareness activities for species-specific conservation and sustainable land management.
- 8) Identify, participate in, and comment on development applications that could negatively impact the focal areas.
- 9) Contribute to other EWT-related conservation projects, activities, and partnerships as needed.
- 10) Assist with general progress and donor reporting.
- 11) Lead and assist with fieldwork and field expeditions.

### **3. Other Responsibilities and Tasks:**

- Lead and participate in strategic conservation planning initiatives in the target areas.
- Host meetings with landowners and develop initiatives that support habitat and species conservation processes.
- Explore additional conservation opportunities across the focal landscapes.
- Adhere to and implement the EWT Health and Safety policies, safeguards and procedures.

### ***Liaison and networking***

- Forge partnerships/relationships with relevant government departments and personnel, facilitate and coordinate landowner engagements where necessary.
- Provide regular feedback on project outcomes through presentations at relevant conferences, meetings, and workshops.
- Maintain good liaison and positive relations with EWT staff at all levels.

### ***Administration***

- Adhere to and monitor the budgets of the projects for which the person is responsible.
- Ensure timely delivery of monthly reports and workshop / conference / meeting reports.
- Maintain a high standard of administrative duties (expense claim forms, invoices, etc.).
- Care for and maintain all project assets and equipment for which they are responsible, including the project vehicle, in accordance with EWT policies.
- Implement and adhere to EWT Human Resource policies and procedures.
- Adhere to the EWT code of ethics.
- Attend meetings as required.

### ***Fundraising and marketing***

- Work closely with the Programme Manager, Senior Conservation Manager & Head of Conservation to identify funding opportunities and develop associated funding concepts and proposals, as required.
- In collaboration with the Program Manager, provide regular project updates to project sponsors and service sponsors as required.
- Ensure that all donor reports on projects for which the person is responsible are completed and submitted on time.
- Contribute to the development of regular popular articles, in collaboration with the EWT communications department, as required.

## **4. Minimum Qualifications, Experience, and Competencies:**

- A degree or diploma in Conservation Biology or an environmental science equivalent.
- 2 – 3 years' experience in working on Protected Area expansion, the biodiversity stewardship programme, and OECM's, including experience working with farmers and rural landowners.
- Qualifications and/or experience in mapping tools.
- Have strong interpersonal skills and be a very good "people person".
- Experience in project management.
- Self-driven and willing to work in remote areas and under varying environmental conditions.
- A valid driver's license and off-road driving experience

## **5. Why work for us?**

By working for one of the most effective conservation, NGOs in the region, working for the EWT offers the opportunity for growth, personal satisfaction, and fulfillment. We are a highly congenial organisation focusing on staff empowerment, individual development, and building strong relationships. This position is based in Howick or Newcastle. In accordance with EWT policies, we provide flexible working hours and arrangements, a competitive salary and benefits package aligned with our sector, and the opportunity to join a dedicated team of conservationists.

Applicants are requested to submit a CV and a detailed cover letter of motivation as to how and why they would be the best possible candidate for this position. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted within 20 days of the closing date. The EWT reserves the right not to make an appointment. All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence. **Closing date: 28 March 2025** To apply please e-mail your CV and a detailed motivation letter to [Application link](#).