



## **Socio-Ecologist: Sustainable Living Lands Project - Soutpansberg Protected Area**

### **Purpose of the job:**

The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) is one of the largest biodiversity conservation organisations in Africa, with a rich portfolio of projects and programmes across the region. The EWT seeks to employ a full-time Socio-Ecologist, primarily (but not exclusively) to implement its Sustainable Living Lands Project in the Western Soutpansberg, Limpopo Province.

The Socio-ecologist: Sustainable Living Lands (Soutpansberg Protected Area) is responsible for the implementation of community-based conservation initiatives mainly in the Soutpansberg, with contributions in Vhembe and other parts of Limpopo as required. The position requires extensive engagement and collaboration with community stakeholders and partners, including the co-development and implementation of diverse socio-ecological projects, Education for Sustainable Development, One Health, and other initiatives.

### **Main Responsibilities:**

- Implementation and coordination of the EWT's socio-ecology projects in the Western Soutpansberg and other areas of Limpopo Province as required.
- In collaboration with communities and other stakeholders, co-develop and implement strategies to improve the management of natural resources and protect biodiversity while also supporting livelihoods and human health and well-being.
- Implement and facilitate Education for Sustainability and Sport for Conservation initiatives with schools and community groups.
- Carry out administrative tasks, including funding, networking, and communications as required.
- Strengthen social cohesion, institution building, and governance of natural resources to foster collective conservation action across the landscape.
- Integrate effective monitoring and evaluation systems into project processes and ensure consistent high-quality collection, collation, and analysis of data to measure and continuously improve impact.
- Engage with communal landowners and other stakeholders on Biodiversity Stewardship and Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs).
- Support local and provincial authorities in their conservation and natural resource management mandates.
- Prepare high-quality internal and external reports as required.
- Represent The EWT and our partners in relevant fora such as conferences, symposiums, government and community meetings, and workshops.
- Facilitate and implement training as required.
- Implement and support additional EWT projects and initiatives as required.

### *Administration*

- Meet EWT and donor reporting requirements timeously and at the required standard.

- Implement administrative tasks for this and additional People in Conservation projects as and when required including, but not limited to, timely processing of financial reconciliations, procurement, and other tasks.
- Care for and maintain all project assets and equipment that the incumbent is responsible for, including project vehicles, in accordance with The EWT's policies.
- Attend and participate in monthly project management and EWT Conservation Forum meetings, as well as other events and meetings as required.
- Adhere to the EWT's policies and procedures.
- Adhere to the EWT's code of ethics.

#### **Additional duties and Responsibilities:**

- Contribute to the writing of articles and social media posts.
- Represent the EWT and our partners in relevant fora such as meetings, workshops, conferences, etc.
- Support additional EWT projects and initiatives as required.

#### **Qualifications and experience:**

##### **Essential**

- Minimum of a BSc (Honours) or BSc Honours equivalent (life or environmental sciences), but preferably at least an MSc
- 3-5 years' experience in similar projects and demonstrable track record in the development of effective socioecological projects with communities and other stakeholders
- Excellent project management skills
- Demonstrable computer literacy
- Good report writing and project administration skills
- Sound financial management experience
- Fluent in TshiVenda

##### **Desirable**

- Strong research skills
- Based in Vhembe in Limpopo province, or willing to relocate

#### **Interpersonal Skills:**

- Disciplined, reliable, and energetic
- Excellent communication and networking skills
- Independent and self-motivated, but also willing to work as part of a team

#### **Level of decision-making, including limitations:**

Implements the EWT's Sustainable Living Lands under the guidance of the Manager: People in Conservation Unit, with other EWT team members as required.

The Endangered Wildlife Trust is an equal-opportunity employer. To apply, please click the following [Application link](#). Applicants who have not been contacted within 10 working days of the closing date must please assume that their application was not successful. The EWT reserves the right not to make an appointment. All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence. **Closing Date: 21 February 2025.**