



## **Senior Conservation Manager: Drylands, Eastern Cape and Threatened Endemics**

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

The Senior Conservation Manager is responsible for directing, overseeing and providing leadership to a variety of units and landscapes, which lead the EWT's work to save species, conserve habitats, and benefit people. This position will drive the implementation of the EWT's conservation strategy, initially overseeing the Dryland and Eastern Cape Strategic Conservation Landscapes and the Threatened and Endemic Species Unit, to ensure strategic conservation impact at scale.

As a member of the EWT's Senior Management Team s/he will provide leadership, strategic direction, technical support and play an advisory role to all EWT units in all matters within her/his area of expertise and form part of the EWT's Conservation Executive (ConEx) Management Team.

### **Main Responsibilities and Tasks:**

- Foster staff by leading, mentoring, and supervising them to reach their greatest potential;
- Assist Unit and landscape managers with conservation planning and strategic thinking to sustain and grow their impact;
- Provide oversight and strategic direction for the EWT's Strategic Conservation Landscapes, especially the Drylands and Eastern Cape SCLs;
- Identify and establish strategic private and public sector partnerships and managing these relationships to ensure maximum conservation impact and effectiveness.
- Provide oversight for relevant Unit and Landscape Managers with operations, stakeholder relations and general project management, across various conservation units to ensure an efficient and effective operating environment;
- Enable, catalyze and coordinate a portfolio of work around landscape-scale conservation efforts, that demonstrate sustainable land conservation practice, biodiversity conservation, community benefits, livelihood support, climate resilience and replicability;
- Enhance innovation within units and ensure that units are resourced, through targeted project and landscape-level fundraising, and are implementing activities cost-efficiently;
- Provide relevant input into national, regional and global policies that contribute to habitat and species conservation;
- Drive contractual development with key partners and ensure all conservation work under this portfolio is implemented as per contractual obligations and conservation targets;
- Maintain regular contact with partners and sponsors, keeping them informed of activities as required, especially linked to senior government officials and community leaders;
- Spearhead fundraising efforts for the EWT and for strategic conservation work;
- Drive the EWT's protected area expansion efforts across all priority landscapes but especially within the EWTs Dryland and Eastern Cape Landscapes (including post-declaration support and protected area restoration);

### **Qualifications and experience:**

#### **Essential**

- MSc or equivalent post-graduate qualification.
- Demonstrated management experience, at least 8 years.
- Demonstrable computer literacy.
- Independent and self-motivated.
- Grant writing experience.

- Financial Management experience
- Leadership experience
- Large project oversight and management
- Conservation sector policy and best practice.
- An established network in the conservation sector across the Northern, Western and Eastern Cape
- Interpersonal Skills
- Strategic Planning

#### **Desirable**

- PhD or equivalent post-graduate qualification.
- NGO governance principles.
- Training in budget / financial management.
- Contract negotiation and management.
- Conflict Management.
- Networking Skills.

#### **Interpersonal Skills:**

- Disciplined, innovative, energetic and self-motivated.
- Excellent staff management skills.
- Excellent communication and networking skills.
- Fluency in English and ability to speak Afrikaans and at least one other relevant local language will be a distinct advantage.
- The ability to work both independently and as part of team.
- Strong people skills and an approachable manner.

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

Drives the implementation of the EWT strategy under the guidance of the EXCO. Develops project strategies in line with the EWT imperatives. Supports project management and contractual governance. Manages functional staff. Avails work plan to subordinates. Manages and develops budgets. Influences divisional and organizational strategy. Contemplates scenarios for the future and integrates with current practices. Manages role holistically based on agreed timelines. Oversees and governs targeted conservation projects. Has highly developed and independent capabilities in their field. Operates independently with minimal supervision. Builds networks and partnerships with key stakeholders. Provides leadership to staff. Manages and raises funds for the unit/s and the EWT.

#### **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 at the EWT head office in Johannesburg or the Cape Town office. Remote location may be considered. In line with EWT policies, we offer flexible working hours and arrangements, competitive salary and benefits (in line with our sector), and a chance to be part of a strong team of committed conservationists.

Applicants are requested to submit a CV and a detailed cover letter 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 24 November 2025.** To apply please e-mail your CV and a detailed motivation letter to [Application link](#).