ENDANGERED
WILDLIFE TRUST
Protecting forever, together.

Senior Field Officer – Dwarf Tortoise Project Vacancy

PURPOSE OF THE POSITION:

The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) is one of the largest biodiversity conservation non-profit organisations in southern Africa. The Conservation Senior Field Officer will provide leadership, scientific expertise, and operational support for core conservation initiatives across a diverse landscape that includes the Succulent Karoo, Hantam Karoo and Klein Karoo. The incumbent must be Afrikaans fluent, have a valid driver's licence and willing to live within the focal area.

The incumbent will play a key role in the planning, implementation, and management of landscape-scale conservation work, providing technical and scientific support for Dwarf tortoise conservation activities. Responsibilities will include the development and implementation of field survey and data collection protocols; biodiversity monitoring and GIS analyses; species research; habitat management; assisting with conservation genetic sample collection; initiating landscape restoration initiatives; preparation of public, technical, and scientific reports and publications; environmental education and public presentations; mentorship; administrative and operational coordination; and facilitate potential biodiversity stewardship. The position will support the implementation of integrated conservation management actions designed to reduce threats to vulnerable species, improve habitat condition, and promote species specific research.

The position will require close collaboration with landowners, conservation partners, government agencies, research institutions, and local communities to implement evidence-based conservation interventions and support stewardship objectives across the landscape.

The Drylands SCL requires a motivated and adaptable individual who is comfortable working both independently and within multidisciplinary teams, with a strong commitment to applied conservation science. Extensive fieldwork and travel throughout the project landscape will be required from time to time.

Responsibilities and tasks:

Strategy & Planning

- Managing project tracking and monitoring and developing a Portfolio of Evidence for projects
- Identify conservation opportunities, risks, and threats across DSCL.
- Assist in continuously refining and Drylands strategy.
- Stay informed about external developments (e.g., mining, renewable energy) that may affect key habitats or projects.
- Assist by making key contributions to better conservation in practice during EWT events, internal Drylands meetings and external interactions.

Field Work/Support Service duties

- General project and landscape implementation and duties
- Conduct biodiversity surveys (reptiles, and other taxa) in focal areas to document species and inform conservation action.
- Implement habitat and species monitoring programmes for Dwarf Tortoise species.
- Assist with data collection, analysis, and updating databases in collaboration with the EWT's Conservation Planning Science Unit, collaborators and funders.
- Identify and support the protection of priority conservation areas.
- Develop and implement species-specific guidelines and best-practice mitigation plans.

Mentorship & Coaching

- Mentoring field assistance, new employees and volunteers working within the project scope.
- Assist with planning and coordination of field teams and volunteers
- Support team to manage possible core areas of all relevant species of conservation concern to ensure threat, species and landscapes are well understood.
- Assisting other team members on projects and activities where needed.

Liaison and Networking

- Build and maintain relationships with conservation partners, NGOs, universities, government departments, and landowners.
- Participate in conservation forums, stakeholder meetings, and EWT events.
- Provide accurate communication and extension services to stakeholders during biodiversity and monitoring projects.
- Promote the Biodiversity Stewardship approach to all engaged partners.
- Promote the EWT's professional reputation and mission through collaboration and engagement.
- Provide accurate information for use as part of EWT media campaigns and social media.

Fundraising & Communication

- Contribute to funding proposal development and identify new funding opportunities.
- Provide regular updates to sponsors and funders, ensuring reports are submitted on time
- Submitting donor reports as per contract deadlines.
- Assist where needed with other donor reporting outside core projects.
- Contribute to communication outputs such as newsletters, media content, and awareness campaigns

Research

- Leading project scientific planning including DNA collection, habitat assessments, camera trapping and scientific expeditions.
- Implement and update EWT data capturing tools for DCP datasets.
- Collaborate with universities and partners to facilitate student fieldwork and biodiversity data collection.

Administration

- Adhere to all project budgets.
- Ensure timely delivery of monthly reports and any other relevant reports.
- Maintain a high standard of administrative duties (expense claim forms, invoices, etc.).
- Care for and maintain all project assets and equipment for which s/he is responsible, including project vehicles if relevant, in accordance with EWT's policies.
- Always promote a positive EWT image.
- Maintain good liaison and positive relations with the EWT staff at all levels.

Qualifications

- MSc in a conservation discipline is essential
- Position desires minimum of 1-3 years Herpetological background experience
- Remote work environment; 1-3 years' experience is desirable
- Fluency in Afrikaans is essential
- Driver's Licence is vital

Level of decision-making, including limitations:

This position falls under the **C-3** band in the EWT chosen grading system. The incumbent operates within company policy, subject to support by a dedicated line manager. Consequences of failure will impact internally and externally. Implement strategy within the program under the guidance of the Chief Conservation Officer. Jobs in this grade are characterized by responsibility for a relatively complex body of either Landscape/project work or significant operational areas where the organization relies on the judgment of the incumbent. The work is subject to supervision, but the incumbent may supervise others in the same area of work. Incumbents in this grade contribute to the organization's strategic understanding of their area of expertise. Consequences of failure will impact internally and, on the organization's, external credibility. Reports to line managers (D or E), produce results against agreed targets. Initiates change to improve Landscape / project processes. Responsible for who, how and support by availing resources for organizational effectiveness.

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 fulfilment. We are a highly congenial organisation focusing on staff empowerment, individual development, and building strong relationships. This position will be based in the Northern Cape. 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 for applications 02 November 2026. To apply please e-mail your CV to Application link. Applicants who will not have heard from the Endangered Wildlife Trust by 14 November 2026, should consider their application unsuccessful.