



Extension Officer needed for the Overberg Lowlands Conservation Trust

The Overberg Lowlands Conservation Trust (OLCT) is looking for an Extension Officer for a three-year contract. The incumbent should be based / prepared to be based in Bredasdorp or Napier, be able to work independently, have his/her own transport and laptop, and have access to internet. Ideally, this will be a person who would like to grow with the OLCT as we develop and expand our organisation.

Brief job description:

This position forms part of a new project within the OLCT, funded by the Nedbank Green Trust. Our work focuses primarily on renosterveld conservation on privately-owned land in the Overberg. This new project titled 'Watercourse restoration and conservation in the Overberg Rûens' focuses on the critical linkages / corridors between important renosterveld remnants, with a focus on watercourses. Our area of operation stretches from Botrivier to Heidelberg and falls between the Riviersonderend-Langeberg mountains in the north and the Napier-Bredasdorp mountains in the south (i.e. it encompasses the Overberg wheat-belt). Thus, the incumbent must be willing and able to travel regularly.

Responsibilities include:

- *Easement(Stewardship)-related duties:* including undertaking site assessments on relevant properties, negotiating Easement Contracts, reporting back to landowners with detailed photographic and mapping reports, assisting with the legal processes involved with getting signing-up Easements.
- *Managing restoration interventions:* liaising with landowners who are formally involved in the project, managing restoration interventions (which includes labour teams, collecting material, coordinating with landowners) and setting up permanent monitoring plots and fixed-point photography sites (towards research and long-term monitoring).
- *Creating awareness amongst landowners and other important partners / stakeholders:* giving presentations to farmer's associations, attending and presenting at agricultural shows, expos and holding farmers' field days.
- *Additional responsibilities:* identifying and contributing towards commenting on development proposals that may have a direct impact on renosterveld conservation in the Rûens wheat belt, contributing towards growing the OLCT's network and stakeholder databases, assisting landowners with management advice when requested / appropriate.
- The incumbent will often work collaboratively with partnership projects (e.g. Better Beer Better Barley project with SAB/WWF, CapeNature, LandCare, BGCMA), a PhD student and others in the region.

Skills profile required:

Educational requirements: Minimum: Diploma in Nature Conservation

Experience: Minimum 3-5 years in the field of extension / stewardship – related work.

Skills requirements:

- Confident speaker (with regards presentations, as you will be doing several presentations to farmers' associations, etc.)
- Good spoken and written communications skills
- Fluent in Afrikaans and English
- Computer literate in all Office programmes (Word, Excel, etc.), internet use and email
- Excellent interpersonal skills (you will be working with a variety of stakeholders including landowners, government officials and researchers)
- GIS / mapping experience
- Able to work independently
- Good field biologist
- *Personal characteristics:* passionate about conservation, disciplined, innovative, patient, dependable, honest, willing to learn and grow.

Remuneration:

Package negotiable depending on experience and qualifications.

Please send a cover letter and a BRIEF (2 page max) CV to admin@overbergrenosterveld.org.za by 10th August 2015. For further information, please contact Odette Curtis on 083 551 3341 or email info@overbergrenosterveld.org.za.

Please include the contact details of 3 recent contactable references.

Please note:

- Remuneration will be based on experience and will be all-inclusive.
- Preference will be given to South Africans
- More information about our organisation can be found on our website: www.overbergrenosterveld.org.za