



INTERNAL & EXTERNAL ADVERT

DESIGNATION: PARK ECOLOGIST HLUHLUWE-IMFOLOZI PARK

GRADE: OSD SCIENTIST (PRODUCTION) GRADE C

UNIT: SCIENTIFIC SERVICES

POST NO. 520307

TOTAL REMUNERATION PACKAGE: R976 029.00 per annum

The KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Board, trading as Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, is a PFMA Schedule 3C public entity established in terms of the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Management Act (Act No. 9 of 1997).

THE ENTITY

The entity is responsible for the management of nature conservation within the Province of KwaZulu-Natal including protected areas as well as development and promotion of ecotourism and facilities within the protected areas. Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife wishes to appoint a suitable candidate into the position of Park Ecologist.

PURPOSE OF THE JOB

The Park Ecologist Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park (HiP) will lead a team that provides ecological and scientific advice and information to support decision making for the conservation management of biodiversity within HiP and the Park zone of influence/buffer zone. The team conducts research and monitoring to address key biodiversity management issues, acts as a bridge between science and management by sourcing and interpreting scientific information for managers and policy-makers, identifies and prioritises management research needs and facilitates activities of external scientists conducting management-oriented research.

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

Based at Hluhluwe Research Centre in HiP, the area of responsibility for the Park Ecologist HiP will primarily be inside the Park, while also including work in the buffer zone adjacent to the Park, but undertaking work in other parts of the East-Region in support of the regional team may be required from time to time.

QUALIFICATION:

- Minimum of a MSc. in Ecology, Conservation Biology, Biological Sciences or equivalent is mandatory.
- A Ph.D. in Ecology, Conservation Biology, Biological Sciences or equivalent is preferred.
- Must qualify to register as a Professional Natural Scientist with SACNASP.
- Valid B Drivers licence is mandatory.

EXPERIENCE:

- Minimum of five years' experience in providing scientific decision support and advice within the field of conservation.
- minimum of three years' experience in undertaking research and/or biological monitoring (i.e. demonstrated experience in research and monitoring methodology and statistics). Knowledge and experience of the ecosystems of KwaZulu-Natal, and specifically those within HiP is highly desirable.
- Minimum of two years of staff management and administration experience.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Advise the Park management team on conservation management issues.
- Manage, conduct and facilitate priority research, surveys and monitoring.

- Develop species and ecosystem monitoring plans.
- Supervise and contribute to staff development (mentoring and facilitation of training).
- Develop and maintain biodiversity databases and spatial information systems.
- Produce reports, information synthesis and publications.
- Promote scientific studies that enhance understanding of ecosystem functioning.
- Contribute to development of protected areas and focal species management plans.
- Contribute to development of organisational policies and strategic plans to promote management effectiveness.
- Maintain good communications and relationships with donors, funders and partners.
- Manage a budget for the section.

COMPETENCIES REQUIRED

- A good understanding of ecological processes and functioning of savanna ecosystems, and ability to translate this understanding into management advice for protected areas and conservation programmes.
- Sound knowledge of scientific methods, field ecology research and monitoring methods.
- Ability to conduct scoping reports and comment on Environmental Impact Assessments.
- Excellent data analysis, report writing and presentation skills.
- High level of proficiency in spreadsheet, database and GIS software.
- High level of proficiency in data management.
- High level of general computer literacy.
- Good communication, inter-personal and management skills.
- Strong organizational ability and planning skills.
- Strong mentoring, training and motivational skills.
- Knowledge of Biodiversity Conservation related legislation and PFMA.

ACCOMMODATION

Housing: Will be provided at a nominal rental.

DIRECTIONS TO APPLYING CANDIDATES:

The following **mandatory documents** must be submitted.

- Fully completed Ezemvelo Application Form for Employment (available from <http://www.kznwildlife.com/careers>)
- Applications without Ezemvelo Application Form and incomplete forms **will not** be considered.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be required to submit certified application supporting documents, including qualifications certificates, Driver's License, Identity Document (ID) etc.

The appointment to the post is subject to a positive outcome obtained from all verifications in relation to the position advertised.

Applicants are encouraged to apply for posts through the KZN online e-Recruitment system at www.kznonline.gov.za/kznjobs or submit their Ezemvelo application form directly to the following email address recruitments@kznwildlife.com.

Applicants may also visit any KZN Department's and Public Entity's Designated Online Application Centres (DOACs) where staff will assist you with applying for jobs on the KZN online e-Recruitment system or receiving your hardcopy application.

You can find the list of Designated Online Application Centers (DOACS) at www.kznonline.gov.za/kznjobs.

Please note that applicants should only use one of the following methods when applying for a post:

- either through the online e-Recruitment system USING EZEMVELO APPLICATION FORM,
- emailing Ezemvelo application form directly to recruitments@kznwildlife.com
- submit a hardcopy application to one of the Designated Online Application Centres (DOACS)

For any queries relating to this job-application please contact Recruitment Office on **033 845 1761** during office hours.

Closing Date: 31 October 2025

Applications received after the closing date will **not** be considered. Applicants not contacted within 30 days of the advertisement closing date should consider their applications unsuccessful. Selection will be made in terms of the Organization's Employment Equity Plan and Preference will be given to members of designated groups. Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife reserves the right not to make the appointment towards this post.