



INTERNAL & EXTERNAL ADVERT

DESIGNATION: DISTRICT ECOLOGIST SOUTH WEST

GRADE: SCIENTIST (PRODUCTION) GRADE C

PROGRAMME: ECOLOGICAL ADVICE

POST NO: 706004

TOTAL REMUNERATION PACKAGE: R 976 029.00 p/a

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 the development and promotion of ecotourism and facilities within the protected areas. Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife wishes to appoint suitable candidate for the position of District Ecologist South West.

PURPOSE OF THE JOB:

The District Ecologist South West will provide ecological and scientific advice and information to support conservation decision-making within the Harry Gwala District Municipality in southern KZN. The ecologist 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, contributes to protected area and species management plans, guides protected area expansion, identifies and prioritises management research needs, and facilitates activities of external scientists conducting management-oriented research.

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY:

Based at the West Regional Office at Midmar, the area of responsibility for the District Ecologist South West will primarily be the Harry Gwala District Municipality (protected areas, buffer zones, biodiversity in general), but may include other District Municipalities, and will undertake work in other parts of the province in support of conservation and monitoring activities.

QUALIFICATION:

- Minimum of a MSc. in Ecology, Conservation Biology, Biological Sciences or relevant equivalent is mandatory.
- A PhD in Ecology, Conservation Biology, Biological Sciences or relevant equivalent is preferred.
- Must be able to 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,
- A 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 the grassland and forest biomes is highly desirable.

- Minimum of two years of staff management and administration experience is desirable.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Advise regional management and conservation managers on conservation management issues.
- Manage, conduct and facilitate priority research and biological 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 the development of protected areas and focal species management plans.
- Contribute to the development of organisational policies and strategic plans to promote management effectiveness.
- Maintain good communications and relationships with donors, funders and partners.

COMPETENCIES REQUIRED

- A good understanding of ecological processes and functioning of grassland and forest 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.
- Excellent data analysis, report writing and presentation skills.
- High level of proficiency in spreadsheet, database and GIS software.
- High level of proficiency in attribute and spatial data management and analysis.
- High level of general computer literacy.
- Good communication, interpersonal and management skills.
- Strong organisational ability and planning skills.
- Strong mentoring, training and motivational skills.
- Willingness and enthusiasm to travel and stay overnight while undertaking functions.

ACCOMMODATION

Housing: No housing provided

DIRECTIONS TO APPLYING CANDIDATES:

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

- a) Fully completed Ezemvelo Application Form for Employment (available from <http://www.kznwildlife.com/careers>)
- b) Applications without Ezemvelo Application Form and incomplete forms **will not** be considered.
- c) 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.