



VACANT POSITION: PART-TIME ADVOCACY OFFICER

BirdLife South Africa (BLSA), with its head office in Johannesburg, South Africa, is one of the largest, most active, non-governmental conservation organisations in South Africa.

BLSA is the South African Partner of BirdLife International, which operates through partners in over 120 countries and territories worldwide. The BirdLife Partnership is the leading and internationally-acclaimed authority on the status of birds, their habitats, and the issues and problems affecting birds. BirdLife South Africa has special links with the BirdLife partners in Africa, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in the United Kingdom.

BLSA is looking for a qualified, dedicated and dynamic person to fill the position of part-time Advocacy Officer in the Policy and Advocacy Programme. The ideal candidate would have a strong understanding of South African environmental law and policy, have experience in reviewing and commenting on environmental authorisation applications, and be a strategic and proactive individual with a passion for conservation.

This part-time, contracted position will commence as soon as possible and end on 31 December 2022, with the potential for extension beyond this period should funding allow. The position will require the person to commit to 16 hours per week – which may be scheduled as either two full days or four half days per week. A probationary period of three months will be undertaken in which performance will be reviewed.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Advocacy Officer's primary responsibilities will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Manage the general casework system for BLSA – including by screening development applications for the potential need for comments by BLSA; coordinating BLSA's responses to development applications and authorisations which threaten priority species and habitats; and ensuring that these responses are adequately recorded and stored.
- Assist the BLSA Policy and Advocacy Programme Manager with working to integrate conservation objectives into relevant laws and policies, and in the development of guidance documents aimed at strengthening the environmental authorisation process.
- Provide policy and advocacy support and work collaboratively across BLSA's conservation programmes.

INHERENT REQUIREMENTS

Inherent requirements for the position are:

- A relevant Bachelor's degree, e.g. in law or natural sciences.
- A strong understanding of environmental law and stakeholder engagement in South Africa, including working knowledge of the environmental impact assessment process.
- Working knowledge of Geographic Information Systems.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with fluency in English.
- Skilful use of the Microsoft Office suite.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Knowledge of Africa's birds and the main threats to birds and their habitats.
- Proven analytical skills in order to address advocacy cases in a prioritised and efficient manner.

- Confidence, self-discipline and self-motivation.
- Proactive and innovative.
- Code 8 driver's licence.

GENERAL

BirdLife South Africa's head office is at Isdell House in Dunkeld West, Johannesburg. However, remote working from elsewhere in South Africa is possible for this position, depending on the successful candidate's circumstances. In this case, BLSA would provide the necessary logistical support.

The Advocacy Officer will report to the Policy and Advocacy Programme Manager.

REMUNERATION

Salary: BirdLife South Africa offers a salary which is commensurate with the position and responsibilities. The salary information is available on request. For any further enquiries, please feel free to contact BLSA's HR Manager, Dr Isabel Human, at isabel.human@birdlife.org.za.

Fringe benefits: BirdLife South Africa only offers comprehensive group life insurance.

INTERVIEW

Interview: Successful applicants will be required to attend interviews via Zoom.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applicants are to submit:

- A detailed *curriculum vitae* with three contactable referees (recent).
- Copies of qualifications (please provide the SAQA accreditation in the case of foreign qualifications).
- A list of your publications and other achievements (if applicable).
- A copy of the applicant's identity document.
- A motivation as to how the applicant sees his/her role in this post.

Please note:

- All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence. Communication will be limited to shortlisted candidates only. Should you not be contacted within six weeks of the closing date for applications, you may assume that your application was unsuccessful.
- BirdLife South Africa reserves the right not to make an appointment.
- BirdLife South Africa subscribes to and applies the principles prescribed by the Employment Equity Act. Preference will be given to candidates from designated groups, in accordance with the principles of the aforementioned act and the employee profile of the specific programme.

Assumption of duties: As soon as possible.

Closing date: 17 September 2021.

To apply please e-mail your CV, motivation, and other supporting documents (listed above) to BirdLife South Africa's HR Manager, Dr Isabel Human, at isabel.human@birdlife.org.za with the subject title 'Advocacy Officer'.

For further information regarding the work of the Policy and Advocacy Programme and the nature of this position, please feel free to contact Dr Melissa Lewis, Policy and Advocacy Programme Manager, at melissa.lewis@birdlife.org.za.