



## VACANCY

### **Red Data Book Content and Data Specialist (fixed term contract)**

BirdLife South Africa (BLSA), in collaboration with the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), is seeking a dedicated Red Data Book Content and Data Specialist for a one-year contract. This role offers a unique opportunity to contribute to avian conservation by developing an online Red Data Book for Birds of South Africa, Lesotho, and Eswatini. Working alongside BLSA data scientists, the successful candidate will play a critical role in synthesising up-to-date text accounts for each bird species. This involves collating data on extent of occurrence, area of occupancy, population trends, population size, species-specific threats, and overall conservation status. The aim is to create comprehensive accounts that will inform and guide conservation management strategies for the region's bird species.

### **Primary Responsibilities**

The primary responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Manage and enrich a database of South African bird species for the red listing process.
- Collaborate with bird species experts to gather and integrate information for the Red Data Book.
- Synthesize current knowledge of bird species to update an online portal with accurate species information.
- Assist in drafting and editing species accounts, including sourcing relevant photographs and narratives.
- Support the Science and Innovation Programme through effective communication strategies, including social media engagement.
- Attend meetings with the Seabird Conservation Programme and Science and Innovation Programme, documenting discussions and action items.
- Engage with bird clubs, conservation agencies, and other stakeholders to present project updates and findings.
- Contribute to project reports, updates, and documentation on a regular basis.

### **Inherent Requirements**

**Inherent requirements** for the position are:

- Degree in Ecology, Conservation Biology, Environmental Science, or a related field.
- Strong skills in technical writing and data management.
- Proficiency in spreadsheet software and basic web development skills.
- Experience in ecological data synthesis and database management.
- Deep understanding and passion for bird conservation.

## Recommendations

Additional qualifications that would be beneficial:

- Track record of publications, demonstrating experience in writing and communication.
- Prior involvement in conservation projects, especially Red List assessments.
- Skills in science communication, digital content creation and social media management.
- Excellent communication skills and the ability to work independently and collaboratively in a remote environment.

## GENERAL

The successful candidate will report to BLSA's Science and Innovation Programme Manager.

The position is ideally based at BLSA's Head office (Isdell House, 17 Hume Road, Dunkeld West) in Johannesburg, but other locations will be considered.

The nature of the position requires the incumbent to sometimes work afterhours and over weekends and, at times, may involve extensive travel.

## REMUNERATION

**Salary:** BLSA 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 the BLSA's HR Manager, Dr Isabel Human at [isabel.human@birdlife.org.za](mailto:isabel.human@birdlife.org.za)

## INTERVIEW

**Interview:** Successful applicants will be required to attend interviews in Johannesburg or via Zoom.

The selection process may involve a task to verify skills and competencies.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

**Applicants are to submit:**

- A detailed curriculum vitae with three contactable referees.
- Copies of qualifications (please provide the SAQA accreditation in the case of foreign qualifications).
- A list of publications and other achievements.
- A copy of the applicant's identity document.
- A covering letter.

**Please note:**

- All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence. BLSA subscribes to and apply the principles of the Protection of Personal Information Act.
- 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.

- BLSA reserves the right not to make an appointment.
- BLSA 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:** 20 January 2024

**To apply** please e-mail your CV and motivation to Dr Isabel Human, BirdLife South Africa's HR Manager at [isabel.human@birdlife.org.za](mailto:isabel.human@birdlife.org.za) with the subject title Red Data Book Content and Data Specialist position.

**For further information**, contact **Dr Alan Lee**, Science and Innovation Programme Manager, BirdLife South Africa, at [alan.lee@birdlife.org.za](mailto:alan.lee@birdlife.org.za)