



## VACANCY

### Science and Spatial Planning Project Manager

**BirdLife South Africa** is seeking a qualified and dedicated Science and Spatial Planning Project Manager to lead national, regional, and local spatial and conservation planning projects. This role is integral to supporting the Science and Innovation Programme at BirdLife South Africa, focusing on maintaining spatial conservation databases, analysing citizen science data and tracking data, and coordinating local conservation projects. The ideal candidate should have a strong background in spatial science, be innovative, possess administrative and leadership skills, be a team player, and have a deep commitment to conservation.

The Science and Spatial Planning Project Manager will embrace BirdLife South Africa's vision and mission (detailed at <https://www.birdlife.org.za/who-we-are/about/>) and work collaboratively with regional and international organisations to advance conservation efforts. This role involves significant contributions to the second Southern African Bird Atlas Project, use of BirdLasser data, and assistance with the regional Red Listing of birds. Additionally, the manager will play a pivotal role in using remote sensing layers and tools to create habitat suitability models and support land management within Key Biodiversity Areas and Protected Areas.

BirdLife South Africa, based in Johannesburg, South Africa, is one of the largest, most active, non-governmental conservation organisations in South Africa.

BirdLife South Africa is the South African partner of BirdLife International, which operates through partners in various countries and territories worldwide. The BirdLife Partnership is the world's largest conservation partnership and the internationally acclaimed authority on the status of birds, their habitats, and the issues affecting their survival. BirdLife South Africa has special links with the BirdLife partners in Africa, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in the UK.

### Primary Responsibilities

The primary responsibilities of the Science and Spatial Planning Project Manager include, but are not limited to:

- Supporting the Southern African Bird Atlas Project and BirdLasser, utilising data for conservation and science.
- Assisting with data analysis pipelines and ecological modelling for scientific research.
- Assist landscape conservation programmes by developing remote sensing layers and tools for conservation spatial planning.
- Assist species conservation programmes by developing habitat suitability models.
- Analyse and present bird tracking data for science and conservation

- Supporting the revision and publication of the regional Red List and assist global Red Listing with BirdLife International.
- Overseeing data management, collation, and synthesis for BirdLife South Africa’s conservation data repository.
- Maintaining the BirdLife South Africa checklist of birds and managing the Annotated Bird Checklist Series.
- Providing policy and advocacy support through GIS mapping and collaboration with government and non-government organisations.
- Engaging in fundraising activities to secure resources for planned projects.
- Liaising and communicating with the media regarding BirdLife South Africa’s Science and Innovation Programme.

### Inherent Requirements

**Inherent requirements** for the position are:

- An MSc or PhD degree in Ecology, Geography, Spatial Planning, Conservation Biology, or a related field.
- Strong background in ecological modelling, statistical analysis, and GIS.
- Proven experience with remote sensing techniques or related tools e.g. Google Earth Engine
- Proficiency in R or Python for data analysis and modelling.  
*(these skills may be tested during the selection process)*
- Knowledge of bird species and their conservation needs in South Africa.
- Excellent communication and presentation skills.
- A valid driver’s license, necessary for fieldwork or travel.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Ability to engage with various stakeholders, including the scientific community, conservation practitioners, and the general public.

### Recommendations

Additional qualifications that would be beneficial for the Science and Spatial Planning Project Manager position:

- Track record of scientific publications, demonstrating experience in research and dissemination of findings.
- Experience in fundraising and grant writing, with superior communication skills in English (both written and spoken) as well as proficiency in graphical communication.
- Proven ability to multi-task, problem solve, prioritise, and delegate effectively, indicating strong organisational and leadership skills.
- Experience analysing movement or telemetry data.
- Formal training or experience in project management.
- Familiarity with conservation policies, legislation, and planning frameworks in South Africa, which is crucial for informed decision-making and strategy development.
- Skilful use of the Microsoft Office suite, indicating proficiency in essential office software.
- Willingness to travel both locally and internationally, showcasing flexibility and adaptability in various working environments.

## GENERAL

The successful candidate will report to BirdLife South Africa's Science and Innovation Programme Manager.

The position is ideally based at BirdLife South Africa'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:** 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 the BirdLife South Africa HR Manager, Dr Isabel Human at [isabel.human@birdlife.org.za](mailto:isabel.human@birdlife.org.za)

**Fringe benefits:** BirdLife South Africa provides comprehensive group life insurance.

## 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 cover letter.

**Please note:**

- All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence. BirdLife South Africa 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.
- 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:** 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 “**Science and Spatial Planning Project Manager 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)