

# VACANCY

The National Museum, Bloemfontein invites applications for the following position:

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## **MUSEUM SCIENTIST (HERPETOLOGY)**

The National Museum, situated in the heart of Bloemfontein in the Free State Province of South Africa, is widely regarded as one of the best managed and administered museums in Africa. The Herpetology Department was established in the 1970s and houses a large collection of preserved reptiles and amphibians, mostly from southern Africa, but also from other parts of the continent. Apart from curating this collection, the Department also conducts research in a variety of fields, including systematics and biogeography.

The Department seeks an honest, dedicated and motivated individual who can work independently when required, but who is also willing to work in a team when necessary. Although some assistance will be provided, the successful applicant will be expected to independently plan and conduct field work, to have the necessary skills to conduct research, analyse the results, and prepare reports and manuscripts for publication, all within a reasonable period of time. He/she would also be expected to assist on a regular basis with curatorial work - including identification and accessioning of new material, and to take part in various other museum activities as and when required.

In recent times, collaboration between museum researchers and molecular scientists has contributed considerably towards the advancement of reptile and amphibian systematics. Therefore, although it is not a pre-requisite for the post, applicants with experience in molecular techniques, and who are prepared to combine this with morphological work, will be considered favourably.

### *Requirements*

- Minimum of an M.Sc degree in Zoology
- An interest in reptiles and amphibians, and more specifically in systematics and biogeographic studies
- The ability to work on repetitive tasks for extended periods without compromising standards and with minimal supervision
- Good inter-personal skills and the ability to work within a research team
- Computer literacy (GIS mapping skills would be an advantage)
- Willingness to actively apply for outside research funding
- A valid driver's license

### *Key performance areas*

- Publication of research results in accredited scientific journals
- Curation of reptile and amphibian collections
- Contributions towards public awareness and conservation of reptiles and amphibians by means of public lectures, popular articles, participation at meetings, etc.

**Closing date: 15 February 2013.**

Benefits: Generous leave, medical aid, 13<sup>th</sup> cheque.

Application forms available from the National Museum or at [www.nasmus.co.za](http://www.nasmus.co.za) under Vacancies.

Enquires: 051- 4479609 or [hr@nasmus.co.za](mailto:hr@nasmus.co.za)

**The National Museum is an equal opportunity employer**

If the National Museum has not contacted applicants within four weeks of the closing date, please consider application unsuccessful.