



SOUTH AFRICA



# ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS 2025 GRADUATE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

© Danie Nel / WWF South Africa

**Gain valuable experience, network in professional communities of practice and participate in meaningful work for the environment.**

If you have graduated in the natural, legal, engineering, arts, business or social sciences, we invite you to apply for an internship with WWF South Africa's 2025 Environmental Leaders Graduate Internship Programme.

WWF (the World Wide Fund for Nature) is a leading global environmental organisation with a vision of a future in which people and nature thrive. To realise this vision, WWF South Africa invests in the development of future leaders for the environment through a year-long graduate internship placement, from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. Interns are placed within WWF South Africa's Environmental Programme and partner organisations associated with our work. Working with a dedicated and trained mentor, you will have an opportunity to get involved with the work of the organisation with which you are placed and interact with professionals pursuing the same vision of a better world for all.

## To apply you would ideally have

---

- Completed a post graduate degree in the natural, legal, engineering, arts, business and/or social sciences. First degree graduates are considered only in the case of exceptional academic achievement.
- A commitment to career development in the environment sector.
- A demonstrated and clearly articulated commitment to a better and sustainable world for all.
- A record of exceptional academic and professional achievement.
- Exceptional leadership potential.
- Southern African citizenship.

**To support the growth of inclusivity and diversity in the environment sector, Black South African graduates are strongly encouraged to apply.**

## To submit an application

---

- [Download](#) and complete the application form.
- Review the placement opportunities below and then motivate for your three preferred placements, in the application form.
- Attach the following documents to support your application:
  - Certified copy of your ID or passport.
  - Certified copy/copies of your academic transcripts only. Certificates need not be included.
  - An abridged CV of no more than 2 pages.
- Please merge these documents and save using your name and surname as the file name. Do not submit any additional documentation with your application, other than those specified.
- Submit your completed application, with supporting documentation, by [email](#) to Mrs Lameez Bayat-Janson at WWF South Africa.

**Deadline: 16:00 on Friday 30 August 2024**

No late applications will be considered.

*WWF South Africa cannot guarantee placement but will endeavour to place interns in an opportunity relevant to their academic background and career interest.*

*Communication will be entered into with shortlisted candidates only. Should you have had no response from our offices by 15 January 2025, please consider your application unsuccessful.*

# 2025 INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## Agricultural Scientists

study commercial plants, animals and cultivation techniques to enhance the productivity of farms and agricultural industries.

## Climate Change Scientists

evaluate scientific data and carry out research on the climate to create predictive models of likely changes in the Earth's climate, and identify concomitant impacts on natural ecosystems and civilisation.

## Conservation Scientists

perform tests and experiments, and provide technical support functions to assist Environmental Scientists and Technologists in research and teaching.

## Ecologists

develop and implement programmes and regulations for the protection of fish, wildlife and other natural resources.

## Environmental Journalists

report on issues related to society and the environment, including their causes, impacts and possible solutions.

## Environmental Lawyers

focus on litigation to do with a broad range of environmental concerns including air and water quality; climate change; land use and agricultural issues; parks, game reserves and wilderness preservation; and wildlife and biodiversity protection, as well as problems concerned with resource extraction and transportation, plus chemicals, pesticides and waste disposal.

## Environmental Research Scientists

study and develop policies and plans for the control of factors which may produce pollution, imbalance or degradation of the environment.

## Geneticists

study the anatomy, physiology and characteristics of living organisms and isolated biological molecules, and develop new materials for applying to a range of purposes.

## GIS Technicians

assist Scientists, Technologists or related professionals in building, maintaining, modifying or using geographic information system (GIS) databases. May also perform some custom application development or provide user support.

## Landscape Architects

plan and design areas for projects such as open space networks, parks, schools, institutions, roads, external areas for all building types and land subdivisions, as well as for commercial, industrial and residential sites.

## Life Science Technicians

identify and collect living organisms, and conduct field and laboratory studies in support of Life Scientists and Technologists.

## Marine Biologists

study the anatomy, physiology, functions, characteristics, behaviour and environments of all forms of life living in the sea and connected water bodies.

## Plant Taxonomists

study the anatomy, physiology, biochemistry and ecology of plants.

## Policy Analysts

collect and analyse information and data to produce intelligence for public or private sector organisations to support planning, operations and human resource functions.

## AGRICULTURAL SCIENTIST

### Living Lands

Joubertina

Living Lands' work spans across a wide variety of disciplines and they adapt to the community they work within. Living Lands provide practical support to farmers, enable implementation of large-scale ecological rehabilitation projects, assist with information flow between role players, and explore new opportunities in the agricultural-ecological interface.

*The intern will be required to work on a variety of tasks related to ecological restoration, veld management and regenerative agriculture.*

*Work areas include data collection and site assessments, desktop research, report writing and GIS mapping.*

## CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENTIST

### South African National Parks

Cape Town

South African National Parks (SANParks) manages a network of 19 national parks, covering more than four million hectares, to conserve biodiversity by strengthening the national and global conservation estate. SANParks effectively manages ecosystems, species and cultural heritage resources and promotes equitable and sustainable use of biological resources.

*The intern will support and assist with climate change research and management planning in national parks across the country.*

*Work areas include supporting vulnerability assessments of biodiversity and climate change monitoring, as well as literature reviews and administrative support.*

### WILDTRUST

Pietermaritzburg

WILDTRUST is a non-profit, non-governmental and public welfare organisation. It pursues the realisation of its vision of "A thriving and resilient world" through two core programmes: WILDLANDS and WILDOCEANS. They respect the inter-connectedness of all things and are working to bring humankind and nature back into balance by reducing the impact of humanity, while providing opportunities for people and nature to thrive.

*The intern will assess threats to seasonal wetlands and engage with community members. They will also work on the soil carbon assessment for potential carbon credits.*

*Work areas include developing materials for training, implementing citizen science activities, and providing logistical support and team administration.*

### WWF South Africa

Cape Town

WWF's vision is a future in which people and nature thrive working toward lasting positive outcomes for people and nature in the places where we work.

*The intern will be working with WWF's climate and energy team to facilitate interaction with a large set of stakeholders to drive national ambition in energy planning towards net-zero emissions by 2050. Engaging with technical experts, civil society, government and business through workshops, innovative outreach and communications, the intern will assist WWF's push to shift South Africa to a more equitable and low-carbon future.*

*Work areas include research, stakeholder engagement and administrative tasks.*

## CONSERVATION SCIENTIST

### South African National Biodiversity Institute

Cape Town

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) manages and conserves biological diversity giving effect to ratified international agreements and providing for co-operative governance in biodiversity management and conservation.

*The intern will coordinate the compilation of data for an entire taxon group to quantify genetic indicators and contribute to the analysis of this data for national reporting.*

*Work areas include genetic diversity, species assessments, conservation and monitoring, and reporting.*

---

## TRAFFIC

Pretoria

TRAFFIC is an international non-governmental organisation working to ensure that trade in wild animals and plants is not a threat to the conservation of nature. They actively monitor and investigate wildlife trade and provide information for effective conservation policies and programmes.

*The intern will assist in the implementation of several TRAFFIC projects, with a strong focus on trade in timber, specifically working on timber identification techniques (e.g. DNA, DART and anatomical).*

*Work areas include support in research, scientific writing, stakeholder engagement and administration.*

---

## ECOLOGIST

### South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity

Makhanda

The South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB) is an internationally recognised centre for the study of aquatic biodiversity. SAIAB undertakes research to understand aquatic biodiversity and the functioning of globally significant aquatic ecosystems. It focuses on ecology and conservation biology, as well as genetics and species diversity.

*The intern will assist with fieldwork and laboratory experiments, as well as sorting of aquatic invertebrates. They will be responsible for biological assessments of freshwater fish and conducting aquatic physiology experiments.*

*Work areas include biology and ecology of freshwater fish, research, statistical analysis and physiology experiments.*

---

## ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALIST

### Sustainable Energy Africa

Cape Town

Sustainable Energy Africa (SEA) is a non-profit organisation with over 20 years of experience supporting local governments in South Africa and sub-Saharan Africa on sustainable energy transitions. Through its work, SEA promotes energy efficiency, the transition to more sustainable energies such as solar and wind power, and access to safe and affordable energy services for all.

*The intern will be involved in project content generation and communication, as well as managing SEA websites, social media, events, media, videos and publications. They will also support organisational administration including, but not limited to, preparing reports, events coordination, data collection and filing.*

*Work areas include writing, editing and proofreading, as well as stakeholder engagement, website content management and assisting with designing graphics for presentations and publications.*

---

## ENVIRONMENTAL LAWYER

### South African National Parks

Cape Town

South African National Parks (SANParks) manages a network of 19 national parks, covering more than four million hectares, to conserve biodiversity by strengthening the national and global conservation estate. SANParks effectively manages ecosystems, species and cultural heritage resources and promotes equitable and sustainable use of biological resources.

*Focussing on national park expansion through land purchase and contractual agreements, the intern will provide legal support to ensure legal compliance and best practices are followed in South Africa.*

*Work areas include legal support for national park expansion, planning and development, and contracting.*

## ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH SCIENTIST

### The Green House

Cape Town

The Green House is a sustainability consulting firm working on a wide range of sustainability related projects including life cycle assessment, carbon foot printing, science-based targets, circular economy and strategic energy planning. The strength of the consulting team lies in the engineering background and strong quantitative skills of its people.

*The intern will be involved with research-based projects for corporates, NGOs and/or national and provincial government. Most projects involve some degree of systems modelling and quantitative analysis. Depending on the projects at the time, work could include life cycle assessments, scope 3 carbon footprints, sustainability strategies, climate risks and opportunities, and policy analyses.*

*Work areas include data collection, data processing and analysis, conducting literature reviews and administrative support.*

## GENETICIST

### South African National Biodiversity Institute

Pretoria

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) manages and conserves biological diversity giving effect to ratified international agreements and providing for co-operative governance in biodiversity management and conservation.

*The intern will assist in next-generation sequencing (NGS) library preparation, including DNA extraction, library construction and quality control. They will also be involved in basic bioinformatics analysis, such as conducting quality checks of the sequenced data.*

*Work areas include NGS, DNA extraction, library construction and bioinformatics.*

---

---

## South African National Biodiversity Institute

Pretoria

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) manages and conserves biological diversity giving effect to ratified international agreements and providing for co-operative governance in biodiversity management and conservation.

*The intern will undertake DNA barcoding of species which is a workflow from securing specimens to uploading sequence data into the BOLD database.*

*Work areas include securing of specimens, DNA extraction and sequencing, polymerase chain reaction and uploading of DNA.*

---

## South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity

Makhanda

The South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB) is an internationally recognised centre for the study of aquatic biodiversity. SAIAB undertakes research to understand aquatic biodiversity and the functioning of globally significant aquatic ecosystems. It focuses on ecology and conservation biology, as well as genetics and species diversity.

*The intern will carry out genomic DNA extractions from environmental samples; conduct polymerase chain reaction and associated purification, quantification and electrophoresis procedures; ensure regular stock-take of reagents, consumables and chemicals; prepare solutions and reagents; and manage laboratory stocks.*

*Work areas include research support, laboratory management and assisting the functioning of the genomics platform.*

---

## GIS TECHNICIAN

### M.A.P. Scientific Services

Pretoria

M.A.P Scientific Services (MAPSS) is an environmental consulting company supporting responses to the world's most challenging environmental problems. Using the latest geospatial technology and big data analytics, MAPSS develops customised data-driven solutions that support the monitoring of protected area conservation, ecological restoration, fire management and sustainable development projects throughout Africa.

*The intern will be involved in gathering, creating, maintaining, displaying and updating GIS databases using ArcGIS software.*

*Work areas include GIS data management, ArcGIS implementation, GIS workflow management and partner engagement.*

---

## South African National Biodiversity Institute

Cape Town

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) manages and conserves biological diversity giving effect to ratified international agreements and providing for co-operative governance in biodiversity management and conservation.

*The intern will be expected to assist with the update of various biodiversity-related indicators for national and international processes, such as the State of the Environment Reporting and Sustainable Development Goals respectively. This will involve cleaning data, refining maps and creating graphs of biodiversity trends.*

*Work areas include data management, data cleaning, data analysis and research assistance.*

---

---

## South African National Parks

Skukuza

South African National Parks (SANParks) manages a network of 19 national parks, covering more than four million hectares, to conserve biodiversity by strengthening the national and global conservation estate. SANParks effectively manages ecosystems, species and cultural heritage resources and promotes equitable and sustainable use of biological resources.

*The intern will assist with managing, processing, cleaning and analysing geospatial data within the context of protected area management. The specific focus will be on the data engineering process that prepares spatial data for analysis and use in applications such as a web-based biodiversity data portal.*

*Work areas include spatial data engineering, producing cartographic products, maintaining web-based applications and geospatial support.*

---

## WILDTRUST

Pietermaritzburg

WILDTRUST is a non-profit, non-governmental and public welfare organisation. It pursues the realisation of its vision of "A thriving and resilient world" through two core programmes: WILDLANDS and WILDOCEANS. They respect the inter-connectedness of all things and are working to bring humankind and nature back into balance by reducing the impact of humanity, while providing opportunities for people and nature to thrive.

*The intern will identify spatial needs and provide support in mapping and analysing spatial relationships relevant to the various projects.*

*Work areas include research support, production of cartographic maps, data management and contribution towards report writing and project proposals.*

---

## LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

### Greenpop

Cape Town

Greenpop focuses on sustainable urban greening and forest restoration projects, spreads environmental awareness, and activates people to become environmental stewards across sub-Saharan Africa.

*The intern will work on Greenpop's urban greening projects in South Africa. Tasks include assisting with planning, stakeholder engagement, implementation and facilitation of greening projects, as well as monitoring and evaluation of the projects.*

*Work areas include stakeholder engagement, supporting garden designs and installation, and nursery management.*

---

## LIFE SCIENCE TECHNICIAN

### South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity

Makhanda

The South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB) is an internationally recognised centre for the study of aquatic biodiversity. SAIAB undertakes research to understand aquatic biodiversity and the functioning of globally significant aquatic ecosystems. It focuses on ecology and conservation biology, as well as genetics and species diversity.

*The intern will oversee the maintenance and servicing of the notational array of acoustic receivers in the ocean and estuaries of South Africa.*

*Work areas include data maintenance, boat use and maintenance, acoustic tagging of fish and instrument servicing.*

---



## MARINE BIOLOGIST

### South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity

Makhanda

The South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB) is an internationally recognised centre for the study of aquatic biodiversity. SAIAB undertakes research to understand aquatic biodiversity and the functioning of globally significant aquatic ecosystems. It focuses on ecology and conservation biology, as well as genetics and species diversity.

*The intern will be involved in multidisciplinary research and have the opportunity to assist postgraduates and scientists in ecological, physiological and molecular research.*

*Work areas include research support, science communication, stakeholder engagement and administrative support.*

---

### South African National Parks

Garden Route

South African National Parks (SANParks) manages a network of 19 national parks, covering more than four million hectares, to conserve biodiversity by strengthening the national and global conservation estate. SANParks effectively manages ecosystems, species and cultural heritage resources and promotes equitable and sustainable use of biological resources.

*The intern will support and assist with marine biodiversity research and monitoring, including data processing in the Addo Elephant National Park and Tsitiskamma marine protected areas and associated estuaries.*

*Work areas include fieldwork, data capturing, report writing and administrative support.*

---

### Two Oceans Aquarium

Cape Town

The Two Oceans Aquarium inspires people to care about our oceans. The Education Foundation operating alongside the Two Oceans Aquarium offers various environmental education, conservation, research and welfare activities.

*The intern will be involved in four activities: animal husbandry collections, management and health; turtle rehabilitation and marine wildlife management; research and environmental education.*

*Work areas include collections husbandry, research, marine wildlife management and environmental education.*

---

## PLANT TAXONOMIST

### South African National Biodiversity Institute

Pretoria

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) manages and conserves biological diversity giving effect to ratified international agreements and providing for co-operative governance in biodiversity management and conservation.

*The intern will assist with research on the taxonomy and ecology of the priority genus *Thesium* (Santalaceae), as well as the care of the National Herbarium collections of *Thesium*, Iridaceae and Orchidaceae.*

*Work areas include knowledge generation and dissemination, as well as policy, planning and management.*

---

## POLICY ANALYST

### WWF South Africa

Cape Town

WWF's vision is a future in which people and nature thrive working toward lasting positive outcomes for people and nature in the places where we work.

*As part of a regional plastics initiative, the intern will be involved with research and reporting on the latest scientific evidence, initiatives, policy and legislation to address plastic pollution in African countries towards policy development and advocacy for a new global treaty to address plastic pollution. There is an opportunity for stakeholder mapping and maintaining a regional database to convene regional workshops and policy dialogues, as well as support campaigns.*

*Work areas include research, report writing, strategic communications and stakeholder engagement, as well as administrative and logistical support.*

---



Lasting positive outcomes for people and nature in the places where we work and from priority environmental challenges we focus on.

**FOR NATURE. FOR YOU.**

**wwf.org.za**

WWF-SA is a registered non-profit organisation, number 003-226 NPO.  
©1986 Panda symbol WWF – World Wide Fund for Nature (Formerly World Wildlife Fund) ® “WWF” is a WWF Registered Trademark.

1st Floor, Bridge House, Boundary Terraces, Mariendahl Lane,  
Newlands, Cape Town. P.O. Box 23273, Claremont 7735

Tel: +27 21 657 6600, Email: [info@wwf.org.za](mailto:info@wwf.org.za), [www.wwf.org.za](http://www.wwf.org.za)