

Communications Manager (Grade 8)(1-year contract- part-time)

The Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS) at the University of the Western Cape is seeking a Communications Manager.

The Institute of Poverty Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS) at the University of the Western Cape is leading an international partnership with Wageningen University and the University of Cape Town, aimed at transforming conservation ideas and practices in Southern Africa in biodiverse rural, urban, land and ocean spaces. The project will explore and operationalize the potential of 'convivial conservation': a new paradigm that can bring grassroots, government, academic and other actors together to co-design and co-create inclusive and sustainable approaches to preserving ecosystems, promoting livelihoods, ensuring justice and protecting biodiversity. The project aims to set up a campaign that seeks to transform policy and practice while rooted in and drawing evidence from three unique living landscapes: Mapungubwe, iSimangaliso and Cape Town. We are looking for an analytical and strategic Communications Manager with a strong understanding of political and scientific debates in conservation and justice.

Responsibilities:

The Communications Manager will work under the supervision of the Principal Investigators (PIs) of the Living Landscapes Project. She or he will be responsible for all aspects of the strategic and day-to-day communication, including the development and implementation of a communication strategy and positioning of the project in policy and scientific debates. She or he will provide fundraising support, translate the outcomes of the project for advocacy, and network building.

She or he will, jointly with the Campaign and Project Manager, be responsible for liaison with both internal and external project partners. Her/his responsibilities will include:

Communication and Reporting

- Assisting the PIs in the development and implementation of a communication strategy
- Liaising effectively and building strong relationships with project partners
- Develop and implement a visibility strategy for the project, both online and offline
- Develop strategic communication tools and information
- Provide communication support to establish relationships with potential new donors
- Developing and nurturing networks and partnerships within and beyond the project

- Assisting with the timeous finalisation of narrative and financial reports to our primary donors in line with contract requirements
- Working with the project team and the Living Landscapes campaign and project manager to ensure the timeous and effective delivery of communications with project partners and the dissemination of project outputs
- Working with the project team and the Living Landscapes Campaign and Project Manager to translate and target research output at different target groups, ranging from policy to on-the-ground implementers
- Track and stay up-to-date on policy debates, and develop an intervention strategy to position the project within these

Requirements

- A Masters in Social Sciences with a strong interest in conservation and social justice
- At least three years' relevant experience in applied social science research or project management
- A drivers' license and the willingness to travel.

Competencies

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English
- Able to work in a diverse team
- Willingness and ability to take initiative
- A strategic thinker, who can process and position content
- Strong knowledge and interest in conservation debates in Sub-Saharan Africa
- A strong interest in social and spatial justice
- Able to understand, analyse and process complex policy and scientific debates
- Experience with the development and implementation of a communication strategy
- Experience in the development of strategic communication tools
- A demonstrable grasp of key policy and political issues relating to conservation and natural resources management and an ability to translate for the project

Shortlisted candidates will be expected to do short assignment.

To apply:

- 1. Please e-mail your cover letter and CV to Bahihah Mohamed at comms.vacancy@plaas.org.za.**
- 2. Please complete the [application form](#).**

Closing date: 15 October 2021

