



## VACANCY AT WESSA

### Coastal Operations Manager (Cape Town based)

The Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) is one of South Africa's leading Environmental NPO's. WESSA aims to Educate.Advocate.Act through its staff and voluntary members and supporters throughout the country.

#### Brief Overview of the Position

WESSA seeks a dynamic and experienced Coastal Operations Manager to drive the operational implementation, programme management, and growth of the WESSA Coastal Programme, with primary responsibility for the Green Coast and Blue Flag Programmes.

#### Key Performance Areas Include:

1. **Grow Coastal Programmes, Staff Management, and Capacity Development:** Support the expansion of WESSA's coastal conservation impact, strengthen stakeholder partnerships, assist with funding proposals, monitor programme effectiveness, and oversee marketing and profiling of coastal initiatives.
2. **Green Coast Programme – Operations and Management:** Oversee programme implementation and growth, enhance quality to deliver strong community-oriented conservation outcomes, engage local communities, ensure certification and compliance, manage data systems, and track impact through monitoring and reporting.
3. **Blue Flag Programme – Management and Operations:** Manage and expand the Blue Flag Programme (beaches, marinas and boats), ensure quality and compliance with Blue Flag criteria, build partnerships with municipalities and tourism bodies, conduct annual evaluations, and strengthen the conservation benefits of the programme.
4. **Leadership (WESSA Senior Team):** Contribute strategically to senior management, lead and develop programme staff, ensure governance and compliance, and represent WESSA in relevant forums and stakeholder engagements.

#### Qualifications:

Post graduate study in Environmental or sustainability studies or any fields of study related to Environmental Science, Environmental management, Conservation, Biodiversity Management, Coastal Science, Sustainable Development or Natural Resource Management

#### Experience:

- 5 to 7 years middle or senior conservation management experience: planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting of which **2 years must be in coastal/marine conservation**
- Experience in multi-site and multi-partner initiatives
- Experience in stakeholder engagement and partnership development; community based/municipal-led initiatives
- Demonstrated ability in team leadership

**Additional Requirements:**

- Valid driver's license and willingness to travel extensively across coastal regions in South Africa (including remote sites)
- Willingness to work flexible hours, including weekends and extended travel periods during peak operational cycles (e.g. audits, events, peak season)
- Ability to manage multiple sites, timelines and stakeholders simultaneously
- Strong report writing and communication skills, including the ability to compile donor reports, technical reports
- Plan and implement events and workshops, including public speaking and presenting
- Familiarity with eco-labels/certification systems

**Location: (Where will the individual be based):**

The individual will be based at one of WESSA's office in Cape Town.

**NOTE:** WESSA is an equal opportunity employer. We encourage applications from individuals of all backgrounds and experiences. WESSA reserves the right not to make an appointment to the post as advertised.

**Please forward your application to:**

WESSA Human Resources, via email to: [applications@wessa.co.za](mailto:applications@wessa.co.za)

Please state **Coastal Operations Manager in the subject line**; and submit your covering letter, CV and any supporting documentation as a **combined, single PDF file**.

**Closing date of applications: 16h00 SAST, Thursday, 30 April 2026**