



Wildlands Conservation Trust (WILDTRUST) invites applications for the following position
within its WILDOCEANS programme

BBNJ IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION ADVISOR

Based in Cape Town, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)

Duration: Fixed-term contract (24 months)

Start date: 01 September 2026

Employed by: WILDTRUST

BACKGROUND

[WILDTRUST](#) is a South African not-for-profit, public benefit, non-governmental organisation, with a vision of a “thriving and resilient world” and implements its work through 2 programmes: WILDLANDS (focused on terrestrial systems) and WILDOCEANS (focused on marine systems). The primary interlinked goals of WILDOCEANS are to 1) protect and restore marine and coastal biodiversity, and 2) build resilience for coastal communities.

WILDTRUST is partnering with DFFE, to promote sustainable ocean governance, marine conservation and effective management. WILDTRUST, with secured donor funding, is recruiting applicants to support the DFFE. The candidates will support the management of the Prince Edward Islands Marine Protected Area and contribute to the coordinated, strategic and phased implementation of the BBNJ Agreement. This support will strengthen South Africa’s ability to protect critical marine ecosystems while also advancing the broader sustainability, resilience and responsible ocean-use objectives that underpin the ocean economy. This will be achieved through a governance, science, capacity, and economic enablement approach, ensuring alignment with South Africa’s national interests, ocean economy priorities, and international obligations. This role will function as a central coordination and enabling mechanism, rather than a technical specialist in a single thematic area.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:

- Effective national coordination of BBNJ implementation.
- Timely and high-quality policy and briefing support.
- Strengthened partnerships (national and international).
- Improved access to capacity-building and knowledge systems.
- Contribution to South Africa’s strategic positioning in global ocean governance.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

- Post-graduate degree in marine science, environmental policy, law or international relations.
- Five to eight (5-8) years’ experience in ocean governance, environmental policy, international agreements.
- Knowledge of scientific, conservation and sustainable use principles governing marine biodiversity management.
- Knowledge of South African policy and legislation frameworks relevant to environmental and biodiversity management.
- Knowledge and understanding of UNCLOS and global ocean governance.

KEY COMPETENCIES:

- **Strategic and Policy Competence:** Ability to translate international agreements into implementable national frameworks. Strong drafting skills (Cabinet-level, policy, legal inputs).
- **Coordination and Facilitation:** Ability to work across departments; sectors, disciplines. Strong stakeholder management.
- **Systems Thinking:** Ability to integrate science, policy, economy and governance.
- **International Engagement:** Experience in multilateral processes. Ability to support negotiation positions and briefing processes.
- **Analytical and Advisory Skills:** Ability to identify strategic risks, opportunities for South Africa and provide clear, policy-relevant advice.

TO APPLY:

Submit a covering letter with a 2-3 page CV, and at least 3 references to shannonh@wildtrust.co.za by **24 July 2026**. Certificates must be available on request but not included in the original application. The WILDTRUST reserves the right to vary the requirements, or conditions, and not to fill these positions. Should you not receive a response within a month after the closing application date, kindly consider your application unsuccessful. We offer competitive salaries based on qualifications and experience. **Enquiries can be emailed to** Dr Shannon Hampton: shannonh@wildtrust.co.za

Disclaimer: WILDTRUST employees are not authorized to request payment from prospective candidates for recruitment purposes. Any such payment requests should be reported immediately to the Ethics hotline 0800 828 688.