



ADVERTISEMENT

Managing Director: SAIAB

Contract type: Long Term Contract

Job Level: Executive

Work Location: Grahamstown, Eastern Cape

The National Research Foundation (NRF) supports and promotes research and human capital development through funding, the provision of National Research Facilities and science outreach platforms and programmes to the broader community in all fields of science and technology, including natural sciences, engineering, social sciences and humanities.

The NRF is a well-established organisation that is highly networked within the knowledge system, nationally and internationally. It is the principal organisation responsible for promoting the national research enterprise and is the primary public funder of postgraduate students and researchers and provider of research infrastructure in the country. It has well-developed, best practice research evaluation and support systems.

The South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (NRF-SAIAB) is a National Research Facility of the NRF. NRF-SAIAB undertakes the study of African aquatic biodiversity and provides research infrastructure to the broader research community in Southern Africa. This includes specialised laboratories, vessels, natural history collections, remote observation platforms, seafloor mapping capabilities, and fish tracking arrays. Although NRF-SAIAB's headquarters are in Makhanda, the institute also has offices in Gauteng, Gqeberha and Durban.

Reporting to the Deputy Chief Executive Officer: National Research Infrastructure Platforms, the Managing Director (MD) will be responsible for overseeing the strategic direction, operational management, and scientific research activities of the institute as a National Facility of the National Research Foundation.

The MD will ensure the institute achieves its mission of advancing knowledge in aquatic biodiversity and contributing to sustainable management of aquatic ecosystems.

Key Responsibilities:

- * Provide visionary leadership and strategic direction to ensure the institute's success and growth.
- * Oversee all aspects of NRF-SAIAB's operations, including research initiatives, infrastructure provision, technical operations, financial management, and community engagement.
- * Drive the transformation process at NRF-SAIAB to maximise the institute's contribution to national priorities, including human capacity building.
- * Manage NRF-SAIAB as a National Facility of the NRF in accordance with NRF policies and procedures and Government legislation.
- * Develop and maintain strong relationships with key stakeholders including Government bodies, academic institutions, industry partners, and funding agencies.
- * Position NRF SAIAB as a leading authority in aquatic biodiversity through active participation in relevant networks and forums.
- * Seek opportunities for collaborative research and joint initiatives that align with the institute's strategic objectives.
- * Lead the rollout of strategic infrastructure projects that align with the institute's long-term goals.
- * Identify and secure funding opportunities from public and private sectors to support research initiatives and operational needs

Key Requirements:

Qualification:

- * A Doctoral degree (NQF 10) in Aquatic Sciences with a proven research track record.
- * Ten (10) years' work experience in a research environment or similar.
- * Seven (7) years' experience in leadership or senior management in a multi-faceted organisation and/or business division that includes research management and development.

Experience:

- * Strategy development and implementation
- * Business planning and implementation
- * Organisational skills
- * Leadership skills
- * Strategic management
- * Conceptualisation and management of research and innovation programmes.

- * Human resource and talent management
- * Change management
- * Diplomacy skills
- * Interpersonal skills
- * Advanced communication
- * Presentation capabilities
- * Policy development
- * Financial resourcing and management
- * Proven quantitative and qualitative analytical capabilities.
- * Advanced computer proficiency
- * Advanced knowledge of digital platforms

Knowledge:

- * Comprehensive knowledge of the South African Higher Education System.
- * Comprehensive knowledge of the South African National System of Innovation and its challenges.
- * Thorough knowledge and understanding of South Africa's research development policies and strategies.
- * Knowledge of the global research landscape and innovation trends.
- * An understanding of international trends in research evaluation and impact assessments.
- * Thorough knowledge of relevant policies, legislation, and regulations pertaining to research, innovation and postgraduate education in South Africa.
- * Familiarity with the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), labour legislation, and management best practices.
- * Knowledge of digital platforms for enabling world-class customer service for research granting, monitoring and evaluation.

Additional Notes:

- * Sapiential authority stemming from superior knowledge and experience in higher education, research and innovation.
- * Applying broad and/or deep knowledge and experience of work area or field of expertise to provide advice and guidance to others.
- * Emotional Intelligence.
- * Stakeholder development (including networking).
- * Experience in developing and implementing strategies and business plans.
- * Sound decision making ability.
- * Judgment capability.
- * Fund raising capability.
- * Strong interpersonal skills.
- * Ability to represent the organisation on national and international platforms.
- * Self-management leadership.
- * Innovation leadership style to increase creativity, competency, and collaboration within the workplace.
- * Lead and shape organisational culture and values

Information:

The website www.nrf.ac.za provides more details on the NRF initiatives and activities.

Applications:

Applicants should submit a comprehensive CV by logging to <https://ess.nrf.ac.za/Account/Recruitment> and apply online. Applications should be accompanied by a letter of motivation indicating the applicant's suitability for the position. The names and contact details of at least three referees should be provided.

Closing Date: 26 August 2024

The NRF offers a challenging career and competitive remuneration package which is commensurate with qualifications and experience. The NRF is committed to employment equity and redress and the appointment to the position will be made in line with the NRF Employment Equity Plan.

The NRF reserves the right not to make an appointment.

Correspondence will be sent to short-listed candidates only