

PhD Opportunity in Integrated Catchment Management

2019 intake for the duration of the PhD

CONTEXT

Living Lands (registered Non-profit Company, Section 21) has been involved in research related to sustainable landscape management and integrated catchment management throughout the past decade. In addition to facilitating research, Living Lands coordinates ecological rehabilitation efforts and mobilises social learning and collaboration between local stakeholders. A catchment based approach is employed, where catchments form the physical boundaries of the landscapes we work in.

Together with our partner, Commonland, Living Lands is motivated to develop and employ a relevant monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) approach. We aim to improve the means of measuring the real impact of the work being done on the landscapes. The Baviaanskloof and Langkloof catchments will be the study sites for this first iteration. The current MEL approach which is used by Commonland and Living Lands, aims to measure 4 Returns (social capital, financial capital, natural capital and inspiration) in 3 landscape zones over 20 years. The PhD opportunity will be integrated with Living Lands' activities on the landscapes and informed by the Living Landscape Approach.

Furthermore, this PhD opportunity will form part of the Living Lands Research Programme which aims to invite research topics which are a) of interest to the candidate and his/her affiliated academic institution, and also b) provides valuable outputs to inform the work Living Lands does. The chosen candidate will be expected to coordinate the 'Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning research theme' under this Research Programme with assistance from the Living Lands team.

DETAILS

This opportunity is open to candidates from all relevant Departments from any South African university. Transdisciplinary collaborations are specifically encouraged. Whilst the position is advertised as a PhD opportunity, Living Lands is open to the possibility of the position being taken up by a postdoctoral candidate.

Research topic

The research topic may be determined by the candidate, but must be linked to a learning-based approach to **the monitoring and evaluation** of Living Lands' work in the **Baviaanskloof** and/or **Langkloof** landscapes as it relates to **integrated catchment management**.

Examples of potential topics include:

- A critical assessment of a monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) approach applied at a catchment scale;
- Developing an impact-focussed MEL approach to measure holistic land management efforts;
- Developing an impact-focussed MEL approach to measure the 4 Returns.



Timing and duration

The preferred candidate will register for the applicable PhD programme **early in 2019** and complete the programme within **three to five years after commencement** depending on the progress and available co-funding.

Funding

Living Lands has sourced the following funding for this opportunity:

- **A total of R300 000** to be used as **seed funding**, for running expense, etc. throughout the duration of the project;
- Note that this **is not an annual amount**, but can be used as needed and the candidate should thus secure co-funding.

It will be up to the PhD candidate to source co-funding for the following:

- **Any additional** running expenses not covered by the total amount offered
- **Any funding short-fall throughout** the study period (e.g. conference attendance, subsistence, etc.)

Responsibilities

The chosen candidate will be responsible for the following:

- Development of research topic and -project together with promoter(s) and Living Lands' facilitator;
- Registration for PhD programme at appropriate tertiary institution;
- Sourcing additional funding as indicated in the previous section;
- Fulfilments of all academic requirements needed to obtain PhD from registered tertiary education department/institution;
- Management and execution of own research project (75% of time);
- Coordination of other students with topics in monitoring and evaluation (25% of time);
- Participate in the development of a practically implementable M&E framework for the chosen landscape(s) which will form part of Living Lands' operations;
- Reporting back at landscape level about progress being made in project;
- Conducting high quality research that could be published in a peer-reviewed journal;
- Participation in submission of a peer-reviewed article based on the research conducted.

A contract will be drawn up between Living Lands and the successful candidate to reflect the above-mentioned responsibilities as well as Living Lands' responsibilities throughout the duration of the project.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The preferred candidate will adhere to the following minimum requirements:

- Successfully have completed a relevant Master's degree during the past 10 years;
- Have a demonstrated track-record in a related field in the form of work experience or publications
- Be based in the Eastern Cape or be willing to travel to the Eastern Cape regularly;
- Demonstrate a strong interest in integrated catchment management;
- Be able to work in a team, but also remotely and independently;
- Any prior project leadership experience would be beneficial;
- Must be physically fit and able to conduct fieldwork in challenging weather conditions;
- Be self-motivated and passionate about research field.



APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested candidates are invited to follow the Call for Interest application process outlined below:

- ① Visit the Living Lands website (<https://livinglands.co.za/>) and read the Living Lands *Nine Years on the Landscape Report*, found under Videos & Publications
- ② Complete the online Call for Interest application form <https://liezllerox.typeform.com/to/s8tL9z>
- ③ Submit the following documents to info@livinglands.co.za using the subject line “*PhD opportunity interest – Your Name*”
 - a. Copy of full academic record
 - b. Curriculum vitae with two contactable references
 - c. A one-page motivation letter outlining reason for application

The deadline for this Call for Interest application is **30 November 2018 at 17:00.**

CONTACT

We are excited to make this opportunity a reality for the right applicant and encourage you to ask us questions. Please contact us at: info@livinglands.co.za or +2772 676 7687.

