

ABOUT CONSERVATION ALPHA

Conservation Alpha is working to change how conservation is valued, managed, measured, and financed by promoting strategic, results-based outcomes as the basis for effective delivery and by catalysing large-scale finance for biodiversity conservation. Conservation Alpha combines rigorous business management practices with robust conservation planning, strategy, science and effective management approaches, based on decades of collective experience, to improve the scale and impact of conservation practices.

We support our clients to:

1. develop strategic frameworks to guide decision making;
2. measure and verify impact cost-effectively to understand and improve performance;
3. design programmes and governance-management structures to effectively implement change;
4. create innovative, large-scale financing mechanisms to drive change.

Conservation Alpha aims to create a positive work culture where our team works on cutting-edge and highly impactful projects, where individuals are empowered to perform, excited to work, and feel respected.

For more information, visit <https://www.conservationalpha.com>.

POSITION SUMMARY

Conservation Alpha supports our clients to identify effective conservation focussed finance strategies and solutions, such as nature-based financing mechanisms and is seeking a candidate to fulfil the role of *Conservation Finance Officer*. This role offers an exciting opportunity to work on the cutting edge of conservation finance in Africa and will require a highly dynamic candidate who can work across the diversity of client needs supported by Conservation Alpha. This is a mid-level role that will support the development of a range of potential impact finance products and the broad scope of activities required to take these financing products to market. This role will require an individual who has experience in financial analysis and risk management and will involve varied activities, from supporting the development of investment strategies and intervention plans, to supporting the design and structuring of nature-based products. The supporting role will entail working with a network of partners and subject experts developing out financial strategies and products in collaboration with our strategy and impact measurement teams.

The individual should have a good understanding of impact finance market dynamics and risks, and ideally of biodiversity conservation and climate related issues. The *Conservation Finance Officer* will be expected to have strong communication skills (both oral and written) with a range of different stakeholder groups to effectively engage with both the finance and the conservation sectors. A critical skill is to be able to communicate complex information concisely. Experience working within the conservation sector would be an advantage.

The *Conservation Finance Officer* will report to and support the *Performance Lead* and work closely with the broader team. The *Conservation Finance Officer* may also support Conservation Alpha on a range of other projects as needed. The position will require occasional travel related to each project and to engage with the market during the design of products. The position offers the opportunity for career and skill development dependent upon the competencies and interests of the successful candidate. This position is based remotely, preferably within South Africa or Kenya.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Work collaboratively with the Conservation Alpha team, our partners and clients to perform this role
- Support the identification and analysis of conservation centred sustainable financing solutions
- Support the structuring and design of fit-for-purpose sustainable financing solutions
- Support the research and design of impact financing mechanisms, including the development of investment strategies, business cases, and investment plans that link ecological outcomes to financial returns

- Support the development of processes to understand the potential impacts and the estimated costs to deliver programmes
- Assist with data collection, analysis, and presentation of financial and conservation metrics
- Work with our network of market partners and subject experts to develop and test impact finance structures, investment strategies and impact measurement approaches.
- Prepare clear, high-quality reports, presentations, and investment briefs
- Support stakeholder engagement processes, including workshops with conservation NGOs, government, investors, and community partners
- Conduct market research into sustainable finance trends, revenue models, and investment opportunities aligned with biodiversity outcomes

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Degree in Finance, Business Administration, Economics, Environmental Finance or related field (Masters preferable but not mandatory)
- 5 years' experience in financial modelling, business analysis, investment planning, and/or due diligence assessments, ideally with exposure to the sustainability or conservation sectors
- Strong analytical and data management skills, with proficiency in Excel (financial modelling) and the ability to interpret and present complex data and technical information concisely
- Experience in writing professional business and/or investment plans and building presentations
- Proven ability to think creatively and generate, research, design and deliver new ideas in a dynamic environment
- The ability to effectively communicate complex financial concepts to a range of technical and non-technical stakeholders, including conservation practitioners, community leaders, investors, market representatives, and colleagues
- Right to work in country of residence

NECESSARY COMPETENCIES

- Experience in the development of impact-based investment strategies preferable
- Strong conservation interest and experience in the conservation sector
- Good knowledge of the sustainable finance sector and market, with a clear understanding of impact investing, biodiversity-based outcomes products (bonds) and blended finance mechanisms
- Understanding and familiarity with the policies and frameworks governing the African conservation finance landscape
- Passion for impactful nature conservation and sustainability
- Experience working with diverse stakeholder groups, across both the conservation and finance sectors
- Excellent interpersonal skills to work effectively within an internal and external team
- Strong project management skills to deliver projects on time and within budget
- Organised, with exceptional attention to detail, especially when working across multiple workstreams
- Self-motivation, capacity to learn new skills, and the ability to work independently

APPLICATION

To apply for this position, submit the following in a single PDF to careers@conservationalpha.com:

- A cover letter of no more than two pages detailing your ability to meet the outlined requirements and necessary competencies, as well as any additional relevant skills that should be highlighted
- A resume or curriculum vitae, including all relevant academic and work experience.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate has been identified.