

CONSULTANCY FOR A PLANT MENTOR - TERMS OF REFERENCE

Harnessing technology to end the illegal trade in succulent plants

BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH A CONSULTANT IS REQUIRED

The illegal trade in southern African succulent plants is resulting in extinctions. Addressing the supply and sale of illegally trafficked plants faces regulatory and enforcement challenges. Multidisciplinary research, from use of Artificial Intelligence tools to personal interviews, will identify points of intervention and inform strategies to improve regulation and law enforcement actions. Development of chemical fingerprinting and marking techniques will enable traceability and transparency in trade, while aiding the reintroduction of confiscated plants to their original locality in the wild.

This project will provide a greater understanding of succulent plant trade dynamics to inform law enforcement strategy and action. Findings from the study being done by TRAFFIC, along with specialized knowledge from a Plant Mentor, will inform the design and production of training materials, delivered as a specialized curriculum for junior Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs). Ongoing mentoring support will be available post-workshop from senior investigators.

The Services: Through funding from the DEFRA IWT Challenge Fund for the “Harnessing technology to end the illegal trade in succulent plants” project, TRAFFIC wishes to hire a consultant as the “Plant Mentor” to complete the following activities:

1. In collaboration with TRAFFIC, develop a one day curriculum comprising presentations that provide awareness and a better understanding on the illegal trade in succulent plants to junior EMIs. The curriculum should focus on the illegal succulent trade in the South African context and include presentations/slides/practical exercises on:
 - i. Importance of succulent plant diversity in South Africa,
 - ii. Basic succulent plant identification,
 - iii. Introduction to national and provincial legislation that protect succulent plants,
 - iv. Criminal penalties for convictions of cases involving succulent plants,
 - v. Maintaining the chain of custody in the event of a succulent plant seizure,
 - vi. The process of rehabilitating confiscated plants,
 - vii. Roles and responsibilities of EMIs in combating the illegal succulent plant trade.
 - b. Due Date: 15 July 2023 (2 days for development)
2. Deliver this curriculum at five physical meetings and at two virtual meetings. Avail yourself for these meetings including time to travel based on the list of mentee locations provided below.
 - a. Due Date: 31 August 2023 (2.5 days per meeting including travel = 12.5 days + 1 day for 2 virtual meetings = 13.5 days)
 - b. Deliverable: An agenda for each meeting as well as presentations suitable for the audience.
3. Compile one final report.
 - a. Due Date: 15 September 2023 (1 day)
 - b. Deliverable: Provide a final report comprising the proceedings of each of the meetings as well as participant feedback and recommendations.
4. Provide succulent plant identification and other relevant guidance to mentees either via email or Whatsapp.
 - a. Due Date: 29 February 2024 (3 days (0.5 days per month from August 2023 to January 2024) + 0.5 day for report = 3.5 days)
 - b. Deliverable: Provide a final report comprising the screenshots of communication between yourself and mentees reflecting guidance provided.

Total number of days: 2 + 13.5 + 1 + 3.5 = 20 days

REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONSULTANCY:

Demonstrated understanding and extensive experience working in the flora sector of South Africa with knowledge of South African succulent flora. Must be based in South Africa and available to attend the physical trainings.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Please send a PDF version of your CV, a one page cover letter detailing your relevant experience and a quote reflecting your daily rate for 20 days of work to Ms Dominique Prinsloo at dominique.prinsloo@traffic.org by no later than **Friday, 16 June 2023**.
2. Costs associated with travel to and from the meetings, accommodation at these meetings as well as subsistence and venue costs will be covered and DO NOT need to be included in your quote.

Physical Meeting	Province	Location	Mentee Numbers
1	Northern Cape	Kimberly	3
2	Western Cape 1	They're all north of Cape Town	6
	Western Landscape		
3	Western Cape 2	Hermanus	6
	Central Landscape		
4	Eastern Cape & Western Cape 3	Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth)	9 (6 WC + 3 EC)
	Eastern Landscape		
5	KZN	St Lucia	4
Online	Online	MS Teams/Zoom	15