



SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR (3-YEAR CONTRACT)

The **South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP)**, the statutory and regulatory authority for the natural scientific profession, is seeking a motivated and experienced Scientific Advisor to provide scientific, technical, and strategic support to the Registrations Manager in advancing the organisation's regulatory mandate.

This position plays a critical role in providing expert scientific advice, conducting research, supporting registration and policy development, coordinating strategic projects, and strengthening stakeholder relationships across the natural science sector. The successful candidate will contribute to the implementation of SACNASP's strategic objectives by ensuring that scientific decisions, registration processes, and policy initiatives are informed by sound scientific principles, research, and best practice.

The Scientific Advisor will report directly to the Registrations Manager and will work closely with internal committees, Council structures, higher education institutions, voluntary associations, government departments, research institutions, and other stakeholders to support the professionalisation and advancement of the natural science profession.

Key Responsibilities:

- Provide scientific and technical advice to support the Registrations Manager, and relevant Committees in informed decision-making.
- Conduct scientific research, gather, analyse and evaluate technical information to support policy development and organisational decision-making.
- Manage and coordinate strategic scientific projects aligned with the organisation's Strategic Plan and Annual Performance Plan (APP).
- Support the registration of natural science professionals through scientific evaluation and technical guidance.
- Build and maintain productive relationships with key stakeholders, including higher education institutions, research councils, government departments, professional bodies, and voluntary associations.
- Liaise with the key stakeholders regarding academic programmes and matters affecting professional registration.
- Contribute to the development, review and implementation of registration policies, procedures and scientific standards.
- Prepare technical reports, briefing documents and presentations for Registrations Manager.
- Represent SACNASP at conferences, stakeholder forums, workshops and other professional platforms to promote the organisation and its regulatory mandate.
- Deliver scientific presentations and provide expert advice on matters relating to the natural science profession.
- Conduct research and provide recommendations on emerging scientific trends, policy developments and matters affecting the natural science profession.
- Support governance initiatives by ensuring that scientific activities comply with applicable legislation, regulations, ethical standards, organisational policies and recognised best practices.
- Assist in evaluating and reporting on strategic initiatives and the contribution of the natural science profession to national priorities and development programmes.
- Perform any other scientific, technical and strategic duties as may reasonably be assigned by the Registrations Manager.

Minimum Requirements

Qualifications & Experience:

- A Postgraduate Degree in Natural Sciences.
- A minimum of three (3) to five (5) years' relevant experience within government, academia, research institutions, science councils or the private sector.
- Demonstrated experience in scientific research, policy analysis and stakeholder engagement.
- Proven ability to analyse complex scientific information and provide evidence-based recommendations.
- Proven ability to analyse and use complex information to support policy development.
- Must be registered as a Professional Natural Scientist (Pr.Sci.Nat) with SACNASP.

Skills & Competencies

Managerial Competencies

- Behavioural Competencies
- Excellent analytical and critical thinking skills.
- Strong interpersonal and relationship management skills.
- Effective communication and presentation skills.
- Ability to work independently and exercise sound professional judgement.
- Excellent planning and organisational skills.
- High levels of professionalism and integrity.
- Results-driven with strong attention to detail.
- Ability to collaborate effectively within multidisciplinary teams.

Technical Competencies

- Sound scientific and technical knowledge across natural science disciplines.
- Research methodology, scientific analysis and report writing.
- Project management and coordination.
- Policy research and development.
- Stakeholder engagement and relationship management.
- Technical writing and presentation skills.
- Knowledge of regulatory and governance frameworks applicable to professional registration.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications.

Special Requirements

- Willingness to work extended hours when required.

Salary: Market-related

Job Type: Three (3) Year Fixed-Term Contract

Commencement: ASAP

To apply for this position, please forward your comprehensive CV, certified copies of your qualifications and ID, cover letter detailing role suitability to happlications@sacnasp.org.za

Closing date: 31 July 2026

***This position will comply with Employment Equity principles.
SACNASP reserves the right not to make an appointment.***