



The South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON) is looking for pro-active and experienced environmental scientists with a passion for systems ecology to drive its science development. SAEON is funded by the Department of Science and Technology, and managed by the National Research Foundation.

SAEON creates reliable information about and understanding of environmental change through sourcing long-term data from historical, existing and new observation programmes. This is done through six geographically distributed nodes and supervised by the SAEON National Office in Pretoria.

**Chief Scientist** based in Pretoria

**Responsibilities:**

- SAEON-wide implementation of science strategies and cross-cutting initiatives
- Provide high-level supervision and support to SAEON Nodes
- Ensure that scientific approaches and outputs are done according to international standards
- Contribute to national environmental policy processes
- Maintain relevance through local and international scientific networking, contributions and collaboration
- Proposal development and secure research funding
- Offering leadership, information and advice to the research community
- Provide support to information management, education-outreach and communication programmes
- Provide support to participating organizations
- Reporting on research projects, outputs and outcomes
- Promoting of research capacity development
- Promoting the corporate reputation, objectives and values of the NRF-SAEON.

**Requirements:**

- PhD in Systems Ecology or a similar field
- 10 years' international scholarly activity
- 7 years' local research leadership and management experience
- Proven ability to collaborate, integrate and synthesize across research disciplines
- Demonstrable understanding of the National System of Innovation
- Track record of supervision of post-graduate students
- Proven ability to engage in national policy processes
- Willingness to travel
- Emotional intelligence and communication skills

**Closing date:** 16 July 2010

Applications should include a comprehensive curriculum vitae as well as a letter clearly motivating the individual's suitability for this position.

Applications can be sent to [leazill@saeon.ac.za](mailto:leazill@saeon.ac.za) or alternatively posted to SAEON, PO Box 2600, Pretoria, 0001, Attention Human Resources.

*If no response has been received from SAEON within 21 days of the closing date candidates may assume that their applications were unsuccessful.*

SAEON is committed to employment equity and redress.

SAEON reserves the right not to make an appointment to the advertised position.