



seed **madagascar**

sustainable environment, education & development

Apiology Specialist

An exciting opportunity to provide technical and specialist support to a bee keeping project within a leading sustainable development NGO in Madagascar

Position overview

Based in the coastal town of Fort Dauphin in the southeast of Madagascar, this post will provide specialist apiology and pollination services knowledge to a combined Malagasy and International team, working in the second year of the three-year beekeeping project.

The successful candidate will ensure the project methodology fits within global apiology best practice; develop ways of increasing beekeepers' access to markets, in order to encourage the establishment of local enterprises; conduct international research on the spread of *varroa destructor* in the Anosy region whilst providing direction on the appropriate response to varroa's presence in the region; and measure the economic and ecological value of pollination services supported by the project. Predominantly office-based in Fort-Dauphin, the Apiology Project Specialist will travel regularly to remote communities in the southeast of the country, alongside occasional regional travel to engage with. This exciting post would suit an early-career specialist or academic, seeking essential in-country experience for a career in apiology and international development.

Title: Apiology Project Specialist

Timeframe: 18 month extendable

Probationary period: 3 months

Contract: Full-time

Remuneration: Contribution towards flights, Insurance, and local stipend (covering accommodation and basic living expenses)

Reporting to: Head of Project Development (Environment, Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods)

Primary responsibilities

1. Lead project dissemination through a variety of mediums, including knowledge hubs and peer-reviewed publications.
2. Develop a research methodology to measure the environmental and ecological pollination services supported by Project Renitantly.

3. Desk-based research into best practice on apiculture, including response to varroa, alongside lessons learned from other projects and organisations.
4. Contribute to the sustainable value chain increase of honey and beeswax products in the Anosy Region by investigating value chains and develop ways of increasing beekeepers' access to possible national and international markets, in order to encourage the establishment of local enterprises
5. Ensure project activities adhere to international best practice, building the knowledge of apiculture across project staff.
6. Close collaboration with and support of the Malagasy team to ensure project delivery marries international best practice with contextual challenges and nuances of Madagascar.
7. Identify opportunities to collaborate with partners, within the region, nationally and internationally.
8. Provide on site evaluation and learning opportunities for project staff
9. Provide technical advice and capacity building of partner organisations to conduct and promote beekeeping best practise, whilst coordinating structures and tools that would enable the sustainability of this approach beyond the project end.
10. Represent SEED Madagascar and Project Renitantly at regional, national and international conferences.
11. Contribute to project learning to ensure SEED is positively represented in external meetings and affairs, including with Government Ministries at Regional and National levels, to maintain strong working partnerships and ensure support for the project and resources based on their alignment to best practice
12. Any other tasks that the Head of Project Development (Environment, Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods) or Rural Livelihoods Coordinator deems necessary within the broad outline of the role.

Person specifications:

- Relevant academic qualifications in Apiculture, Ecology, Environmental Agriculture or related research focus / experience
- Experience of beekeeping practises and techniques
- Ability to align activities and subsequent reporting to KPIs
- Have the ability and desire to build capacity and share skills across cultures
- Have the ability and desire to work with teams from different economic and cultural backgrounds and across multiple language barriers
- Experience of or capability to work with translators
- Have excellent communication skills, including a sound ability to adapt material for different audiences
- Be able to work both independently and as part of a multicultural and multilingual team
- Have passion and motivation for the work and to enthuse staff and volunteers
- Experience of contributing to reports for external donors and stakeholders

- Demonstrate an understanding of and commitment to SEED's ethos and approach and be a good ambassador for SEED at all times
- Have passion, curiosity and motivation for the job and the ability to enthuse others
- Demonstrate proven ability to recognise and appropriately deal with challenging situations and possess excellent problem-solving skills
- Demonstrate an awareness of and comfort with increased social and professional responsibility, working at all times with cultural sensitivity and respect
- Demonstrate the ability, social skills and confidence to give clear guidance and support to other members of the team in respect of the philosophy and procedures of SEED in order to protect both their safety and the reputation of the NGO
- Be punctual and be able to work to tight deadlines in an organised manner and to a high standard
- Have a flexible and patient attitude
- Experience in market development or value chain evaluation highly desirable
- Experience of living and working in at least one developing country, preferably in sub-Saharan Africa, is desirable

Application procedure

Interested applicants should send a CV and covering letter outlining how their skills and experience match the requirements in the role description criteria to Lisa Bass by email at lisa@seedmadagascar.org. Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis until the position is filled. Long-listed applicants will have an initial informal chat with Madagascar based staff and short-listed applicants will then be offered a face-to-face interview with the London team in-person.

More information on the work of SEED Madagascar can be found at www.madagascar.co.uk

Project background:

Since September 2016, Project Renitantely (*renitantely* meaning 'honeybee' in Malagasy) has operated across six rural communities to develop beekeeping as a sustainable livelihood practice. It aims to increase the honey value chain, strengthen routes to market and enhance disease prevention and treatment in the Anosy Region. The project draws on a pilot beekeeping project, implemented by SEED from June 2014 – May 2016, alongside international review on the challenges of beekeeping projects in the Anosy Region.

With the conclusion of the project's first year in August 2017, came a number of successes for the project: 48 primary beekeepers supported and trained by SEED in beekeeping best practices, six communities sensitised to the benefits of beekeeping and 100% increase in the regional value chain for honey and beeswax. However, the project faces challenges in the form of the spread of the varroa mite and the lack of sustainable options to tackle its impacts.