



Position title	Community Development Manager (Economic)
Reporting to	Community Development Director
Contract Type	Full Time
Location	Head Office – Bryanston, Johannesburg

## Background

African Parks is a non-profit organization that enters into Public-Private Partnerships with Governments and communities for the rehabilitation and long-term management of protected areas in Africa. By adopting a business approach to conservation, and supported by donor funding, we aim to make each park ecologically, socio-politically and financially sustainable in the long-term, and in so doing, contribute to economic development and poverty alleviation.

Fundamental to AP's existence is the belief that national parks, the ecosystem services that they generate and the biodiversity that they conserve are necessary for the well-being of humanity and therefore worth conserving. Since conservation is a choice of land use, a choice made by people, it is incumbent on AP to build a constituency for conservation in which people understand and value these parks. In so doing, conservation will likely remain the land-use choice.

The stated objective or desired impact of AP's community development strategy is: *A domestic support base (or constituency) for conservation that is:*

- *Engaged in the management of protected areas,*
- *Educated about their importance, and*
- *Benefits from them, both directly and indirectly.*

AP's strategic framework, referred to as "3E+" has three inter-related objectives which are applicable at each and every park, as well as a mechanism for scaling impact. The key elements of this strategy are:

- **Engagement:** refers to the mechanisms & structures to ensure adjacent communities are informed about park management interventions, and involved in decisions that affect them.
- **Education:** refers to the mechanisms, structures and programs for ensuring adjacent communities are educated both generically, and specifically about conservation.
- **Economy or enterprise:** refers to the planning and facilitation of economic activities that give communities a direct economic stake in the park, thereby building what we refer to as a "conservation-led economy".
- **"Plus"** refers to the scaling of impact on people living around parks by crowding in other partners that have the skills and funding, to compliment the efforts of AP, both in what we are doing and in the provision of services beyond what we are able to do.

### **Role Profile: Community Development Manager (Economic)**

The Community Development Manager (Economic) is a Head Office role providing Community Development functional expertise and support to Operational teams in the Parks. The role reports into the Community Development Director.

The CD Manager (Economic) is responsible for supporting commercial ventures that are either income-generating activities for communities, or community enterprises involving private sector partners, including:

- Design and support implementation of income-generating activities (IGAs) that are conservation-compatible and community-managed (e.g. bee-keeping projects run by cooperatives).
- Develop and support enterprise projects, with potential for high revenue flow to communities, in collaboration with private sector partners (e.g. NTFP harvesting with a processing and marketing partner).
- Support the establishment of a community development fund or foundation for the governance of community benefit sharing from Nature-Based Solutions and other funding schemes.
- Codify and share best practice for managing commercial activities to identify markets, grow revenues and establish self-sustaining operations, e.g. honey projects and fish farming.
- Support the monitoring and evaluation of Economy/Enterprise initiatives and report on performance and community benefit indicators for Funding, Marketing & Communications, and other stakeholders;
- Support the CD teams in the Parks in defining and implementing their 3E+ strategies, and in implementing local research (e.g. socio-economic baselines).

### **Capabilities, competencies and experience needed for the job:**

- Post-graduate qualification in Social Sciences/International Development/Conservation/Development Economics or a related field.
- Minimum of 8 years' experience in SME/business development field. Experience with cooperative management or social enterprise development is a plus.
- Excellent communication and presentation skills in English. French and/or Portuguese is a plus.
- Strong business and commercial acumen, with ability to support preparation of business cases and to codify best practice.
- Ability to engage with diverse internal and external stakeholders to foster collaboration.
- Affinity with conservation and social development in Africa.

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To apply, please email your CV and cover letter to [hadmin@africanparks.org](mailto:hadmin@africanparks.org) by 25 January 2023

*Should you not hear back from us within 2 weeks after closing date, please take it that your application was unsuccessful.*