Opportunity: Manager- Southern Africa Portfolio

Organizational Information

Maliasili is a dynamic and innovative organization that is taking a different approach to driving conservation impact in Africa. We find the best local African conservation organizations and make them better by building their capacity and improving their performance so that they can grow their impact. Our partner portfolio includes some of the leading organizations in East and Southern Africa and Madagascar, working at the forefront of conservation across wildlife, forestry, and marine resource management. Our partners’ impacts extend well beyond biodiversity conservation, driving conservation approaches that are grounded in community and indigenous land rights, and unlocking the economic value of natural resources through sustainable businesses to create greater jobs and income.

Since its founding in 2011, Maliasili has built a portfolio of roughly 20 partners working across over 25 million hectares of critical landscapes and ecosystems in four countries. We have helped our partners generate or leverage more than $7 million in funding for their work; developed a growing set of tools to help improve their organizational performance; and supported many of our partners to significantly grow their impacts in the field. Our goals are to build a portfolio of Africa’s best local conservation organizations, help them collaborate and learn from each other, and scale up their work on the ground and their leadership capacity within the conservation field.

Building on our track record and growing interest in our organizational support model, we are looking to expand our portfolio in Southern Africa in 2020 and looking to build our regional team.

We are in the midst of a three-year strategic plan that is guiding the expansion of our programmatic efforts, both in Kenya and in Southern Africa. We are now accepting applications for the Manager position to work on our Southern Africa portfolio. This position will require regional travel of approximately 30% time. We are considering applicants with the ability to live and work remotely from Botswana, South Africa, Namibia, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Please indicate your county of residence and legal work status in your cover letter. All applications should be sent to recruitment@maliasili.org. Position open until filled.

COVID 19 Notice: Maliasili is currently reviewing applicants for this position, but timing for hiring is open ended due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. Since this position is focused on regional support, which will require traveling across borders, we are adapting our work plans, staffing plans, and timing accordingly.

Role and Responsibilities

Managers lead and facilitate our organizational development support to our partners to help them become stronger organizations and achieve their goals and missions. Understanding the functional elements of an effective organization is at the core of Maliasili’s work, and Managers should have command of these elements and the characteristics of a highly effective organization, be able to diagnose organizational challenges, and design plans to implement solutions and catalyze behavior change in our partner organizations.

The Manager will be responsible for the following:

• Managing relationships with the leadership of partner organizations, providing thought partnership and collaborative problem solving.
• Working with partners to diagnose and develop joint plans to address major organizational needs and priorities.
• Design and lead effective organizational development interventions in areas such as strategic planning, work planning, strategic fundraising, financial management, monitoring & evaluation systems, and human resource management and recruitment.
• Designing effective meeting and facilitation plans to address a clear set of objectives.
• Facilitating workshops with partners to make progress towards broader organizational development goals.
• Improving organizational development expertise and staying at the cutting edge of organizational development and community-based conservation.
• Coordinating service provision from other Maliasili team members or external experts, as a component of overall partner support.
• Managing relationships with partners and third-party funders or key collaborators, including overseeing contractual obligations, reporting requirements, and deadlines.
• Cultivating relationships with other organizations in the field and developing a pipeline of potential partner organizations.
• Working with Maliasili’s team to connect partners to appropriate networks, contacts and resources within Maliasili’s wider networks.
• Supporting Maliasili efforts, including but not limited to strategic planning and monitoring & evaluation.

Qualifications

Key attributes of the successful candidate will include:
• Strong experience, skillset, and technical understanding of organizational development and/or business development. We are looking for someone who understands the challenges and imperatives in building effective, high-performing organizations, and who has a proven track record in doing this as either a manager or consultant, or, ideally, both.
• Strong organizational diagnostic and analytic skills – the ability to quickly and accurately understand an organization’s strengths, weaknesses, and priorities in a developmental sense.
• Experience and comfort in designing and facilitating effective meetings.
• Excellent problem-solving ability, capable of diagnosing problems and designing solutions.
• Outstanding interpersonal skills in communications, relationship management, team processes, and facilitation, including strong written and verbal communication.
• Outstanding ability to manage multiple processes in a dynamic environment, prioritize, multi-task, and deal with problems adaptively and with a sense of humor.
• Passion for Maliasili’s mission to contribute to the development of organizational excellence and impact in African natural resource management and conservation organizations.
• Familiarity with community-based conservation and/or social enterprise.
• Strong intellectual curiosity – we are looking for people who are interested in learning new thing and expanding their knowledge.
• Team player who enjoys engaging with and supporting colleagues but can also work autonomously when necessary.
• Broad and perceptive technical grasp of major issues in natural resource management, rural development, and land tenure in East and Southern Africa.
• Bachelor’s degree required, master’s degree preferred, approximately ten years of work experience, including management responsibilities.
• Applicants should be able to travel within the region up to 30% time.

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