



**The Wildlands Conservation Trust (WILDTRUST) invites applications for:
Senior Project Manager: Ocean Spatial Protection | WILDOCEANS**
KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa – NPO Sector

WILDOCEANS Programme: WILDTRUST (<https://wildtrust.co.za/>) is a South African not-for-profit, public benefit, non-governmental organisation, with a vision of “a thriving and resilient world” and implements its work through 2 programmes: WILDLANDS (focused on terrestrial systems) and WILDOCEANS (focused on marine systems). The primary interlinked goals of WILDOCEANS to deliver impact towards a thriving resilient world are to: 1) protect and restore marine and coastal biodiversity, and 2) build resilience for coastal communities. Strategic cross-cutting elements to enhance sustainability and impact, underpin our work: future leader development, youth support, science and knowledge generation, support to decision-makers and management authorities, coastal community support, ocean awareness and communication, and advocacy and campaigning.

We are seeking a passionate, dynamic, and results-driven **Senior Project Manager: Ocean Spatial Protection** to join our team, to manage projects focused on increasing spatial ocean protection and reducing risks to critical marine biodiversity areas, habitats and ecosystems. The ideal candidate should possess strong communication and interpersonal skills, coupled with a commitment to excellence and productivity.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:

The candidate will report to the WILDOCEANS Projects Director and be guided by the WILDOCEANS Strategic Lead.

Responsibilities and duties will include:

- Supporting and managing projects and actions aimed at supporting achieving the Global Biodiversity Framework Target 3 (30x30) in southern Africa and the western Indian Ocean, including MPA expansion and OECM establishment.
- Promoting and driving processes aimed at achieving a high seas MPA in the sub-Antarctic western Indian Ocean
- Managing a project aimed at increased ocean protection in and around the Prince Edward Islands MPA,
- Supporting and managing projects aimed at protecting critical marine biodiversity areas, threatened ecosystems, and critical habitats, from ocean threats.
- Coordinating and maintaining relationships with government authorities (DFFE, SANBI, SANAP), fishing industry associations, academic institutions, and international partners (including international counterparts and global regulatory and voluntary organisations).
- Working with the communications team to deliver impactful campaign messaging, media content, and public engagement aligned with biodiversity advocacy goals.
- Building coalitions with NGOs, academic partners, and international bodies to strengthen political advocacy and technical credibility.
- Ensuring efficient use and maintenance of vehicles, vessels, and scientific equipment associated with the project.
- Project management, coordination of project activities in accordance with time-bound workplans, staff and budget management, monitoring and evaluation, financial and narrative progress reporting, stakeholder engagement and ensuring compliance with environmental and social safeguards.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

- Master’s degree (or equivalent) in marine sciences, environmental management, or conservation policy.
- Skilled project manager with minimum 5 years’ experience in managing marine conservation or biodiversity protection projects, preferably MPAs or large-scale ocean campaigns.
- Proven ability to lead policy advocacy, rezoning, or expansion processes within protected areas.
- Strong knowledge of international conservation treaties (CCAMLR, CBD, High Seas Treaty/BBNJ).
- Experience in fisheries management, compliance, and enforcement frameworks.
- Effective, organised, dedicated and responsible individual who is passionate about both nature and people and is keen to work to improve ocean protection.
- Excellent administrative, technical, communication, financial management, reporting, monitoring and evaluation, and coordination skills, as well as a good grasp of all Microsoft office software, especially Excel.
- Proactive, individually accountable, able to juggle priorities under pressure and lead a team.
- Demonstrated success in managing donor-funded projects, including budgeting and reporting.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Valid driver’s licence (manual).

TO APPLY:

Submit a covering letter with a 2-3 page CV, and at least 3 references to wildoceansapplications@wildtrust.co.za by **21 January 2026**. Certificates must be available on request but not included in the original application. The WILDTRUST reserves the right to vary the requirements, or conditions, and not to fill these positions. Should you not receive a response within a month after the closing application date, kindly consider your application unsuccessful. We offer competitive salaries based on qualifications and experience.

Disclaimer: WILDTRUST employees are not authorized to request payment from prospective candidates for recruitment purposes. Any such payment requests should be reported immediately to the Ethics hotline 0800 828 688.