

Vacancy Announcement: Managing Director Southern Africa

Background

Solidaridad is a network organization for international cooperation with nine regional expertise centres on five continents dedicated to a sustainable and inclusive economy and the creation of sustainable landscapes. Solidaridad envisions a world in which all we produce, and all we consume, can sustain us while respecting the planet, each other and the next generations. Solidaridad is oriented at solutions, or even more precise - at market based solutions. See more at:

<http://www.solidaridadnetwork.org>

Solidaridad Southern Africa is the regional expertise centre in Southern Africa. Programmes are currently focused on horticulture, sugarcane, soy, livestock and cotton. Solidaridad Southern Africa has its head office in Johannesburg and regional offices in Mozambique and Zambia.

We are looking for a:

Managing Director Solidaridad Southern Africa

The Managing Director of Solidaridad Southern Africa will be an experienced, senior development professional responsible for leading the implementation of the region's strategy, growing the regional programmes and operations and ensuring the expansion of the organisation's reach. The position will require representing the region at regional and global forums and promoting the Solidaridad vision and mission. The position is based in the Johannesburg office in South Africa. The Managing Director reports to the Executive Director of Solidaridad Network and the Continental Supervisory Board.

Role description

The Managing Director has the overall responsibility for the implementation of the Solidaridad programme in Southern Africa. S/he will be expected to be a strategic thinker who is able to manage regional implementation of the organisations multi-annual strategic plan. S/he will represent Solidaridad nationally, and internationally, and develop and promote collaboration and partnerships with key stakeholders in the region.

The Managing Director will form part of the Executive Board of regional directors and will contribute to promoting network co-operation and a shared vision. The incumbent will be responsible for leading the development of new strategies, programmes and projects in the region. The Managing Director will be required to travel frequently within the Southern African region as well as internationally.

Main responsibilities

- To support the further development of programmes in horticulture, sugar cane, soy and livestock;

- Set program priorities and ensure alignment with the regional strategy
- Continuous development of new programmes by surveying the local and regional environment in search for potential innovative initiatives;
- To liaise with partner organizations, participate in working committees and conferences in the region to remain abreast of developing initiatives, build the profile of the organisation and identify potential funding sources;
- To manage the develop of project, programme and fundraising proposals for donors and private sector partners;
- Financial governance and financial reporting to the Solidaridad Network, donors and private sector partners;
- Project administration and the effective implementation of the project cycle;
- Day-to-day management of the organisation;
- Human resource and talent management within the region including the development and oversight of a sound policy and practice environment ensuring the development, recognition and reward of good performanceRisk management of mitigation of risks within the region
- The Managing Director is a member of the Executive Board of Directors of Solidaridad Network and as such participates in the biannual meetings of this body.
- Participation in the Continental Supervisory Board.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- Relevant masters degree (e.g. in economics, MBA, development studies, or agriculture)
- At least 10 years working experience in the development of sustainable production chains and rural livelihoods;
- An excellent understanding of the policy environment, issues and stakeholders in the agri-business sector in Southern Africa;
- A broad network with NGO's, farmer organisations and government authorities in Southern Africa;
- Experience with sustainability standards and/or certification schemes;
- Proven ability to obtain financing from public and private donors;
- Demonstrated ability to think strategically and creatively and lead strategic processes in the region;
- Excellent leadership skills and demonstrable management experience including supervising a multi-cultural team of talented professionals in different geographical locations;
- Strong commitment to teamwork
- Ability to work well under pressure and ensure high quality outputs for the region;
- Excellent oral and writing skills in English;
- Ability to represent the region and the network in national, regional and international fora;
- Sound judgement and ability to plan, prioritise, organise and manage multiple priorities in a complex and changing operating environment;