



Senior Associate – African Bioeconomy

About NatureFinance

NatureFinance is a Swiss-based, international not-for-profit organisation dedicated to aligning global finance with an economy that works for nature, climate and people in a rapidly warming world.

Through a fully remote team based all over the world, we operate as a kind of think tank and solutions lab, helping develop and pilot innovative financial instruments and policy reforms that (1) help support countries in particular to address the vicious cycle of debt, climate and nature crisis, (2) help make financial systems and economies more resilient and adaptive in a rapidly warming world and, (3) ensure that natural capital is valued and harnessed as a driver of sustainable development and economic opportunities. Our strategies are driven by a deep attention to the urgent, interrelated climate and nature loss challenges facing low- and middle-income countries, particularly in an increasingly disruptive geopolitical and economic context.

Role overview

NatureFinance is seeking an experienced, well networked mid-career professional based in South Africa to help shape and implement the evolving body of work on advancing the G20 Bioeconomy agenda which is led by the government of South Africa in partnership with key actors in the country, the continent and across the G20. The position has an initial focus within the continent of Africa. This role is part of a broader Nature Finance agenda to integrate nature into green economic transition strategies and harness the commercial and developmental benefits of biobased goods and services as the foundation of a sustainable economic paradigm.

The successful candidate will have two initial primary areas of focus and related KPIs for this role through the end of 2025:

- Support the South African Government's G20 Global Bioeconomy Initiative (GIB) effort on behalf of NF as an official knowledge partner and achieve an impactful set of final recommendations and outcomes by the end of 2025.
- Contribute to developing and implementing a new Africa Bioeconomy Finance Hub in partnership with FSD Africa and the African Natural Capital Alliance, with the initial resources identified and partnerships established to begin operations in early 2026.
- Beyond 2025, this work role will continue to help drive NF's work with the Africa Bioeconomy Finance hub and support on the related implementation of specific regional and country partnerships, bringing in other NF workstreams as required.

Externally, this work will involve building strong relationships with strategic stakeholders, cultivating coalitions across the public, private and non-profit sector, and incubating entrepreneurial new initiatives that work to accelerate financing and enabling policies for a sustainable bioeconomy in Africa. Internally, this work will involve working proactively and collaboratively across NF's workstreams to leverage relevant technical, political, and operational support to deliver objectives.

Key Responsibilities

The following is a preliminary set of responsibilities for the Senior Associate - Bioeconomy in Africa, which will be further refined and expanded through ongoing dialogue with the candidate as part of our strategy development process.

- Working closely with the Government of South Africa, G20 members, African regional institutions and civil society, to support high-ambition efforts to accelerate a sustainable bioeconomy coming out of the G20 Global Bioeconomy Initiative in 2025.



- Supporting the incubation of a new stand-alone Africa Bioeconomy Financing Hub for Africa, hosted by FSD-A/ANCA. This includes helping to refine the workplan, identifying initial partners, supporting on fundraising and stakeholder engagement, and identifying NF's own direct technical and policy contributions.
- Contribute to writing proposals and preparing budgets for fundraising for NF's work on the sustainable bioeconomy.
- Manage grantees or consultants involved in work packages, projects and tasks. Support grant reporting and compliance.
- Work closely with colleagues across NF's workstreams and geographies to identify new synergies and opportunities to advance our organizational goals with new stakeholders/in new contexts.

Qualifications and Experience

- A highly independent, resourceful and driven personality who is driven to achieve goals in a proactive and energetic way.
- Project management experience in global, fast-paced environments, with the ability to draw on expertise across teams and partners, fostering collaboration and thriving in a non-hierarchical culture.
- Public policy experience, engaging and working with diverse and multiple stakeholders to drive change and impact 5 years plus experience working on sustainable finance and economic development issues in low- and middle-income countries' contexts.
- Exceptional communication and relationship management skills, involving high-level stakeholders from public, private, philanthropic, non-profit sector
- A postgraduate level degree in related fields (economics, business, sustainable development, public policy) is a bonus.
- Economic policy experience working on issues related to bioeconomy (e.g. regenerative agriculture, blue economy, biofuels, circular economy, etc...) and "green" economic transition, preferred.
- Strong familiarity with the latest regulatory and disclosure initiatives and developments at the nexus of nature (climate change, biodiversity), the global financial system and related oversight institutions are a plus.
- Multilingual capabilities are a plus, with English fluency required.
- Excellent writing skills, including an ability to synthesize a range of inputs and data points to form evidence-based arguments which appeal to private sector and policy making audiences
- A high degree of emotional intelligence with an ability to work collaboratively across issue areas, geographies and teams
- Entrepreneurial and innovative outlook, with a passion for identifying creative points of impact and leverage in rapidly evolving fields and institutional contexts.
- Strong networks in with policy makers and private sector actors in the continent of Africa and specifically in South Africa a plus.

Personal Attributes:

- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Understanding and respect for diverse cultural perspectives, especially in the context of working with different geographies, cultures and backgrounds.
- **Adaptability:** Flexibility to adapt to changing priorities and work environments.
- **Integrity:** High ethical standards and a commitment to confidentiality and professionalism.
- **Initiative:** Self-motivated with a proactive approach to work and the ability to drive initiatives independently.

Terms

The role will be full-time, working remotely, with a preference for a candidate based in/willing and able to relocate to South Africa. The ideal start date is August 15, 2025, with flexibility.

Due to the characteristics of NF's business and the position, the team member may be required to travel periodically. This job description outlines the primary responsibilities and requirements for the Senior Associate Bioeconomy in Africa at NF. The Senior Associate for Bioeconomy in Africa may be requested to undertake additional activities to support the NF team, as per senior leadership's request. This role requires flexibility and a collaborative approach to ensure the smooth functioning of NF operations.



NatureFinance is an Equal Opportunity Employer

We are committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive workforce and encourage candidates from all backgrounds to apply. We look forward to welcoming a dynamic individual who shares our passion for aligning finance with nature-positive outcomes.

How to Apply:

We recognize that candidates may not meet every listed criterion. However, if you believe your skills, experience, or unique perspective would add value to this role, we encourage you to apply.

To be considered please submit your resume and complete the [🔗 Interview Questions](#) by 15th July 2025. Application materials developed with the assistance of AI will not be considered.

Please note that due to the high volume of applications we receive, NF may not be able to respond to every applicant. Only candidates selected for further consideration will be contacted.

Recruitment Process:

- Initial interview conducted with the Hiring Manager
- Skills assessment – A 60-minute task-based test or scenario questionnaire
- Final interview panel with relevant NatureFinance team members.
- **Ideal start date: 15th August 2025**