

Head of Finance Eastern Cape, South Africa

ABOUT US

EcoPlanet Bamboo is leading the commercialization of bamboo as a sustainable, deforestation-free, climate friendly, alternative fiber for some of the world's largest industries. We are a triple bottom line company putting equal emphasis on people, planet and profit, and building a team that is collaborative, entrepreneurial and passionate about driving sustainable development and long term positive impact through business.

Our operations are expanding with carbon financed bamboo farms and reforestation projects in Nicaragua, South Africa, Ghana, Rwanda and the Philippines. Our projects apply our successful model of landscape restoration, providing a solution to three of the world's most critical environmental problems: the need for effective solutions to mitigate global climate change; holistic restoration of the world's most degraded landscapes; and a growing population that requires sustainable alternatives for consumer products and markets that still contribute to deforestation and deforestation driven emissions.

Our pilot FSC certified bamboo farm has set the platform for bamboo to become a viable commercial tree free, deforestation free fiber for the country. We are currently in a stage of expansion with a committed restoration of 4,500 hectares of degraded cattle farms underway. In addition, we are undertaking two re-wilding landscape restoration projects, representing an additional 8,000 hectares under management within the region. Our current operations provide a mix of seasonal and full time employment to a team of >450 across four project locations in the Eastern Cape.

We are looking for an experienced Head of Finance who has a proven track record of leading teams and connecting financial functions with the targeted outcomes of a business. Given the rapid scaling of both the company and the focus projects, we are looking for an individual who has the ability to pivot between strategic thinking and financial oversight of day to day operational activity. This individual works directly with the General Manager in South Africa and our corporate Vice President of Finance.

Location: Port Alfred, Eastern Cape

RESPONSIBILITIES

Accountings & Systems

- Overall responsibility for accounting and system functions through the management of a finance team;
- Oversee general ledgers to prepare financial transaction reports and reconcile accounts;
- Oversee staff payroll and all related employee statutory tax filings;
- Ensure regulatory tax requirements are submitted on time monthly and that VAT refunds are received on a timely manner;
- Manage the payment of invoices and cost allocations;
- Maintain a filing system of documents both digital and in hard copy;
- Develop systems for asset control, management of warehouse inventory and vehicle movement;
- Assist with implementing financial management systems and adapting corporate level systems to the local context;
- Establish a review process to continuously improve financial accounting practices and related policies and procedures.

Financial Planning and Analysis (FP&A)

- Ownership of budget development, management and control on a growing portfolio of projects in South Africa;
- Serve as a business partner to the General Manager and on site operations managers, ensuring budgets and finance functions against operational achievements are understood and well managed;
- Report monthly on budget vs. actual with adequate supporting commentary that integrates operational progress;
- Ensure the company's short and long term cash position remains healthy;
- Provide strategic financial analysis with respect of trends, operational modeling and costs;
- Support the VP of Finance for any other required analysis.

Team Management

- Recruit and manage an initial team of 2-3 people in 2024 to support in the day to day work across finance and admin functions;
- Provide support, continuous training and leadership to this finance team;
- Work towards financial and operational cohesion between departments and project sites;
- Travel to other EcoPlanet operations to provide leadership and training functions, if required.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Relevant degree (business or finance);
- A minimum 8 years of progressive experience in relevant finance positions in South Africa;
- Experience managing and leading a team;
- Proven track record in key finance areas, including business performance management, financial reporting, and business controls;
- Knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles, practices, and procedures;
- Proficient in MS Excel and accounting software;
- Financial modeling experience a plus;
- Can maintain strict confidentiality;
- Attention to detail, analytical skills and good interpersonal and communication skills and ability to work accurately under pressure; and
- Excellent written and spoken English.

WHAT WE OFFER

We offer a competitive remuneration package, growth opportunities and a platform from which to do exciting and meaningful work with an ambitious and passionate team in a vibrant global company that is working towards driving sustainable change.

TO APPLY

Interested candidates should email a cover letter expressing their interest in the position and how their background meets the requirements of the role as well as a CV to Samantha Wilde at swilde@ecoplanetbamboo.com. Candidates will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.