SOUTH AFRICA - SEELAND DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Number of Placements: 1

Placement Site: Saint Helena Bay, Western Cape, South Africa

URL: None available

**Field/Subject Area:**

Open to all York students who meet the eligibility criteria

**Position Description:**

The Renewable Energy and Community Projects Assistant (RECPA) will work directly with the Managing Director on the implementation of the Trust's current projects. The RECPA will assist with funding research, proposal writing, and development/maintenance of the Trust website. The RECPA will also participate in the Trust's community outreach and education work, which may include presentations to community members and local stakeholders. Activities related to the Trust's planned wind and solar projects will likely take-up a significant portion of the RECPA's time during this period. That said, there will be time for the RECPA to explore and enjoy this beautiful coastal area of South Africa as well as Cape Town.

**Tasks/Duties**

* Developing content including visuals, video, and text to be used in the development of a website, social media platform, research grants, and a marketing plan
* Development of a website and social media platform
* Development of content for research and grant proposals
* Assist with development of marketing plan for the Trust
* Assist with development of tourism plan for the Trust

Expected work hours: 8am to 4pm, Monday to Friday

Preferred start date: Beginning of May or earlier if possible

**Qualifications/skills required:**

* Web design (technically proficient and able to work with technological challenges and limited resources)
* Highly adaptable (able to thrive in new situations)
* Team player (able to work effectively with people from diverse cultural and educational backgrounds)
* Helpful reading: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South\_Africa / http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western\_Cape / <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Helena_Bay>

**Language requirements:**

Fluent English

**Highlights of Organization/background information:**

Community Development Trust - The Seeland Development Trust was established in 2006 to help procure 717 hectares of farmland through the LRAD Program (Land Redistribution) of the then Dept. of Land Affairs. Seeland promotes alternative economic opportunities for the Trust's 205 member-families in an area that was formerly dependent on the local fishery. As this fishery declined (due to overfishing by large fishing companies, loss of fishing quotas for independent fishers, and climate change), the community experience economic hardship and economic diversification is of great importance for the future of the community. The projects that the Trust is currently pursuing include:

* The development of a 30 MegaWatt Wind Farm (in collaboration with Electrawinds and Just Energy, an Oxfam Great Britain subsidiary) of which the Trust will have a significant equity share; government approval will hopefully be received in 2013
* Possible development of a Solar Park in collaboration with Electrawinds
* The Trust currently has a small flock of sheep on the farm and is looking to add to this flock in 2013
* Investigation of a possible homestay rural, eco/responsible tourism venture
* Bag making enterprise
* Production of bricks from sand deposits on the farm to supply the local building industry (brick manufacturing has been put on hold due to socio-economic slowdown and lack of new home construction locally.