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| Funding opportunity | <b>The African Origins Platform Scarce Skills Funding Instrument</b>   |
| Purpose             | The NRF invites applications from researchers working in specified diminishing areas of palaeosciences research to apply for funding for 2014 and 2015 in support of primarily, human capital development and generally the specified fields of palaeoscience. This funding instrument is an additional interim measure that forms part of the African Origins Platform (AOP). The AOP Scarce Skills funding instrument further supports the development of palaeosciences and related disciplines, and will in part underpin the design and implementation of long-term interventions and funding instruments beyond 2015, as guided by the 2011 South African Strategy for the Palaeosciences. |
| Deadline            | <b>UP Internal Deadline: 15 January</b>  |
| Focus areas         | Palaeosciences research  |
| Eligibility         | <p>Applicants working in the following scarce skills research areas are invited to apply:</p> <p>Invertebrate palaeontology</p> <p>Fossil microfaunal studies</p> <p>Palaeogenetics</p> <p>Palaeobotany</p> <p>Geochronology (including stratigraphic analysis and sedimentology)</p> <p>Isotype analysis</p> <p>Palaeosciences conservation and rehabilitation</p> <p>Other diminishing or scarce fields of palaeoscience study will be considered, but will require a comprehensive motivation for their inclusion</p>   |
| Applications        | All applications must be submitted via the NRF's <b>Submission System</b> . Please select the AOP Scarce Skills Call under Create New Application. All applications must be endorsed by the research office of the principal applicant. Incomplete and/or late submissions will not be accepted by the NRF. It is anticipated that the process will be finalised in mid-March 2014.  |
| Other links         | <b>Website</b>   |
| UP DA & Contact     | <b>Mrs Didi Botes</b><br>Research Support;<br>Graduate Centre Room 1-96<br>University of Pretoria<br>Tel: (012) 420-2871; Fax: (012) 420-4025  |
| NRF Contact         | Contact :<br><b>Ms Tracy Klarenbeek</b><br>Acting Director: KFD<br>Tel: +27 12 481 4177<br>Email: tracy@nrf.ac.za  |