

Dear Sir, Madam,

I would like, with this letter to show my interest in the landscape design and creation work prospect on an Island in the Caribbean that my friend and colleague Raphael Serre mentioned to me a couple of weeks ago.

I currently have limited knowledge of the project but I understand that it is a 3 year Job to design, and create various gardens and entities on an island with an additional task of managing around 20 staff.

At this stage, I would like to assure you that I am willing to take on such an exciting task, and I believe my passion for plants, botanical knowledge and network of experts in the field would be beneficial. Although I have been very involved in the academic field the past few years I have not lost sight of the gardening and design side. I am a hardworking individual, with sense of perfection and have a desire to pursue new challenges. I have also gained good experience in managing people over the past few years

I am a strong believer in the conservation of our environment, but also to use all its potential in order to create a successful fusion between existing vegetation and new plantations and creations. With the little knowledge I have so far about this project, it might make sense to initially create some well integrated wind screen plantations in order to protect any new plantations and create an agreeable environment for anyone walking and browsing through the gardens. In the design, several entities could be created, from the suggested Palm plantations, possible flowering collections such as epiphytic Orchids and Bromeliads, several thematic gardens and entities, and possibly a self sustainable fruit and vegetable garden.

I also believe that to make such designs and creations successful, it may be necessary to collaborate with other experts in botany, construction and design. It would also be important to consider various sources of local knowledge

I am more than happy to discuss the project further at your convenience as well as get a better understanding of what you envisage and what your requirements are.

Regarding salary, I would suggest an amount of 4500 Euros monthly (after tax) as well as accommodation. I would also appreciate if my partner, Angelique could be considered for some duties in the legal and banking field if possible.

I look forward hearing from you

Best wishes

Olivier Maurin

Olivier Maurin (Dr.)

Date of Birth: 7th of January 1973
 Nationality: French
 Current address: [REDACTED] South Africa
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1. EDUCATION

- 2006-2009 : PhD in Botany; University of Johannesburg – South Africa
- 1995-2000 : Engineering School of Lullier (Geneva, Switzerland) - Engineering Diploma in Horticulture, with a specialisation in molecular biology (Top of class);
- 1991-1995 : School of Horticulture of Lullier (Geneva, Switzerland) - Diploma in Horticulture

2. PROFESSIONAL CAREER

- March 2005 – Today
 - Post-Doctoral fellow at the University of Johannesburg. Co-manager of the African centre for DNA Barcoding;
 - Management of the DNA sequencing facility, as well as supervision of staff, interns and students (20+) within the Botany department of the University;
 - The position includes the following tasks and duties:
 - Organisation and planning of Botanical expeditions in the Southern African region;
 - Collection and identification of plant species in the field;
 - Organisation and databasing of all data collected in the field (Herbarium, DNA and pictures)
 - Collaboration with researchers and botanists in various international institutions (Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Royal Botanic gardens Edinburgh, Conservatory and Botanic gardens of Geneva, Kirstenbosh Botanical Garden)
- October 2003- November 2005:
 - Research Assistant of Professor M. W. Chase (FRS) at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (RBGKew).

- October 2001-November 2003:
 - Research Assistant to Drs M. Fay and A.P. Davies at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (RBG Kew).

- June 2000 - July 2001:
 - Technical adviser to landscape designer and architects as well as salesmen at the D. Soupe SA Tree Nursery, Chatillon sur Chalaronne, France.
 - The nursery specialises in the production of a wide range of botanical woody species

- September 1998 - July 1999
 - Gardener, nursery specialist as well as guide to the Domaine du Rayol, protected coastal gardens of around 20 hectares. This position was performed as a "Green National Service".

3. LANGUAGE PROFICIENCIES

- French: mother tongue
- English : Fluent

4. ADDITIONAL COMPETENCIES

- IT (Apple and PC), advanced experience with general and certain specialised software programmes including Photoshop, Illustrator and ArcGIS;
- Photography: (macro and micro) with a particular interest and passion for gardens, landscapes, and botanical diversity

5. ACTIVITIES IN THE GARDENING WORLD

- Internships at the Botanical Garden in Geneva (Switzerland) during my years at the Horticultural School and Engineering School of Lullier Geneva;
- Technical adviser to Keith Kirsten (Landscape designer and Horticulturist in South Africa - Keith Kirsten International) in South Africa, writing up of various papers for the South African Magazine « SA Garden », and participation to the writing of the book on exceptional South African Gardens: « Garden to Inspire, Struik, 2013 »;
- Temporary management of various private gardens since 1995;
- Temporary management of the Botanical collection of the « Princess of Wales Conservatory » at the Royal Botanic gardens Kew;
- Various photographic contracts with the University of Johannesburg for branding and promotional uses

6. PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Sports (Swimming, Mountain biking, trekking);
- Gardening activities, tree pruning and truffle cultivation;
- Photography;
- Movies;
- Cooking