There are numerous important stories about species and the environment. Specialist Environmental Journalists are few.

Environmental Journalists investigate and report on issues related to the environment, energy, science, health and climate change, amongst others. It is important for Environmental Journalists to have an understanding of scientific language, historical environmental events, the ability to interpret environmental policy and general environmental concerns and communicate complex information to the general public.

Environmental Journalists may work in the offices of newspapers and magazine houses or in radio and television studios. They visit sites of events and challenges. They do research in libraries and information centres and will almost always use the internet and talk to various stakeholders. They often work irregular hours given reporting deadlines.
Skills

Environmental Journalists need good written and verbal skills, as well as sound knowledge of the environment. They could similarly benefit from:

- An ability to write clear, concise, interesting and objectively
- Good general environmental knowledge
- Remaining up to date with current events globally and locally
- Accuracy and unbiased perspectives
- An ability to use initiative, inquisitive and creative
- Research and investigative skills
- Good communication and interpersonal skills

Tasks

Environmental Journalists research, verify information and develop media articles on current trends and issues that affect people and the environment.

Studies

BA specialising in Journalism and Media Studies. Some universities offering these courses include UJ, Wits, SU, RU, NNMU, UFS.

National Diploma in Journalism / Media Studies offered at CUT, CPUT, DUT

Employers

- Newspapers (e.g. Mail and Guardian, Cape Times)
- Magazines (e.g. African Geographic Magazine)
- Radio and Television (e.g. 50/50)
- Websites (e.g. UNEP, WWF-SA)