



Content that Connects the Continent

Editor in Chief, bird News Agency

Reports to: CEO

Type: Limited term contract (one year)

Location: Remote Working

BACKGROUND

bird is a specialist news agency that offers stories with an alternative perspective on Africa. It's a project from Africa No Filter (ANF), a not-for-profit working to shift harmful and stereotypical narratives about and within the continent. It was created in response to ANF's research into [How African Media Covers Africa](#).

bird offers a range of nuanced features and data-rich stories about the people, places and initiatives shaping Africa. By providing stories free to media, bird is not only changing the narrative, it is also supporting media with one of the most expensive costs to their business – content. This is a critical offering at a challenging time for many newsrooms. bird is in the process of transitioning from a fully funded project of ANF to a sustainable media business. It is run and managed by Africa Insight.

Role and Responsibilities

This is the top editorial position at a fast-moving organization that is attempting to disrupt the news agency ecosystem across Africa. The EIC will be expected to set the agenda and direct the file while also working “at the coalface” of news production - including re-writing and copy editing - while at the same time being the public “face” of bird. You will be working with a team of professionals who have experience in traditional and digital media and also at international news agencies.

Working closely with the managing director and the business and relationships manager, you will be responsible for ensuring that bird finds the right “pitch” in its content offering, ensuring that the file is trusted and desired by publications, broadcasters and platforms across Africa.

Your core responsibilities include:

- Set the news agenda at bird.
- Oversee the commissioning and processing of the file (assisting where necessary).
- Ensure the integrity and trustworthiness of the content.
- Help manage the relationship with key funders and corporates by contributing to and occasionally delivering, reports.

- Communicate with content contributors through various channels
- Grow the coverage footprint of bird by engaging a wide selection of writers.
- Participate in the development of a bird “style guide” for African news writers.
- Help organize and chair regular online forums that bring African news editors and publishers together.
- Write occasional opinion pieces and regularly contribute to bird newsletters.

Competencies

- Experience editing English-language news, preferably at a national or regional level.
- Wide knowledge and broad understanding of African affairs.
- Experience of and a passion for, the telling of narrative-changing African stories.
- A strong network of African editors and journalists would be an advantage.
- Strong reading/writing capabilities in key African languages (eg KiSwahili) and/ or French, would be an advantage.
- Experience working for an international news agency would be an advantage.
- Familiarity with picture, graphics and video content creation, editing and captioning/ scripting, would be an advantage.
- Proven ability to lead, motivate and grow a diverse team.
- Capacity to manage a remote team.

Contact:

- Please reply with a cover letter and CV, to bird@africanofilter.org

About Africa No Filter

ANF is an initiative of a donor collaborative funded by Ford Foundation, Bloomberg, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Luminate, Open Society Foundations, Comic Relief, British Council, Hewlett Foundation and the Hilton Foundation. We are a donor collaborative that supports the development of nuanced and contemporary stories that shift existing, stereotypical narratives within and about Africa. Through research, grant making and advocacy we aim to build the field of narrative change makers by supporting storytellers, investing in media platforms and driving disruption campaigns. ANF’s goal over time is to leave an empowered narrative change ecosystem and an informed community of storytellers who work more deliberately to change harmful narratives within and about Africa.