

Contract Opportunity

Marine Biologist in Tristan da Cunha

Project Background

The Darwin Plus-funded project entitled “Sustainable Management of the marine environment and resources of Tristan da Cunha” is entering its fourth and final year of delivery. The project aims to strengthen local capacity for sustainable management of marine resources and collect data to inform fisheries management and enhance understanding of the impacts of invasive marine species and climate change.

The final year of project delivery will focus on building capacity of the Fisheries department, continuing to trial data collection methodologies and ensuring that the knowledge gained during the project is consolidated for future work via the development of a database and establishment of operating protocols.

A marine biologist is needed to support the implementation of the project including undertaking training activities (in diving, data collection, mapping, drone use and other survey methods), collecting field data, developing a database, data analysis, embedding long-term protocols and evaluating the project.

Terms

Duration: 6-month contract (September 2020 to March 2021)

Location of contract: Tristan da Cunha

Contractor reports to: Project Manager, RSPB; Head of Fisheries Department, Tristan Government

Fees: £19,143

Costs for travel, insurance and accommodation will be covered by the RSPB/Tristan Government.

Subsistence will be covered by the contractor and is estimated at £200 per month.

Some diving equipment is available on Tristan da Cunha, it is however expected that the successful contractor will supply their own diving gear and appropriate equipment. Equipment specific to the project (e.g. laboratory consumables; deep water cameras) will be provided by the project.

Please note, the contract will be held directly with the RSPB. Due to external factors (e.g. COVID-19 and shipping logistics) there may be variation in contract dates with potential for a January 2021 start, the ideal candidate should be able to provide a degree of flexibility.

Qualifications/Skills/Experience

Essential

- PhD in marine biology or a minimum of 5 years relevant experience
- Diver with PADI Dive Master or equivalent
- Marine shore and subtidal survey experience in cold/warm temperature waters
- Extensive dive experience including cold water and drysuit use
- Ability to identify animal and algal species to at least main groups and preserve specimens for expert identification of South Atlantic species
- Living in a small island community
- Project management and reporting
- Good communicator (oral and written)
- Experience of evaluating skills needs, developing training materials, delivering capacity building activities and mentoring
- Experience of developing standard operating protocols and sustainably embedding them
- Experience of database development including collecting, processing and analysing data
- Experience of safe diving protocols in a remote location

Desirable

- Knowledge of lobster fisheries management
- Knowledge of fishing methods for species other than rock lobsters
- Previous experience of working on Tristan da Cunha
- Previous experience of working with fisherfolk
- Dive instructor qualification
- Extensive drone experience
- Small boat use and maintenance
- Experience evaluating projects

Behaviours

- Self-sufficient, adaptable and resilient
- Strives to improve ways of working
- Able to complete work with a minimum of support and equipment
- Physically fit

For informal questions and to express interest in the opportunity please contact:

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