



---

## POSITION – Conservationist for Cousine Island

Cousine Island is a 26-hectare privately owned conservation island that supports a wide array of fauna and flora and has been identified by BirdLife International as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area. The Island is managed as a hotel and nature reserve, supporting important terrestrial and seabird populations and nesting sea turtles and endemic giant tortoises. Despite the small size, its conservation contribution to the Seychelles is immeasurable.

The Island is seeking a new conservationist to join the current conservation team. You will be responsible for continuing the 30 years of conservation and monitoring efforts, working closely with the Hotel and its clients.

## THE JOB

You will work together under your own initiative but as part of a small team to ensure the delivery of the conservation work programme. While help may be acquired from other departments for certain tasks, you will generally be expected to work self-sufficiently without supervision.

Key aspects of the job include:

- Coordinating fieldwork for various projects
- Monitoring of endemic land birds, such as the Seychelles magpie-robin
- Monitoring of seabird numbers, as well as breeding success (June to September)
- Nesting sea turtle monitoring and hatchery management (October to April)
- Habitat management
- Invasive species control
- Enforcement of biosecurity protocols
- Internal and governmental reporting
- Liaising with local NGOs and conservation bodies
- Collaborating with international researchers on scientific projects and publications
- Providing educational talks and activities for hotel guests
- Working with the hotel to promote sustainable practices
- Assisting in general island duties as required – Cousine is a small island with a close-knit team, and often, tasks will require all departments to assist, e.g. boat launching and tree felling.

## REQUIREMENTS

The position is not a typical 9-5, and you will be expected to conduct fieldwork in a tropical environment and work with paying clients at a luxury hotel, so candidates must demonstrate the following essential attributes:

- Good physical fitness and the ability to work long days/odd hours in a hot and humid environment
- Positive 'can-do' attitude
- Friendly and approachable manner
- Good communication skills

### Minimum Requirements:

- Minimum BSc Honours in Natural Sciences/Conservation Biology or related field
- Minimum two years of post-degree work experience managing conservation/research projects
- Experience working with birds and/or bird handling/ringing experience
- Knowledge of vegetation monitoring/habitat management
- Experience producing basic scientific reports
- Good working knowledge of MS Office and GIS software e.g., QGIS/ArcGIS
- Proven ability to manage, analyse and interpret large datasets and results
- Practically minded and able to carry out basic maintenance tasks relevant to the conservation programme

### Desirable:

- Bird ringing licence
- Experience working with nesting sea turtles
- Experience in or an understanding of bird rehabilitation
- Sea turtle tagging, nest relocation, hatchery management
- Certified SCUBA diver
- Boating experience
- Experience in a customer-facing role
- Experience working and living in a remote location

## BENEFITS

- Competitive salary
- Private airconditioned apartment and basic meals provided whilst on the island
- One set of return flights from/to country of residence every two years (negotiable)

## TO APPLY

Please send a detailed motivational cover letter and CV to [BrownMA@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:BrownMA@ukzn.ac.za). Closing date of applications is 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024. Skype/Zoom interviews will take place in the second week of December 2023, and the successful couple will be expected to start work in February 2024 (Dependent on working permit approval). Please note, a clean police clearance will be required when applying for work permits.