

NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY



Terms of Reference: Knowledge Broker/Research Assistant

The CMR is seeking the services of a knowledge broker/research assistant to work on a multidisciplinary study to provide recommendations for adaptive management of important coastal and estuarine fisheries by using knowledge from past and ongoing studies on the behavioural ecology of important fishery species and new socio-economic research. This project is in collaboration with the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB) and the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA) under the auspices of a project entitled *“Benchmarking knowledge-based adaptive management of estuarine fisheries in South Africa for a sustainable development”*. The project is funded by South Africa’s National Research Foundation (NRF) and the Research Council of Norway (RCN) and runs from 2019 to end 2022.

The successful applicant will provide coordination across the project’s disciplines to integrate the knowledge gained into holistic, knowledge-based guidelines for adaptive estuarine management. The incumbent will help identify, present, and discuss the findings and emergent themes with key stakeholders, including management agencies and user groups.

The overall aim is to identify a feasible way to adopt a more knowledge-based adaptive management approach for estuarine fisheries and fisheries related incomes in South Africa.

The successful candidate will specifically assist with the following:

- Coordinate knowledge sharing between all project researchers.
- Collate data already collected from biological, social, and economic domains and identify knowledge and action gaps within these domains.
- Facilitate public advocacy and increased awareness activities with key stakeholders by
 - Coordinating knowledge sharing workshops with stakeholders

- Sharing results with stakeholders in an easily accessible format (i.e. workshops, social media platforms, newsletters)
- Gaining feedback from key stakeholders and users regarding research findings
- Identify relevant civil society and government platforms to present findings to
- Identify key recommendations for sustainable and adaptive management of estuarine systems.
- Advocate policy changes according to the research findings

Core Competencies and Requirements:

- A minimum Masters qualification in science communication/environmental education or a related field
- Be able to work with both qualitative and quantitative data.
- Ability to develop and implement creative means to communicate findings to the broader public.
- Excellent communication skills
- Excellent organisational skills
- Independent worker that can work in a diverse team.
- Verbal and written science communication skills
- Networking and stakeholder engagement across academia, civil society, and government
- Advantage to have additional language skills, such as isiXhosa or Afrikaans.
- Must be able to travel if needed and have a valid driver's licence.
- Must be capable of working remotely.

Additional Information:

- Start and end dates for initial contract: 1 June 2021 – 31 December 2021 (with possible renewal)
- Working conditions are remote in light of COVID-19 pandemic but as risk of infection is reduced (especially in 2022), in-person advocacy and workshops must be carried out in or near Gqeberha
- You will work with project leaders from both South Africa and Norway (NMU, SAIAB and NINA) as well as NGOs, government, and civil society organisations.
- Salary based on qualification and experience:
 - Salary range is between R250 000 to R300 000 per annum (based on experience)
 - No additional benefits provided.
- Contract renewable annually based on performance and continued project funding.
- No permanent employment can be expected post the project lifespan at Nelson Mandela University

Application Process:

- Send a full CV (2 pages max), cover letter, certified qualifications, reference letters and a list of three contactable references to nina.rivers@gmail.com

- The Nelson Mandela University and the collaborating partners reserve the right not to appoint anyone. Only short-listed candidates will be communicated with.

Timeline:

- Application deadline is 12:00 on Friday, 21 May 2021
- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted by Tuesday, 25 May 2021
- Interviews with shortlisted candidates will be conducted via Zoom/MS Teams/Skype on Thursday, 27 May 2021
- Successful candidate will be contacted on Friday, 28 May 2021