

Postdoctoral Fellowship: conservation genomics, climate resilience and restoration of southern African seagrasses

The von der Heyden lab at Stellenbosch University, in collaboration with Prof Janine Adams at Nelson Mandela University is recruiting a postdoctoral fellow, for a fully funded, one year postdoctoral fellowship. The successful applicant will take a leading role in the NRF funded “**Project SeaStore: integrated research to support seagrass restoration and to build estuarine resilience in South Africa**”, specifically to investigate carbon sequestration and storage and microbiome communities of the South African seagrass, *Zostera capensis*. The project is a collaboration involving Stellenbosch University (Profs Sophie von der Heyden, Guy Midgley), Nelson Mandela University (Prof Janine Adams) and Rhodes University (Dr Gwynneth Matcher). This is a truly collaborative and integrated project, utilising ecological and genomic tools to understand the blue carbon potential of seagrass in South Africa.

Applicants for the position will be hard-working, enthusiastic, independently motivated and willing to lead on this particular project. A background in seagrass or coastal ecology is ideal, as is a passion for marine ecology and conservation. Ideally, the successful applicant would have some experience of molecular tools, in particular next-generation sequencing (metagenomics). The project includes a significant fieldwork component, so a valid drivers license is required, as well as an ability to work in aquatic environments. Applicants must be within four years of receiving their PhD.

The successful applicant will be based at the von der Heyden Lab at Stellenbosch University, one of Africa’s leading marine research groups specializing in the use of molecular tools to understand patterns and processes driving southern Africa’s rich marine biodiversity. The applicant will also have the opportunity to work at Nelson Mandela University (Institute for Coastal and Marine research) with Prof Janine Adams and will also be required to spend some time at Rhodes University with Dr Gwynneth Matcher. You can find out more about the research groups here: www.vonderheydenlab.com, <https://oceansciences.mandela.ac.za/Research-Chairs/Chair-in-Shallow-Water-Ecosystems>, <https://www.ru.ac.za/bm/people/academicstaff/matcher/>.

Please direct all enquiries to Prof Sophie von der Heyden, svdh@sun.ac.za. For applications to be considered include a detailed CV noting experience, as well as publications and conference attendance and provide three contactable referees. The fellowship carries a value of R220,000 per annum and is available for one year, but with the potential of extension subject to funding. The fellowship is available immediately and can commence in line with COVID-19 regulations. This position is available until filled.