FIELD ASSISTANT: MARION ISLAND SEABIRDS (TWO POSITIONS) - 15 MONTH CONTRACT

SALARY: R 160 985 p.a. (plus 37% in lieu of benefits)

CENTRE: MARION ISLAND

REQUIREMENTS: A relevant BSc Degree or National Diploma or equivalent qualification. A BSc (Hons) or higher degree will be advantageous as there may be scope to collect data towards a higher degree (MSc/PhD). Must be self-motivated, enjoy working outdoors in often inclement weather, have good attention to detail, be meticulous in data collection and demonstrate experience to conduct scientific monitoring relating to seabirds to a high standard. Previous experience of working with birds is a major advantage.

DUTIES: The successful candidates will contribute data towards long-term monitoring of several seabird demographic parameters, e.g. diet, population status, reproductive success, foraging effort and distribution by deploying and recovering a range of satellite tags and data loggers. This will include conducting island-wide surveys of breeding seabirds. The project will also investigate or elucidate factors affecting population decline on four penguins species and inshore feeders species (Crozet shag) at Marion Island. The applicant will have to manage and keep track of research data, including data files from electronic tracking equipment.

The incumbents will undertake fieldwork as specified in a work plan drawn up by the Department. They will need to make day-to-day decisions about priorities and protocols, maintain accurate records of the work and enter all data on computer databases. They will report to and regularly update the project manager on progress of the project. The applicants must have determination, physical fitness, ability to work under harsh environmental conditions subject to extremes of weather, a desire to work with animals, including handling of seabirds and their chicks, empathy for animals and a passion for conservation.

SPECIAL NOTE: The incumbents will be stationed at Marion Islands and adhere to the health, safety and environmental requirements. The successful applicants will spend 13 months (April 2018 to May 2019) at Marion Island. *There is no option to return to South Africa before May 2019.* The ability to work and live with small groups of people is thus essential. Although the base is well-equipped with e-mail and satellite telephone facilities, the applicant has to be self-sufficient and self-motivated. The location may affect both the physical and mental well-being of the incumbent, their family and close relationships. Candidates must be physically fit, mentally strong and prepared for physically challenging and satisfying work. In addition the successful candidates may often be called upon to work long hours in extreme conditions on duties unrelated to their functions. Short-listed candidates will be subjected to screening and security vetting to determine their suitability for employment. Appointment to these positions is subject to a rigorous medical examination, which will be arranged for at no cost to the applicants.

ENQUIRIES: Leshia Visagie (021 819 5057) LUpfold@environment.gov.za
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CLOSING DATE: 29 January 2018 – email CVs urgently to the above addresses