Global Wetlands research project seeks a Statistical Ecologist for wetland biodiversity

The project

The Global Wetlands research program develops and applies globally applicable assessments of coastal wetland health to drive conservation action. The current phase is developing automated collection of biodiversity and wildlife indicators at sites around the world to inform management actions.

This is an opportunity to be part of a major global initiative advancing the science of automated ecosystem monitoring. Researchers work in a supportive team with complementary skills in statistical modelling, ecology, big data analytics and automation.

Position objectives

The successful applicant will have a key role in integrating biodiversity data with environmental data to quantify wetland health. They will also model management scenarios to increase the effectiveness of coastal management actions.

Key accountabilities

- Lead the analysis of trends in biodiversity data and their integration with environmental data.
- Model scenarios that test the effectiveness of management actions on wetland health.
- Coordinate activities with other project participants to ensure effective team communication and collaboration.
- Maintain a good publication record in high impact, international journals
- Manage the preparation and formulation of publications, figures, and maps, presentations and reports arising from the research.

Selection criteria – Required

- 1. PhD in relevant field with research experience, including leadership, in statistical ecology or ecological modelling.
- 2. Established track record of publication in high-impact journals.
- 3. Demonstrated excellent interpersonal and negotiation skills together with high level written and verbal communication skills.
- 4. Demonstrated ability to work independently with minimal supervision to meet competing deadlines, and to work effectively as a member of a team and communicate with a range of stakeholders.

Selection criteria - Desirable

- 1. Ability to conduct collaborative research in multidisciplinary and multi-institutional teams.
- 2. Knowledge of the R program and experience in computer programming, and development of algorithms that automate analysis.
- 3. Experience in handling large datasets.
- 4. Experience in developing new statistical techniques for application to ecological data.
- 5. Experience in spatial analysis of marine ecological data.

Renumeration:

Monthly renumeration will be between $R55\ 000 - R60\ 000$ We hope to fill the position as soon as possible and it will run till January 2027.

Base of operations:

We would prefer applicants to be based at the University of the Western Cape, in Cape Town, South Africa but we are open to a hybrid working model. The successful applicant will join the Department of Biodiversity and Conservation Biology under the supervision of Professors Anusha Rajkaran (UWC) and Rod Connolly (Griffith University – Queensland, Australia)

Application Information:

If you are eager to contribute to the conservation of coastal wetlands using your quantitative skills, we would love to hear from you. **Please submit your CV and cover letter** by **30th of June 2025** to Professor Anusha Rajkaran - **arajkaran@uwc.ac.za**.