

MARINE SCIENTIST

Sharks and Rays Protection Project (South Africa)

Project description:

The **WILDOCEANS** Programme of the **WILDTRUST** (Wildlands Conservation Trust) received funding from the Shark Conservation Fund to lead the Shark and Ray Protection Project in South Africa. The overarching goal of this project is to improve the protection of the IUCN Red List threatened (Vulnerable, Endangered, and Critically Endangered) sharks and rays found within South Africa's oceans, prioritizing threatened endemics (species unique to our waters). The project will also examine the distribution, abundance and movement of endangered shark species and identify critical habitats for their protection. This information will inform MPA expansion processes, management effectiveness and economic opportunities for these MPA sites.

Qualifications and Experience:

We are looking for a dynamic early career marine scientist to join the WILDOCEANS team, preferably with a PhD in marine biology/ecology. Good co-ordination and organisational ability, data management and analysis capability, and speaking (English) and writing skills, are essential. Experience with report writing, scientific publications, and engaging communities regarding marine issues would be advantageous. The ideal candidate should have 3–5 years practical experience.

Responsibilities and Duties:

The candidate will report to the Project Manager, and responsibilities and duties will include:

- Co-ordinating science elements, includes organising and participating in field studies and monitoring, and project meetings
- Data management and analysis
- Preparing reports and scientific publications including policy briefs
- Preparing and giving oral presentations
- Convene annual meetings of South African shark experts and relevant non-governmental organizations to share information
- Deliver learning workshops and training sessions to facilitate the development of effective procedures for identification, administration, and enforcement for shark protection
- Interacting and communicating with a wide range of stakeholders
- Contribute to the development and implementation of long-term monitoring programmes for sharks and rays
- Provision of specialist support to the communications, campaign, education and awareness teams.
- Providing decision-support advice to the Shark and Ray project management team
- An additional key component of this post will be the mentoring, supervision and training of post-graduate marine science students and interns working on aspects of the project and related WILDOCEANS projects.

Based: Durban, South Africa

Start date: 1 August 2020

Duration: Fixed-term contract (2 years)

Remuneration: Competitive salary based on qualifications and experience

TO APPLY: Submit a covering motivation letter with a 2-page CV including a minimum of 2 references to the Project Manager: Email: nikkic@wildtrust.co.za by 31May 2020. Late applications may be disregarded. **WILDTRUST** reserves the right to vary the requirements and not to fill this position. Should you not receive a response within a month kindly consider your application unsuccessful. (by 30 June 2020).