

Post-Doctoral Fellow Shark and Ray Protection Project (South Africa)

Project description:

The **WILDOCEANS** Programme of the **WILDTRUST** (Wildlands Conservation Trust) received funding from the Shark Conservation Fund to lead a 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 and ray species and identify critical habitats for their protection. This information will inform MPA expansion processes, management effectiveness and economic opportunities for these MPA sites.

The successful candidate will be responsible for developing a GIS-based spatial conservation plan that maps essential habitats and identifies areas in need of protection (including time closure zones and no-take sanctuaries). This will include, but not be limited to, compiling a list of available data, sourcing data, identifying species that can benefit from spatial protection, and identifying and mapping essential habitats. The outputs will include a report and associated GIS products, and a peer-reviewed journal article. The candidate will be hosted by Prof Mandy Lombard (Institute for Coastal and Marine Research, Nelson Mandela University) and further supported by Dr Alison Kock (Cape Research Centre, South African National Parks) and Dr Jean Harris (WILDOCEANS). The candidate will also be expected to prepare and give oral presentations, participate in project meetings and activities, and provide scientific support for the project team.

Qualifications and Experience:

The candidate must have a PhD preferably in Marine Biology or a similar field within the past five years; have strong writing and analytical skills; GIS experience is essential; and a good publication record for the current stage of career is required.

Based: Ocean Sciences Campus, Nelson Mandela University, Port Elizabeth, South Africa

Start date: 1 August 2020

Duration: Two years

Remuneration: R250 000 per annum (tax exempt), additional funding for running expenses will be provided.

TO APPLY: Submit a 200-word motivation letter with a two-page CV including a minimum of two references to the Project Manager: Email: nikkic@wildtrust.co.za by 31 May 2020. Late applications may be disregarded. **WILDTRUST** reserves the right to vary the requirements and not to fill this position. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted (by 30 June 2020).