



## Department of Biological Sciences

University of Cape Town

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### **Post-doctoral position: benthic stress indicators – University of Cape Town (South Africa).**

We are looking for a post-doctoral scientist to join our research program aimed at identifying benthic stress indicators in Langebaan Lagoon on the west coast of South Africa. The project aims to utilise a unidirectional gradient of human disturbance (bait collecting, recreation and trampling) to understand disturbance effects on a range of ecological response variables (benthic algae, sandprawn population and reproductive metrics, benthic macrofaunal communities) and to identify ecological indicators of recreational disturbance that can be used for ecosystem management. The broad project involves interdisciplinary collaboration between Assoc Prof Deena Pillay (Supervisor, University of Cape Town, South Africa), Prof Ursula Scharler (University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa), Assoc Prof Candida Savage (University of Otago, New Zealand) and Assoc Prof Agnes Karlson (Stockholm University, Sweden).

The postdoctoral candidate is expected to participate in the following:

1. Assist post-graduate students with seasonal sampling in Langebaan Lagoon.
2. Use statistical/process modelling tools (path analysis/sequential equation modelling/network analysis) to integrate data from multiple sources to understand ecological consequences of disturbance and identify stress indicators
3. Collect benthic ecosystem function data
4. Mentor post-graduate students, publish research findings and engage in public outreach.

Applicants should have:

1. A PhD in Marine Ecology/Benthic Ecology/Community Ecology/Statistical Ecology or related disciplines
2. A strong publication record relative to experience
3. Strong numerical/statistical/process modelling skills (experience with path analysis/sequential equation modelling/network analysis will be advantageous)
4. Experience in quantifying benthic ecosystem functions is advantageous

This is a full-time position for a 2-year period at the University of Cape Town.

Funding: R 200 000.00 per year

Deadline for application: 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023

Starting date: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023

#### **Application Process**

Applications should be submitted as one single pdf file, including a CV, list of publications, personal background describing research interests (1–2 paragraphs), research experience (1–2 paragraphs), and career goals (1–2 paragraphs). Please include the contact details of two referees. Applications should be submitted to [Deena.Pillay@uct.ac.za](mailto:Deena.Pillay@uct.ac.za).