

# RESEARCH ASSISTANT (MARINE BIOLOGY)

## Oceano Vivo - Oceans Alive Project (Mozambique and South Africa)

### Project description:

The 4-year Oceano Vivo - Oceans Alive project is a partnership between WILDOCEANS and Oceans without Borders, (programmes of the WILDTRUST and African Foundation) and is funded by the Blue Action Fund. It aims to support improved management, expanded formal protection and local community livelihoods at two regionally important and ecologically connected marine biodiversity hotspots in the western Indian Ocean: iSimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage Site in South Africa, and the Vamizi-Quifuki-Metunda Island Complex in the Quirimbas in Mozambique. From an ecological perspective, this project aims to improve understanding of the ecosystems in the deeper offshore mesophotic zone within and adjacent to these Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and their importance for sustaining inshore fisheries and tourism. The project will also examine the distribution, abundance and movement of endangered species between and within these sites, focusing on turtles, sharks, rays and groupers and identifying critical habitats for their protection. This information will inform 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 an MSc degree in marine biology/ecology. Experience in biodiversity and ecological field surveys (such as benthic biodiversity and fish abundance surveys), species monitoring and/or movement studies would be an advantage. Good co-ordination and organisational ability, data management and analysis capability, and speaking and writing skills, are essential. The ideal candidate will have 1–2 years practical experience in the field.

### Responsibilities and Duties:

As a full-time member of the core project team, reporting to the Project Marine Biologist, the Research Assistant will be required to support the Project Marine Biologist as required, including:

- Co-ordinate, organise and participate in field studies and monitoring, and project meetings
- Data management and analysis
- Prepare reports and scientific publications
- Prepare and give written and oral presentations
- Interact and communicate with a wide range of stakeholders
- Co-ordinate the development and implementation of long-term monitoring programmes
- Provide and interpret relevant information to the communications team and the education awareness team
- Provide decision-support advice to the MPA management team
- Mentor and train post-graduate marine science students and interns working on aspects of the project and related WILDOCEANS projects.

**Based:** Durban, South Africa

**Start date:** As soon as possible

**Duration:** Fixed-term contract (3-4 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: [davidm@wildtrust.co.za](mailto:davidm@wildtrust.co.za) by 9 August 2019. 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.