

**Postdoctoral advert:
ACEP Deep Connections and Agulhas Bank Connections Projects**

Open date: 15 March 2023

Location: Cape Town or Gqeberha

Description

Prof Kerry Sink (SANBI and Nelson Mandela University) is looking for a postdoctoral researcher to support spatial biodiversity planning for the marine realm and the cross-ream coastal zone. The successful candidate should make a contribution to advance the inclusion of connectivity knowledge and data in spatial biodiversity planning and/ or marine protected area expansion. This postdoctoral position is part of two linked projects funded through the National Research Foundation's African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme (ACEP). The ACEP Deep Connections and Agulhas Bank Connections Projects seek to better account for connectivity in systematic conservation planning. This includes land-sea connectivity, shelf-deepsea connectivity (including the role of submarine canyons), genetic and oceanographic connectivity and the diverse human connections that South Africans have with coastal and marine ecosystems. There is some flexibility in the focus of the study but progress should be made in at least one area with recommendations in multiple aspects which can be developed through literature surveys and engagement and/or workshops with scientists, knowledge holders and stakeholders. The successful candidate may have an opportunity to work with Dr Linda Harris who is leading the coastal and marine spatial biodiversity plan for South Africa with work underway to integrate information from multiple projects.

Requirements/ Qualifications

- PhD in Biology, Zoology, Molecular Genetics, Marine Science, Conservation Biology or related disciplines
- Experience with literature review and workshops to gather and synthesise inputs into assessments, policy, research frameworks, national planning processes or similar.
- Experience in spatial research, GIS, systematic conservation planning and/ or species distribution modelling.
- Willingness to collaborate with conservation planners and biodiversity scientists
- Demonstrated ability to summarize scientific findings in the form of written manuscripts and oral presentations.
- Familiarity with systematic conservation planning processes and software is an advantage
- Basic knowledge of population genetics/genomics is also advantageous

Bursary value:

The value of the fellowship is R200,000/year (tax free) and is available for 12 months, subject to satisfactory progress and all relevant regulations.. The successful candidate must start by 1 June 2023. Some running expenses will also be made available. The postdoctoral fellow may register at NMU, UCT or propose a South African University of their choice.

Application Instructions

All applications should be submitted to Prof Kerry Sink k.sink@sanbi.org.za. Consideration of applicants will begin on 21 April 2023 and will continue until the position is filled or abandoned. Application packages should include the following:

1. Cover letter outlining interest in the position and how it aligns with career goals
2. CV
3. Copy of published research output
4. Contact information (institution, email and phone number) for two professional references

Send all applications to k.sink@sanbi.org.za with Connections Postdoc in subject line.

We reserve the right not to fulfil this fellowship. If no response has been received by 21 May, candidates may assume that their applications were unsuccessful.

Enquiries

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