Volunteer position: river pipefish conservation

We are looking for volunteer research assistants/interns to participate in a diving survey, genome screening and/or establishment of a captive breeding population of one of Africa's rarest coastal fish species, the critically endangered river pipefish, *Syngnathus watermeyeri*.

This small pipefish was believed to have become extinct at the end of the 20th century, but a small number of survivors has subsequently been found in some of the estuaries in its small range in the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_pipefish). However, it is presently hanging on by a thread, and the survivors are believed to be highly inbred, and at great risk of imminent extinction.

This position is particularly suited for, but not limited to, young researchers wishing to gain experience in a wide variety of conservation-related fields. Successful applicants can choose their level of involvement, which may include participation in diving surveys (including mark-and-recapture), DNA laboratory work and unix-based data analyses (at the University of Johannesburg), and the establishment of a captive breeding population (at uShaka Marine World in Durban). Please find more detail on the following website: https://www.speciesconservation.org/case-studies-projects/river-pipefish/16007

The first field survey is expected to take place in late March 2018. The costs for food, accommodation and diving equipment during the fieldwork will be covered. Participants have to arrange travel to and from the study site themselves. Subsequent surveys will take place approximately every 6 months for the next 3 years.

If you are interested in this position, please send a letter of motivation and a short CV highlighting skills and interests relevant to the project to Prof. Peter Teske, University of Johannesburg (prteske@uj.ac.za). Please also provide contact details of at least 3 referees.