



JOB DESCRIPTION

Name:		Job Title:	Marine Research Assistant
Supervisor:	Ruth Leeney Project Manager - NaRaS	Location:	Swakopmund/Lüderitz
Duration:	12 months with a possibility of extending (funding permitting)		

Background

Almost no research has been conducted on chondrichthyans (sharks, skates, rays and chimaeras) in Namibian waters. The NaRaS project aims to collect critical baseline data on these animals, to better understand species diversity, important habitats for chondrichthyans, and the threats they face. The project will use a range of research methods and has several components focusing on chondrichthyan diversity and habitat use in the Namibian Islands MPA.

Key Purpose of the role:

The NaRaS project is hiring a Research Assistant to assist with the day-to-day execution of the project. We are looking for a motivated individual with a scientific background and a strong motivation to work in the field of research, to join our team. The role will be varied, busy and at times demanding. The successful applicant will gain experience in a range of research methods and will have the opportunity to greatly develop their research profile.

This role is initially available for a 12-month period. Extension of the role will depend on additional funding becoming available.

Key Responsibilities:

The Marine Research Assistant, under the supervision of the Project Manager will provide assistance towards the following responsibilities:

- Planning and logistics for field trips
- Arranging purchasing of equipment for the project
- Arranging meetings with stakeholders and collaborators in Namibia, attending those meetings and providing updates on the progress of the project
- Assisting with fieldwork which will include conducting baited remote underwater video (BRUV) surveys, tagging sharks and rays, collecting data on chondrichthyans captured during angling competitions, collection of data on commercial fishing vessels, providing outreach and education to schools and community groups,
- Writing updates and reports on the results of the project
- Contributing to communications efforts for the project, including social media posts
- Coordination with undergraduate students participating in the project

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- Contributing to data analysis and writing of scientific papers
- Development and execution of a study on the value of recreational angling for chondrichthyans

Other Responsibilities

- Provide cross cutting support within the Marine team commensurate with their skills

Key working relationships: internal/external

Internal: Project Team

- Project manager NaRaS
- Marine Coordinator
- Marine Team

External:

- MFMR
- UNAM
- SAIAB

Resources responsible for:

Financial: n/a

People: n/a

Person Specification: Essential qualifications, competences, knowledge, skills and abilities.

- Minimum MSc in biological, ecological, marine or fisheries science, OR equivalent experience working on a research or monitoring project in a field of marine biology.
- Experience of report and scientific publication writing (must be able to provide examples of writing).
- Excellent organisational skills.
- Must have prior experience of working at sea and must not suffer from seasickness.
- Good command of Office suite applications (Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint).
- Driver's licence is an advantage.

Signature (Admin Assistant) Date:

Signature (Supervisor) Date: