

## **ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT**

### **JOB DESCRIPTION**

**JOB TITLE:** Marine Conservation Team Leader  
**TEAM:** Conservation  
**REPORTS TO:** Director of Conservation and Fisheries  
**GRADE:** 4

#### **1. JOB PURPOSE:**

- To assist with the development of the Ascension Island marine environment management plan and oversee its delivery.
- To develop marine monitoring and research programmes and coordinate their implementation.
- To develop funding streams and partner collaborations that support marine conservation on Ascension.
- To support scientific research and coordinate data management across the Conservation and Environmental Health teams.

#### **2. MAIN DUTIES:**

- To prepare a long term strategy for the management of the Ascension Island's marine environment and sustainable management of Ascension Island's marine biodiversity with the Director of Conservation and Fisheries.
- To coordinate and contribute to the delivery of the marine management plan
- To prepare a marine monitoring and research plan with other members of the Conservation Marine Team and seek external partners to assist with its delivery
- To develop project proposals and funding applications to contribute to the delivery of the marine management and monitoring plans
- To line manage the Inshore Research Scientist and Research Scientist
- To build awareness of, and support for, marine conservation and responsible fishing practices within the local community including activities with the island school children

- To produce detailed reports of work conducted for funders, project partners and non-specialist audiences and to produce peer reviewed publications and presentations.
- To report regularly to Conservation Management and Principle Investigators on the Darwin Project, to ensure that all parties are meeting their targets and goals.
- Provide scientific support to all members of the Conservation and Environmental Health Teams as necessary to ensure research is undertaken to a high standard. Final decisions will rest with the appropriate Team Leaders and the Director of Conservation and Fisheries, but advice may be requested on topics including, but not limited to, project funding, design, delivery, analysis and reporting.
- Coordinate data management across the Conservation and Environmental Health Teams to ensure data collection and storage protocols are rigorous. Carry out ongoing review of data use and requirements within the Teams and provide database training for staff as required.
- Comply with Health and Safety at Work procedures.

### **3. PERSON SPECIFICATION:**

#### **Essential**

- Strong BSc and MSc/MRes qualifications in a relevant subject.
- A sound knowledge of fisheries biology, invertebrate biology and the marine environment
- A proven ability to lead and deliver work programmes
- A proven ability to develop grant proposals and build partnerships with academic institutions, UK Government Agencies and NGOs
- Experience of line management and mentoring
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills and the ability to convey complex concepts to a variety of audiences, including government officials, international scientists, fishing industry leaders and the general public. A proven track record of engaging fishermen and the wider community in marine conservation is highly desirable
- A high level of computer literacy with a sound knowledge of statistical techniques (ideally using R), GIS experience (preferably QGIS) and database management

- Scuba diving experience. Note: Ascension Island has no re-compression chamber so responsible and conservative diving is of paramount importance
- A full driving license
- The successful candidate will be self-motivated, happy working both independently and in a team setting, and willing to sometimes work extended hours and on projects outside of core duties if required

### **Desirable**

- At least five years' experience working in a senior position in marine conservation management
- A PhD in a fisheries or marine ecology related subject
- Experience of living and working on conservation issues in remote communities and/or small islands
- Advanced SCUBA diving qualification (PADI Divemaster or equivalent) with ideally at least 300 logged dives and an excellent awareness of dive safety.
- A powerboat handling qualification and experience of operating RIBs at sea
- A track record of publishing in peer-reviewed literature

## **4. REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS**

- The Marine Conservation Team Leader will report to the Director of Conservation and Fisheries and will be part of the Conservation Department Team

This Job Description indicates only the main duties and responsibilities of the post. It is not intended as an exhaustive list.

The Ascension Island Government (AIG) reserves the right to amend this Job Description from time to time, according to operational needs. Any changes will be discussed with you and confirmed in writing. Please note that you share with AIG the responsibility for making suggestions to alter the scope of your duties and improve the effectiveness of your post.