

Position Vacancy: Southwest Madagascar Octopus Fishery Improvement Project Technical Assistant, Madagascar

Location:	Toliara, Madagascar
Closing date for applications:	28th February 2016
Contract duration:	24 months
Start date:	As soon as possible
Remuneration and benefits:	Competitive salary based on experience

Rebuilding tropical fisheries with coastal communities

Blue Ventures develops transformative approaches for nurturing and sustaining locally led marine conservation through an integrated approach addressing health and environmental issues. We work in places where the ocean is vital to local cultures and economies, and we are committed to protecting marine biodiversity in ways that benefit coastal people.

Summary Job Description

For the past decade Blue Ventures has been supporting coastal communities in southern Madagascar to manage inshore fishery resources. This support has included leading an ambitious fisheries management programme throughout the southwest region, which has demonstrated that short term closures of octopus fishing sites nearly double fisher catch and result in significant increases in individual fisher income. In addition to fisheries research, Blue Ventures provides technical support to community-based associations in the implementation of seasonal closures of fishing grounds, a management model which has since been replicated throughout Madagascar and internationally in mainland Africa, island states in the Western Indian Ocean and Mexico. These fisheries closures have also inspired broader marine conservation efforts



by coastal communities throughout Madagascar, now forming the cornerstone of a national network of locally-managed marine areas (LMMAs).

Our work is currently focusing on improving key aspects of the octopus fishery as part of an ambitious Fisheries Improvement Project (FIP), that aims to increase the long-term sustainability of the fishery. The octopus fishery in SW Madagascar is now managed by a group of stakeholders, the *CGP - Comite de Gestion de la pêche au Poulpe*, which includes community members, fisheries companies, NGOs and government authorities. This role will support the implementation of key FIP activities, such as research to understand ecosystem and bycatch impacts of the fishery, communicating key findings of the stock assessment and supporting the implementation of a harvest control rule.

The position represents a unique opportunity to support a Fisheries Improvement Project for an economically important fishery that supports thousands of small-scale fishers in SW Madagascar, and to develop key lessons learned to share within Madagascar and with Blue Ventures' international partners.

This role will work closely fisheries companies, local communities, researchers and the University of Toliara, whilst reporting directly to Blue Ventures' Sustainable Fisheries Programme Manager. The successful candidate will also work to build the capacity of the rest of the team, who will support community and stakeholder engagement in the project.

Position in organisation

Reporting to: Sustainable Fisheries Manager

With management responsibility for: Temporary research assistants and consultants

Major Roles and Responsibilities

Lead on implementation of FIP research

- Develop research methods for answering key knowledge gaps for successful regional octopus fisheries management
- Coordinate and oversee implementation of research and key FIP activities, as outlined in the agreed FIP work plan, including hiring staff/students/consultants as needed.
- Analyse data, produce reports and organise dissemination of results.
- Support sustainable fisheries project manager to liaise with partners and stakeholders in fishery to gather information and provide feedback on activities and results.

Support implementation of FIP

- Lead on dissemination of the SW Madagascar stock assessment to stakeholders, as well as harvest control rule (HCR) discussions and implementation.
- Assist with design, coordination and development of the closure regime for octopus fisheries in SW



Madagascar, through lessons gathered from the stock assessment and HCR.

- Assist with write up of knowledge of octopus fishery and history of management regime for FIP.
- Lead on the development of an octopus fisheries management plan for SW Madagascar.
- Ensure a clear understanding of long-term strategy of project is maintained.

Technical support

- Provide training and capacity building to project team and project partners in outputs of research and FIP.
- Train staff, and other project partners where relevant, in data analysis and dissemination methods.

Communication and awareness

- Ensure excellent internal communication within and across partner organisations in this project.
- Report progress and disseminate results to team, communities, management committees and other stakeholders on a regular basis.
- Assist with the preparation of grant reports to funding partners as required.
- Contribute to Blue Ventures' communications outputs as required.

Additional duties as assigned

Requirements

Essential

- A graduate-level qualification in fisheries science, marine ecology/biology, or conservation
- Demonstrable research and analytical skills
- Experience of small scale fisheries monitoring, ideally community-based
- Highly organised with an eye for detail
- Ability to take initiative and solve problems quickly
- Ability to work well as part of a multicultural team
- Fluency in English or French; high level of spoken of the other
- Good communication and diplomacy skills
- Willingness to live and work in a relatively remote environment

Desirable:

- Good knowledge of Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and Fisheries Improvement Projects (FIPs)
- Experience of developing partnerships with government agencies, non-governmental organisations and the private sector
- Experience of financial and budget management



- Work experience in Western Indian Ocean region, including knowledge of marine environmental issues and cultural context
- High level of spoken Malagasy

Application Details

Applicants should send a cover letter and a recent copy of their CV (with full address, telephone and email contact details of three professional referees), along with the application form to jobs@blueventures.org. **Please include the reference “FIP Assistant” in the subject line.** The closing date for applications is 28th February.

