



## Field Assistant: Marion Island Seabird Researcher (approximately 15 months contract) OC29/2016

**Salary** R 171 069 p.a (plus 37% lieu in benefits)

**Centre:** Cape Town Office (Marion Island base)

### Requirements:

- Data collection while on Marion Island will be used by the applicant towards a higher degree (MSc or PhD) on the impacts of mouse predation on albatrosses and other seabirds.
- A BSc Honours degree in the natural sciences is therefore a minimum requirement of the position.
- Applicants need to have a high level of computer literacy (R, Word, Excel) and have good writing and statistical skills.
- Experience in handling seabirds is essential.
- Applicants also should have some experience in deploying data loggers on birds, and ideally be able to provide electronic/mechanical solutions in the event of equipment failure.
- Applicants must be physically fit, self-motivated and willing to work in remote isolation as part of a small team.
- Proven experience in these rigorous conditions is a strong recommendation.
- Several albatross species breed on cliffs, so applicants must have a good head for heights and knowledge of basic rope safety techniques.
- Marion Island is a cold, wet and windy environment, and the only access to study sites is by walking up to 12 hours per day over rough terrain in rubber boots, so enjoying being outdoors and hiking long distances is recommended.

### Duties:

- The successful applicant will:
  - 1) conduct regular surveys to track the spread of mouse attacks on seabird chicks,
  - 2) test mitigation against mice at attack sites,
  - 3) monitor the performance of study colonies of selected seabirds, recording presence of marked adults and their breeding success,
  - 4) conduct island-wide surveys of breeding seabirds, and
  - 5) assess seabird foraging distributions by deploying and recovering a range of data loggers.
- The applicant will have to manage and keep track of research data, including data files from electronic tracking equipment.
- Office work will entail report writing and keeping meticulous records of all data collected.

### Note:

- The incumbent will execute duties at a Sub/Antarctic Base and adhere to the health, safety and environmental requirements.
- The successful applicant will spend a full year (April 2017 to May 2018) at Marion Island base. There is no option to return to South Africa before May 2018.
- The ability to work and live with small groups of people is thus essential.

- Although the base is well-equipped with e-mail, fax and satellite telephone facilities, the applicant has to be self-sufficient and self-motivated.
- The location may affect both the physical and mental well-being of the incumbent, their family and close relationships. Candidates must be physically fit, mentally strong and prepared for physically challenging and satisfying work. In addition the successful candidates may often be called upon to work long hours in extreme conditions on duties unrelated to their function.
- Short-listed candidates will be subjected to screening and security vetting to determine their suitability for employment.
- Appointment to these positions is subject to a rigorous medical examination, which will be arranged for at no cost to the applicants.

**Enquiries:** Professor Peter Ryan, Tel: 27 21 650 2966

**Closing date:** 20 October 2016

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- All applications must be submitted on a **[Z83 application form](#)** (*click bold underlined text to download PDF form*) accompanied by certified copies of qualifications, identity document (ID) as well as a comprehensive curriculum vitae (CV) in order to be considered.
  - Take note that the department will verify all qualifications and experience and that original documents must be submitted on appointment and all qualifications obtained abroad will be evaluated by SAQA.
  - Short listed candidates will be subjected to screening and security vetting to determine the suitability of a person for employment.
  - Senior Management candidates to be subjected to competency assessment, signing of an employment contract and performance agreement.
  - If you have not been contacted within three months after the closing date of this advertisement, please accept that your application was unsuccessful.
  - The department reserves the right not to make an appointment.
  - People with disabilities are encouraged to apply
  - Consideration will be given to applicants who meet the minimum requirements of advertised posts.
  - Relaxation of qualification requirements may be considered for non-OSD posts.
  - **Applications should be forwarded to:** the Director-General, Department of Environmental Affairs, Private Bag X4390, Cape Town 8000 Or hand-deliver to:14th Loop Street, Cape Town, Attention: Human Resources.