



## Marine Science Officer

**Next vacancy: October 2013**

ReefDoctor requires one enthusiastic person to join its marine conservation work alongside the local subsistence communities called the Vezo based in the Bay of Ranobe, part of the coral reef system of Southwest Madagascar the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest coral reef system in the world.

We are looking for someone who has a background in marine sciences ideally with field based research experience in tropical environments to become part of our Marine Research and management team and help manage our science programmes and objectives in the Bay of Ranobe.

The position involves hands-on experience of developing and implementing marine research and using this information to implement management initiatives with the 80,000 local fishing communities of the Bay in sustainable resource utilisation. The candidate will be working alongside a core team that includes, other international and national marine science officers, dive officer, education officers, socio-economic officers, external researchers, science interns, students from the Madagascar Marine Institute (IHSM) and 4-12 Volunteer Research Assistants (volunteer ReefDoctor program) in a fully operational coral reef monitoring, education and conservation programme.

The Position is open to applicants from June 2013 with the successfully applicant arriving in Madagascar by the beginning of October 2013 or earlier

### **This position is a 12 month contract with the possibility to extend thereafter**

The job involves some of the following activities, though this list is not considered exhaustive:

- To continue the monitoring using scuba and snorkel based surveys (using the pre-designed survey methodologies) of the coral reefs and marine ecosystems encompassing the interior and exterior of the fringing/lagoonal reef of the Bay of Ranobe, Ifaty, Madagascar.
- To help create, monitor and act as coordinator for any marine research/assessment undertaken by Reef Doctor.Org Ltd, the Capricorn Coastal Alliance or other NGO's in collaborative projects
- To continue the long term monitoring of the Rose Garden marine park, 3 new MPA's and no take zones in the lagoon of the Bay of Ranobe alongside the locally established Fishermen's association FIMIHARA, relaying the data to them to help them effectively manage these areas and create plans for improvement and/or replication



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- To Train volunteer research assistants undertaking the marine research internship in the expert level of our research methodologies
- To help the volunteer coordinator collect and check the data collected by volunteer research assistants and ensure this data and all other data collected is properly documented in our database.
- To create, design, implement, incorporate, train ours, in new research projects and more specifically management projects targeting commercially important fish species (aquaculture, new MPAs, reserves) and/or other aspects (reef restoration, artificial reefs), when required
- To undertake rapport establishment and liaison with the local stakeholder communities.
- To help create information packages/leaflets/posters etc. to relay our ideas and conservational ideas to the local fishing communities
- To work with your fellow colleagues on data analysis and creation of publishable articles/papers on the companies reef research and management projects
- To write proposals/summaries on our scientific work for presentations undertaken by Reef Doctor.Org Ltd in the project countries
- To help create educational packages/leaflets/posters on the marine environment for the local school children and local community members
- To work with the staff Intern and volunteer coordinator on the organisation of research projects for paying volunteers
- To Act as an educator, facilitator, organiser to the Malagasy student staff in terms of help with external projects from the Reef Doctor.Org projects and in terms of our work, methods, reasons and ideas.

### **Applicant Requirements**

Outlined below are the requirements personnel need to have to apply for the voluntary Science Officer positions at our Ifaty site in Madagascar.

- Aged over 20
- Masters Degree and/or degree with over 1yrs fieldwork experience in a biological science field, preference will be given to those with tropical marine ecology work experience or experience in a relevant field such as community based conservation
- Knowledge of tropical marine survey work (Indo-Pacific coral reef species preferable) and data collection and analysis techniques
- Data analysis skills including using SPSS, PRIMER and Mini-tab
- General computing skills using Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint and Publisher



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- PADI Advanced Open Water certification or above
- Ability to read and speak French to a basic / moderate level, ability to write in French preferable
- Experience working in small teams in isolated, tropical environments
- Experience working closely with rural communities in developing countries
- Ability to work in basic conditions with limited facilities and diet
- Ability to work under pressure to deadlines and within limited budgets.
- Adaptable with good practical problem solving abilities
- Driving licence (International)
- Your own full set of dive equipment
- Physically fit with full valid diving medical.
- Financial ability to pay the cost for your international return flight to Madagascar and one domestic flight to the south of Madagascar
- Financial ability to cover standard travel, dive and medical insurance

### **Applicant Receives**

- Accommodation and food in Ifaty and Toliara
- Free internal transport
- Diving medical, travel insurance and standard equipment insurance (reimbursed at end of the contractual period only)
- Dive training
- Working liability cover
- Salary of £75 per month
- Internet access
- Four weeks paid holiday per 12 months

### **What you will gain from the work**

We hope that by working on our project you will gain experience in research, marine management and conservation work and gain:

- Experience in developing and implementing marine research and management programmes
- Experience of managing a team of researchers and volunteers
- Experience of gathering and analysing data and writing articles and papers for publication
- Experience in undertaking novel marine conservation techniques (reef restoration, artificial reefs)



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- Experience of liaising and working with NGOs, government departments and other institutions to implement conservation and marine management programmes
- Experience working with local subsistence communities in a developing country using an holistic approach of marine research to implement marine management and education initiatives alongside socio-development programs to undertake conservation ensuring the future of the Ranobe's coral reef ecosystem its people and culture

The job is on a voluntary basis but the applicant will have to sign a standard employment contract on acceptance.

Please send your CV and a brief covering letter to Roderick Stein-Rostaing at [staff@reefdoctor.org](mailto:staff@reefdoctor.org)

**Thank You**