

POSITION VACANCY FOR CONSERVATION OFFICER

Position Title:	Barren Isles Conservation Officer
Location:	Maintirano, Madagascar
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Closing date for applications:	31 st May 2014
Contract duration:	24 months, with possibility of renewal.
Start date:	15 th July 2014
Financial package	Salary: £4,800 annual International flights, medical and repatriation insurance and accommodation

Overview

For the past decade Blue Ventures has been working alongside coastal communities in western Madagascar to manage inshore fishery resources. These projects have included supporting LMMAs, developing community-based aquaculture programmes aimed at providing alternative livelihoods for local fishers, establishing reproductive health programmes to address the unmet need for family planning and other health services in remote coastal communities, and leading a coastal forestry initiative aimed at creating new systems for mangrove forest management and financing. Following the establishment of the Velondriake and the Kirindy-Mitea LMMAs, Blue Ventures is promoting a new LMMA in the Barren Isles, which will be granted temporary protected status in May 2014. Upon receiving temporary protection, the team based in Maintirano will have two years to complete the necessary steps for creating a permanent protected area.



Blue Ventures is seeking a dynamic, motivated, and committed conservation officer to support the creation of Madagascar's largest Marine Protected Area (MPA) around the Barren Isles, which will be incorporated into the Government's official system of protected areas and belong to a national network of locally-managed marine areas (LMMAs). The position is based in Madagascar with regular maritime travel to the Barren Isles and nearby coastal fishing villages. The conservation officer's primary responsibilities will involve supporting the Barren Isles Project Coordinator in strengthening local governmental relations, leading in the stakeholder consultation process and drafting and development of all documents required for the MPA creation procedure. The position entails working as part of an interdisciplinary and international team, with excellent opportunities for professional development.

Responsibilities

The Conservation Officer will work alongside the Project Coordinator in Maintirano to ensure the timely achievement of all programme objectives relating to the Barren Isles' permanent protected status while expanding outreach to local government bodies and building strong community support for the LMMA.

Supporting and supervising the MPA creation process

- Oversee development of technical plans for MPA creation (including but not limited to a Management and Zoning Plan, an Environmental Impact Assessment, and an Environmental and Social Safeguard Plan).
- Lead on the establishment of a 'Comité de Pilotage' with fishers, ensuring strong buy-in and project-ownership from local communities as MPA creation progresses.
- Liaise with regional and national government representatives, as well as private stakeholders to ensure adequate institutional and private sector support for the MPA.
- Coordinate with consultants for development of alternative livelihood activities and sustainable finance planning, to be embedded in the MPA technical plans.
- Assist with community presentations to raise awareness about the MPA creation procedure.



Expanding outreach activities and coordination between stakeholders

- Support the programme coordinator to ensure regular updates to partners, including the Ministry of Environment and Forests, and Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.
- Conduct regular community outreach missions to coastal villages and island fishing communities.
- Facilitate consultations between key MPA stakeholders at a regional and national level, ensuring broad consensus on MPA zoning, rules, and regulations.
- Assist the project coordinator with the development of conflict resolution mechanisms.

Assist with development of participative, community-based fisheries monitoring programmes

- Support the programme coordinator to develop and implement community-based ecological and socioeconomic monitoring programmes to provide feedback for an adaptive fisheries management model.

Requirements

- MSc (or equivalent) in marine conservation, development, or related field (or highly relevant work experience of 3+ years).
- Fluency in French and English is essential
- Experience in report writing and preparation of research papers for publication.
- At least two years practical experience of involvement in community-centred conservation and environmental education initiatives.
- Project leadership experience.
- Dynamic, enthusiastic, hardworking and highly organized.
- Willingness to live and work in remote locations with the most basic amenities.
- Excellent communication skills and ability to give effective public presentations.

Qualifications / Skills Desired

- Experience working in the western Indian Ocean.
- Conversational fluency in Malagasy.
- Experience in leading field expeditions.



Application

Applicants should send a cover letter and a copy of their CV (with full address, telephone, and email contact details for three professional referees) along with the downloadable BVC application form to jobs@blueventures.org. Please include the reference “Barren Isles Conservation Officer” in the subject line. The closing date for applications is 31st May 2014. Interviews will be held in June and the start date will be 15th July 2014 at the latest.

