

## Position Vacancy within the Endangered Species Programme: Mobile data collection support officer

<b>Position Title:</b>	<b>Mobile data collection support officer</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Andavadoaka, Madagascar</b>
<b>Closing date for applications</b>	<b>18th July 2014</b>
<b>Contract duration</b>	<b>6 months</b>
<b>Start date</b>	<b>20th August 2014</b>
<b>Remuneration and benefits</b>	<b>Monthly stipend; plus flight and insurance contributions and all food and accommodation provided on site.</b>

### Summary Job Description

Madagascar's coastline of >5,500 km comprises the most diverse and extensive shallow marine habitats in the western Indian Ocean region. It is estimated there are 123 shark and ray species in Madagascar, of which 31 are listed as threatened. Despite the biodiversity of Madagascar's sharks, there is a paucity of information on their ecology, fisheries and socioeconomic value. Shark populations are exploited primarily to supply the lucrative shark fin market. There is strong evidence that sharks in Madagascar's waters are overexploited and that populations are declining precipitously.

A large-scale [community-based monitoring](#) programme trains community members to use smart phones to record data and photos on species landed in their villages, with funding from [Save Our Seas Foundation](#). Through the introduction of smart phone technology Blue Ventures is pioneering new approaches to collecting fisheries data across vast areas of Madagascar's remote western coastline.

The programme currently has two main objectives, to develop a community-based data collection using mobile phones to provide reliable shark fisheries data, and to put together an operational website that presents data in real-time, which can be accessed by all interested parties. Currently 10 data collectors are employed in SW Madagascar, with two further trials starting at Blue Ventures' sites in [Ambanja](#) and the [Barren Isles](#).

At present, Blue Ventures [reproductive health](#) and [sustainable fisheries](#) programmes are also starting trials for smartphone data collection.



The support officer will be required to work closely with the Conservation Programmes Manager (UK), and the Terrestrial and Fisheries Scientist and Shark Research Assistant based in Madagascar. They will also collaborate with site-based Project Coordinators in Madagascar to develop and support the community-based monitoring programme's expansion. Travel to other Blue Ventures' sites in Madagascar may be required.

## Responsibilities

### Support project development

- Assist with updating the smartphone app as needed.
- Assist with coordination of day-to-day project activities carried out within the strategic plan of the project.
- Help with improving, trouble-shooting and problem solving any technical or field data collection issues.
- Provide recommendations for improvements within the project as necessary.
- Assist with field missions to data collectors.
- Provide assistance for shark fisheries monitoring at other Blue Ventures' sites (Belo-sur-Mer, Maintirano, Ambanja) as required.
- Oversee data collection and validation testing to ensure accurate data collection.
- Ensure that data submitted online is accurate.
- Assist with development of website development to display data.
- Ensure that all data from books are entered correctly and efficiently, checked and analysed within an appropriate timescale.
- Ensure all data is backed up appropriately on external hard drives on site and in London.
- Prepare, present and update lectures to volunteers on the project as relevant within Blue Ventures' science training programme.
- Support other projects and teams within Madagascar with smartphone data collection.

### Communicate and disseminate research information to relevant parties.

- Work with other research staff on site to produce regular research updates, blogs and social media updates, summarising efforts, findings and results.

### Additional duties shared by all staff on site.

- Support logistical staff on site with the day-to-day running of the project.
- Ensure that site rules and regulations are respected and adhered to by all personnel.
- Liaise with UK staff in the preparation of funding bids and proposals to support the research programme on site.



## Requirements

### Essential

- Graduate level qualification in Marine Ecology, Conservation or other related subject essential, Post-graduate preferred.
- Good IT skills
- Excellent report writing and analytical skills
- Highly organised with eye for detail
- Ability to problem solve quickly

### Desirable:

- Experience of field research in shark fisheries or related field
- Experience of mobile data collection
- Experience living and working in remote tropical environments
- Good level of spoken French

## Application

Applicants should send a cover letter and a recent copy of their CV (with full address, telephone and e-mail contact details of three referees) along with the downloadable application form to [jobs@blueventures.org](mailto:jobs@blueventures.org). Please include the reference "Mobile Support Officer" in the subject line.

**The closing date for applications is 18th July 2014.**

