



Volunteer needed for monitoring & data processing on Aldabra Atoll

The Seychelles Islands Foundation manages and protects the two Seychelles' UNESCO World Heritage sites, Aldabra Atoll and the Vallée de Mai. We are seeking a volunteer to join our team on Aldabra for 6-8 months. Working under the Aldabra Scientific Coordinator (ASC) you will work as part of the Aldabra research team, conducting routine monitoring on turtles, giant tortoises, birds, and plants. You will also be set specific tasks assisting in the organisation, development and streamlining of the Aldabra monitoring programme and library. With direction and training from the ASC you will assist in basic data cleaning and analysis, data collection, method development, report writing, mapping and other tasks. Fieldwork will include spending time at field camps in basic conditions, boat work, walking in difficult terrain and high temperatures and possibly marine work. This role offers a unique opportunity to experience and contribute to the conservation and monitoring of one of the planet's most pristine ecosystems.

Criteria and specific skill set

- A degree in environmental/conservation science (Essential), and post-graduate degree (Desirable)
- Experience with ecological fieldwork and data collection (Essential), preferably on islands or other remote/tropical areas
- Previous experience in dealing with large long-term datasets (Essential)
- Report-writing experience in English (Essential)
- Experience working with Microsoft Access and Excel (Essential)
- Experience in basic data analysis (Essential)
- Ability to use and apply GPS and GIS software (Essential)
- Literature review experience (Essential)
- Experience setting up monitoring programmes/surveys (Desirable)
- Confidence in the water – ability to swim well is essential and marine/diving qualification (Desirable)
- Strong communication/team skills, ability to get on well with people from different cultures (essential)
- Excellent physical fitness, able to tolerate tropical heat & long hours in difficult terrain (essential)
- Good work ethic - reliable, committed, highly motivated, professional, and positive attitude (essential)
- Independent and able to take initiative without close supervision, and co-exist in a tiny community with restricted facilities.
- Medically fit – ESSENTIAL - It is not advisable, and potentially very dangerous, for anyone with a history of medical problems to apply as the nearest hospital is hours (or days) away by boat and plane.

The successful candidate should be available in late March 2017 and will likely return in November 2017. Due to Aldabra's extreme remoteness and the south-east trade winds that dominate weather throughout May-October it is rare to have transport on or off the atoll throughout this time and therefore applicants should be aware that once on the atoll, departure before November is unlikely. Please send applications (CV & cover letter) and queries to Dr Nancy Bunbury, nancy@sif.sc by **Friday 17th February 2017**.