



ADVERTISEMENT

Ocean and Polar Coordinator

Contract type: Permanent

Job Level: Skilled / Middle Management

Work Location: Cape Town, Western Cape

The South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON) is a research platform funded by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) and managed by the National Research Foundation (NRF).

SAEON is mandated to establish and manage long-term environmental observatories; maintain reliable long-term environmental data sets; promote access to data for research and/or informed decision making; and contribute to capacity building

To coordinate the day-to-day scientific, operational and logistical coordination of the SAEON Egagasini Node ocean and polar activities.

- * Purpose:
Drive and support sustainable and innovative marine offshore long term oceanographic and polar research platforms, observations and data.
- * Ensure sound financial & governance management.
- * Support effective communication and coordination between Egagasini stakeholders.
- * Realising a transformed & learning organisation operating in a transformed knowledge enterprise (education and capacity development).

Key Responsibilities:

- * Day-to-day responsibility for operational and logistical management of the SAEON Egagasini Node ocean and Polar activities, including research cruise logistics and other fieldwork.
- * Work closely with the key Egagasini stakeholders, including host DFFE to ensure that there is effective communication and coordination.
- * Sit on relevant international panels to ensure best practices are maintained and that Egagasini is inline with international marine long term observing systems. In addition to foster regional and international collaborations for access to ship's time, equipment and funding.
- * Provide leadership to a range of services that support sound management and the sustainable development of SAEON Egagasini Node, underpinned by good logistical and scientific coordination.
- * Support the Egagasini/SAPRI manager with other operations and reporting, including drafting relevant documentation in support of the portfolio, including promotional content management, progress reports (monthly, quarterly and annual), science engagement and annual performance plans.
- * Liaise with the SAPRI Operations Coordinator over the logistics and coordination of hosting the SAPRI ocean integrated facility.
- * Coordinate Supply Chain Management activities at Egagasini to meet business objectives and compliance.
- * Support the promotion of transformation within marine science by mentoring PDPs and emerging polar scientists and technicians in logistics and operation management.

Key Requirements:

Qualification:

- * Minimum education required: PhD in ocean science.
- * 8+ years relevant experience in marine related management or coordination environment.
- * Significant cruise experience (> 10 weeks at sea and at least 3 cruises as cruise leader).
- * Proven ability to work with diverse and complex stakeholders and deal with conflicting needs.

Experience:

- * Experience of working within the marine community and a demonstrable understanding of marine science and research cruise and marine offshore observing logistics.
- * Excellence knowledge of in situ data and working knowledge of remote sensing and ocean models.

Knowledge:

- * Evidence of exceptional performance in coordination within marine activities, including oceanographic research cruises and knowledge of multi-disciplinary marine instrumentation across the disciplines.
- * Highly developed interpersonal skills, including the ability to develop collaborative partnerships with both internal and external stakeholders.

- * Evidence of ability to synthesize complex material underpinned by high level written communication skills, to support the development of business/performance plans, progress report submissions, agreements, permit applications and public relations material.
- * Ability to communicate science effectively.
- * Proven understanding of South African Supply Chain Management (SCM) policy and guidelines.

Additional Notes:

- * Demonstrable ability and coordinating multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder teams.
- * Strong international reputation.
- * Proven effective leadership skills that drive team work, high performance and excellence in service provision.
- * Strategic thinker with highly-developed problem solving skills.
- * Ability to travel and go to sea
- * A valid code B driver's license.

Information:

The website www.nrf.ac.za provides more details on the NRF initiatives and activities.

Applications:

Applicants should submit a comprehensive CV by logging to <https://ess.nrf.ac.za/Account/Recruitment> and apply online. Applications should be accompanied by a letter of motivation indicating the applicant's suitability for the position. The names and contact details of at least three referees should be provided.

Closing Date: 11 May 2023

The NRF offers a challenging career and competitive remuneration package which is commensurate with qualifications and experience. The NRF is committed to employment equity and redress and the appointment to the position will be made in line with the NRF Employment Equity Plan.

The NRF reserves the right not to make an appointment.

Correspondence will be sent to short-listed candidates only