



INCORPORATING

OCEANOGRAPHIC
RESEARCH INSTITUTE



Helping people to care for our ocean

EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

Assistant Scientist (Oceanographic Research Institute)

This position has been readvertised. Previous applicants need not reapply as their applications are still under consideration.

The Oceanographic Research Institute (ORI), a division of the South African Association for Marine Biological Research (SAAMBR) requires a competent Assistant Scientist to assist with several research projects focused on the ecology of coral reefs in South Africa. The position is a project-dependent fixed term contract.

The projects involve field, office and laboratory-based research work and related tasks. You will be responsible for undertaking shallow reef digitising, assisting with long-term coral monitoring, general coral reef ecological studies including supporting student projects in the field and with logistics, collection of biological material and the routine maintenance of equipment. This will require participation in SCUBA sampling trips to project field sites several times a year for data collection and equipment maintenance, laboratory based work and logistical planning and organisation. Laboratory work will include extensive processing and archiving of reef and coral monitoring data (GIS digitising of imagery, oceanographic data etc.), the preparation of material and consumables for fieldwork, and data management. You will also be involved in report writing and assisting with the preparation of scientific publications and research outputs. You will be expected to procure various tools, consumables, and equipment to maintain and facilitate the field and laboratory work.

If you wish to apply for this position, you must meet the following selection requirements:

- An MSc in marine biology, preferably with a focus on benthic ecology.
- Experience in reef biology and ecology, and associated research methods.
- Experience in scientific report writing. A scientific publication record would be an advantage.
- A Commercial Class IV or V scientific diving qualification and practical experience in conducting underwater biological work, preferably on reefs, is essential.
- Willingness to partake in, and availability to be involved in fieldwork over several days away from home, including on weekends.
- Physically fit, with experience working on small boats at sea for long hours.
- Familiarity and experience with basic laboratory techniques.
- Relevant experience with GIS software, either ArcGIS or QGIS. Experience with AI-based photographic image digitisation software would be an advantage (e.g. TagLab).
- Code B motor vehicle driving license. An EB would be an advantage.



SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR MARINE BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH (RF) NPC

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Registration No. 1951/00002/08 | Public Benefit Organisation No. 930025295 | Non-Profit Organisation No. 000-347 NPO

SAAMBR is a Non-Profit Company and a member of the IUCN (World Conservation Union) and WAZA (World Association of Zoos and Aquariums)

An accredited member of PAAZA (Pan-African Association of Zoos and Aquariums)

ORI is academically affiliated to the University of KwaZulu-Natal

- Experience in the sourcing and procurement of marine research-related equipment and consumables.

As an Assistant Scientist you will be expected to assist the Primary Investigator in all aspects of the various projects being undertaken by the ORI Reef Programme where appropriate, as well as other project work from time to time. Furthermore, you will be expected to be self-motivated, proactive, meticulous, responsible, highly organised, efficient, and enthusiastic to learn new skills and techniques.

Application Process:

To apply for the Assistant Scientist position, please submit your CV and a cover letter outlining your relevant experience and skills.

Submit your application by either:

- E-mail: recruitment@saambr.org.za
- Hand delivery: K Ramsaroop, HR Manager, South African Association for Marine Biological Research, 1 King Shaka Avenue, Point, Durban.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 1 AUGUST 2025

Appointments will be made in line with SAAMBR's employment equity requirements. SAAMBR reserves the right not to make an appointment.

Only potential short-listed candidates will be contacted. Should you not have heard from us by 31 August 2025, please consider your application unsuccessful.