Postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Cape Town: integrated marine ecosystem assessment

A one-year postdoctoral research fellowship (marine) is available at the University of Cape Town from 1 January 2022. The fellowship will be hosted and funded by the South African Research Chair in Marine Ecology and Fisheries (SARChI) and will also contribute to the MISSION ATLANTIC project under the Horizon 2020 “All Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance Flagship”. MISSION ATLANTIC aims “to map and assess sustainable development of the Atlantic Ocean”, with Integrated Ecosystem Assessments (IEAs) being central to the project. The fellowship will further unpack the broader South African IEA that has been undertaken recently by the South African team. The latter assessment harnessed expertise from the South African Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and was developed to align with SANBI’s National Biodiversity Assessment. The fellowship will extend the South African IEA to explore regional differences by performing IEAs for oceanographically and ecologically distinct regions; the South African IEA will be refined for the Southern Benguela Upwelling Ecosystem, and possibly differentiated into west versus south coast sub-systems, depending on IEA results.

We are seeking a candidate who has a background in marine science, and a keen interest in ecosystem processes and ecosystem-based-management, with an understanding of anthropogenic impacts in marine ecosystems. The candidate should have good organisational, writing and communication skills, should work well as part of a team, and needs to work well both independently and collaboratively.

The successful candidate will be hosted by Professor Lynne Shannon and Professor Astrid Jarre in the Biological Sciences Department at UCT. The candidate will be supported by a fellowship to the annual value of between ZAR 300,000 and ZAR 350,000 for 2022, depending on relevant experience. It should be noted that this amount will be reduced pro-rata to the remainder of the year from the date of registration. The candidate needs to be eligible for registration as a Postdoctoral research fellow at UCT, as detailed here.

Applications should be sent in pdf format and consist of a motivation letter, CV with publication list, university transcripts, and the name of at least two referees. They should be sent in a single email to lynne.shannon@uct.ac.za and astrid.jarre@uct.ac.za. Applicant screening will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Questions about the fellowships can be directed to Profs Jarre or Shannon.