



**BLUE MARINE
FOUNDATION**

Candidate brief for the position
of
Maldives Research Coordinator
at
The Blue Marine Foundation (BLUE)

About BLUE:

Established in 2010, the Blue Marine Foundation (BLUE) is one of Europe's fastest growing and most dynamic marine conservation charities.

The mission: To place at least 30% of the world's ocean under protection by 2030.

BLUE's strategy is to:

- Create marine protected areas – areas of ocean free from industrial fishing – so that fish stocks can rapidly recover.
- Materially contribute towards securing an international agreement on the need to protect 30 per cent of the world's oceans by 2030, including the high seas.
- Develop models of sustainable fishing, proving that fishing can be managed responsibly so that stocks recover while benefitting local fishermen and coastal communities
- Restore marine habitats in order to protect vulnerable and threatened species.
- Raise awareness about the need to address overfishing.



The Maldives Resilient Reefs Project

BLUE's aim in the Maldives: Our aim is to rebuild Maldivian coral reefs as a resilient ecosystem for the benefit of Maldivian people, nature and the economies that depend on them: tourism and fishing.

BLUE's objective: Our objective is to work with key stakeholders in the Maldives (resorts, fishermen, communities and government) to create locally managed marine reserves that can function as a central asset of tourism, serving guests while also benefitting local Maldivian people, fishermen and the environment.

BLUE, together with its partners, are working to create the first managed marine reserve in the Maldives on Laamu Atoll. The reserve will seek to combine effective management of small-scale fisheries and reef protection in a network of locally supported and effectively managed reserves.

Using scientific surveys of coral reefs, seagrass and mangrove forests combined with interviews from local people, BLUE's strategy is to determine and map vulnerable key habitats in Laamu and identify how these areas are being used. A design and management plan will be agreed through participatory planning sessions. BLUE will continue to build capacity for local conservationists who can play a key role in its management.



The purpose of the Role

The Maldives Research Coordinator will work closely with the Maldives team and BLUE's Chief Scientific Adviser to guide, organise and develop all scientific research on the project to enable BLUE to fulfil its objective.

The Responsibilities

- Designing practically and scientifically robust methodologies for essential fieldwork
- Carrying out and reporting on fieldwork essential to the development of BLUE's Maldives project
- Identifying potential research that may enhance BLUE's Maldives project
- Maintain continuity of research from individual research projects
- Work alongside BLUE's research partners to develop and coordinate research projects
- Maintain close working relationships with BLUE's research partners
- Manage all internal and external scientific reporting for the project
- Represent BLUE and the project as and when required at meetings, events and other engagement opportunities for the project
- Provide scientific content and guidance to BLUE to meet funding and reporting requirements
- Assist the Laamu Project Manager and the Laamu Research Assistant to develop and implement BLUE's deliverables for the project
- Produce regular reporting to BLUE on progress against agreed project deliverables
- Write reports and proposals for internal and external consumption as and when required
- Encourage engagement and participation with stakeholders who have interests in the project
- Assist with the development and delivery of a citizen science programme for the Maldives Laamu Project

Candidate Profile

Skills, Qualifications and Experience

- Fluency in Divehi
- Strong written and spoken English
- Post graduate qualification of a Masters or above
- Experience in written reports, meeting deadlines and achieving targets
- Experience in working with statistics packages
- Experience in working with GIS
- Previous experience developing social science surveys and interviews
- Familiar with tropical seascape ecosystems including coral reefs, mangroves and seagrasses
- Solid understanding of coral reef fisheries
- Previous history of working with communities in developing to middle income environments
- Skilled underwater diver (PADI advanced) (preferable)

Required competencies and behaviours

- Ability to give effective presentations and conduct meetings with a variety of stakeholders
- Strategic vision and the ability to see what science is needed to support the project's outcomes
- Excellent communication and presentation skills (written and verbal)
- Ability to work under pressure in a team environment

Terms:

Salary: Competitive, depending on experience

Location: Flexible with travel to Laamu Atoll and BLUE's London Office as and when is needed.

Contract: Full time/consultancy contract (Fixed term 3 days per week)

Reporting to: International Projects Manager & Chief Scientific Advisor

How to apply:

Please send your CV and a letter explaining your skills and suitability for the role to:
vivienne@bluemarinefoundation.com

Closing date: 30th November