**The South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB)**

invites applications from suitably qualified applicants for the position of

**Post-Doctoral Research Fellow**

(REFRESH: Systematics and taxonomy – African freshwater fishes)

The South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB), based in Makhanda, is a National Research Facility of the National Research Foundation (NRF). NRF-SAIAB is a world-renowned centre for the study of aquatic biology, with particular emphasis on ichthyology in Africa.

This is an opportunity for an early-career fish taxonomist to integrate molecular and morphological data for comprehensive taxonomic revisions of species within selected families of freshwater fishes in southern Africa using the largest collection of voucher specimens and DNA tissue samples on the African continent.

The NRF-SAIAB is offering a two year full-time Post-Doctoral Fellowship, starting January 2024. The value of the fellowship is **R240 000 per annum** (R480 000). The successful applicant will be based at SAIAB in Makhanda.

**Key responsibilities**

* Undertake comprehensive taxonomic revisions of species within selected families of freshwater fishes in southern Africa, specifically the Mochokidae, Alestidae, Cyprinidae, and Mormyridae.
* Contribute to human capacity development programs at SAIAB through training and co-supervision of postgraduate students and interns.
* Participate in field expeditions in southern Africa.

**Eligibility**

* PhD completed within the last five years, with relevant research experience in taxonomy and systematics of freshwater fishes.
* The applicant must have demonstrated ability to integrate several data types to solve complex taxonomic problems, substantiated by publication of high quality research.
* At least five publications on freshwater fish taxonomy and/or systematics.
* Previous experience on southern African freshwater fishes is an advantage.

**Performance criteria**

* Submission of at least two manuscripts per year in relevant taxonomic or systematic journals.
* Willingness to supervise and provide mentorship to students and interns.
* Willingness to undertake extensive field surveys in remote areas.

**Application**

* A motivation letter, providing the applicant’s background, current research activities, research interests and anticipated contribution to SAIAB.
* A research proposal detailing:
  + the research approach and methods that will be employed to fulfil the key research responsibilities of this position.
  + the anticipated products (e.g. publications) and milestones for each year of the fellowship period.
* Curriculum vitae with names and contact details of three referees.

**Short-listing and interview**

The SAIAB selection committee will identify applicants who meet the minimum requirements for this position. These applicants will be invited to an interview to further discuss their proposals.

**Deadline**

Applications must be received on or before Friday 24 November 2023. Award decision will be communicated to the successful candidate by mid December 2023. The NRF-SAIAB is committed to a holistic approach towards a modern transformation of the knowledge enterprise, based on excellence, impact, redress and diversity.

**Inquiries**

Please direct all inquiries to Dr Albert Chakona ([a.chakona@saiab.nrf.ac.za](mailto:a.chakona@saiab.ac.za); Tel: +27 46 603 5800).

*SAIAB reserves the right not to appoint any applicants to this position as advertised.*