



ADVERTISEMENT

Marine Platform Manager

Contract type: Permanent

Job Level: Management

Work Location: Grahamstown, Eastern Cape

The National Research Foundation (NRF) supports and promotes research and human capital development through funding, the provision of National Research Facilities and science outreach platforms and programmes to the broader community in all fields of science and technology, including natural sciences, engineering, social sciences and humanities.

The South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (NRF-SAIAB) is a National Research Facility of the NRF. NRF-SAIAB undertakes the study of African aquatic biodiversity and provides research infrastructure to the broader research community in Southern Africa. This includes specialised laboratories, vessels, natural history collections, remote observation platforms, seafloor mapping capabilities, and fish tracking arrays. Although NRF-SAIAB's headquarters are in Makhanda, the institute also has offices in Gauteng, Gqeberha and Durban.

To manage all aspects of the SAIAB Marine Platforms and African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme including budgets, operations, stakeholder relations, quality management, and reporting.

Key Responsibilities:

- * Rollout and implementation of ACEP Open Call Programme. Budgets and cost centre management.
- * Platform access, scheduling and technical planning (Open call and Phuhlisa).
- * Technical and logistical support for projects.
- * Stakeholder relations.
- * Maintain KPI and output records.
- * Programme and KPI reporting (quarterly contract, KPI and annual reports).
- * Quality management – feedback from users to make improvements and ensure quality service.
- * ROV and Diving operations:
- * Oversee all ROV and diving operations – good understanding of DOL manpower regulations required.
- * Maintenance and repairs of ROV – problem solving and electronics skills required.
- * Manage ROV data and metadata
- * Assist researchers with ROV project design
- * Contribute to ROV scientific outputs and cruise report

Key Requirements:

Qualification:

- * MSc degree in Marine/Coastal Science
- * 5 Years' Management experience
- * Driver's license
- * Skippers license
- * DOL Commercial Diving Certifications for Class IV diver and dive supervisor
- * IMCA ROV pilot/technician certification

Experience:

- * Minimum 5 years appropriate experience after MSc
- * Proven field and technical abilities
- * Proven ability to plan and implement field trips
- * Proven ability to manage a team
- * Proven ability to interact with scientists and managers
- * Sound management and organizational skills
- * Sound understanding of Supply Chain Management
- * Sound understanding of the PFMA

- * Financial and budgeting skills
- * Proven report writing skills
- * Sound knowledge of boating and diving regulations
- * Good communication skills
- * Operations management training
- * Advanced first aid
- * Willingness to spend extended periods away from home
- * Effective time management
- * Ability to focus on number of unrelated projects/tasks simultaneously
- * Good problem-solving skills

Knowledge:

- * Operations management training
- * Advanced first aid
- * Willingness to spend extended periods away from home
- * Effective time management
- * Ability to focus on number of unrelated projects/tasks simultaneously
- * Good problem-solving skills

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: 19 May 2026

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