



Research Coordinator (Marine Biology) at Six Senses Laamu, Maldives

Job Title: Research Coordinator

Job Category: Marine Biology

Reports to: Base Leader of the Maldives Underwater Initiative

Type: Full-time, 12-months (with possibility of extension)

Salary: Monthly salary of \$800 USD plus service charge (minimum \$300 USD)

Start date: Mid-July 2024

Additional benefits: Accommodation in a divided 2-share room, all meals, 1x return flight to country of origin and domestic transfers, annual leave accrued at 2.5 days per month plus Maldives public holidays (10 per year).

About the Maldives Underwater Initiative (MUI) at Six Senses Laamu

Six Senses are 5-star hotels, resorts, and spas with a strong sustainability and wellness focus. Our brand values: local sensitivity, global sensibility; responsible and caring; crafted experiences; pioneering wellness; emotional hospitality; fun and quirky reflect our dedication to guests' wellness, preserving the natural environment and working with local communities.

Six Senses Laamu is situated in a remote environment and being in a country that is more than 99% ocean, has a strong commitment to marine conservation. The team of marine biologists based at the resort has grown from just one resident marine biologist in 2011, to one of the largest teams of marine biologists at any one resort in the Maldives. The Six Senses Laamu marine biology team work alongside three NGO partners: The Manta Trust, Maldives Resilient Reefs/Blue Marine Foundation and Olive Ridley Project, which together form the Maldives Underwater Initiative (MUI). The MUI team are based in the Sea Hub of Environmental Learning in Laamu (SHELL) which is the marine research and education center based at Six Senses Laamu. Learn more about MUI's work on our website and annual reports:

www.maldivesunderwaterinitiative.com

Position summary

The position of Research Coordinator centers on overseeing MUI's marine research projects, collaborating with various research institutes and establishing MUI as a recognized research and conservation organization within Maldives. Projects focus on monitoring and conservation of Laamu's primary ecosystems of seagrass, mangroves, and coral reefs, in addition to endangered species, particularly marine megafauna. The outcome of such projects hopes to influence policy and decision making, in addition to contributing to global understanding by producing peer reviewed publications.

Such projects include:

Laamu's reefs recovery: Understanding the patterns of coral spawning in Laamu Atoll is done through monthly night dives led by the Research Coordinator aided by the Coral Researcher. This understanding of coral spawning patterns has now fed into the development of larval restoration techniques. The larval restoration project is done in collaboration with Prof Peter Harrison and the Maldives Coral Institute. In addition, the facilities in the SHELL lab include ex-situ spawning tank and rearing tank with plans to increase these facilities in the coming months to expand the capacity for ex-situ rearing of coral recruits. This system is provided and run in collaboration with Aquarium Connections and the Coral Spawning Lab UK. The Research Coordinator will run these facilities alongside the Coral Researcher. In light of the current mass bleaching event, a large part of the role of Research Coordinator is monitoring reef health and recovery post-bleaching.

Seagrass: Annual monitoring of Six Senses Laamu's seagrass meadows and aiming to deepen the understanding of the relationship between seagrass and guests. Many resorts in the Maldives still actively remove their seagrass for aesthetic reasons, the Research Coordinator will work to help understand how to help other resorts move towards a more seagrass friendly way of operations. This work will involve working closely with the Maldives Resilient Reefs team and international researchers.

Maldives marine megafauna: Six Senses Laamu has developed an initiative that utilizes dive and snorkel excursions to assess spatial and temporal distribution, and abundance of nationally protected megafauna species. MUI has now started a partnership with eOceans for easy data recording and aims to expand this project to other tourism operators in Maldives, giving a national assessment of data lacking taxa. The Research Coordinator would oversee this project, manage the database, and seek out appropriate partners to enhance capacity and project impact.

The Research Coordinator will be responsible for training other MUI team members to conduct research, build team capacity, and supervise MUI interns and visiting Bachelors and Masters students, and can delegate tasks within the above projects.

In addition to research activities, all MUI team members contribute to guest and community educational activities. This includes guiding snorkels, hosting dolphin cruises, teaching Junior Marine Biology sessions and giving guest presentations, on rotation. The MUI team see every activity as an opportunity to educate and inspire, and pride ourselves on high quality and impactful guest

interactions, which ultimately helps the team achieve the goal of sustainable resource management in Laamu.

The Research Coordinator will be expected to make valuable contributions to community events alongside the rest of the MUI team, such as providing feedback for educational school's programs and assisting in event such as the annual atoll wide Laamafaru Festival.

The successful candidate should be highly motivated, with excellent time and project management skills, and experience in multiple, if not all the described areas. We are looking for a team member who can facilitate the establishment of MUI as a renowned research facility.

Key duties/responsibilities

- Planning and conducting Six Senses Laamu's marine research projects
- Handling and applying for Six Senses Laamu's marine research permits
- Training other MUI hosts to conduct and assist in research activities
- Produce high quality reports for targeted audiences from community members to peer reviewed publications
- Overseeing the marine lab and ex-situ spawning and rearing tanks, assuring proper use
- Conducting educational guest experiences on rotation
- Contributing to MUI's educational online presence and assisting the Marketing and Communications manager in other resort-based communication by providing content
- Representing MUI on in person and virtual webinars and conferences as required

Selection criteria

Essential

- Education background, minimum of Masters, in Marine Biology or similar field
- Familiar with statistical analysis software such as R, GIS and proficient in writing reports
- Knowledge of tropical marine environments, preference will be given to those with being involved in coral reef or seagrass projects
- At least 2 years working experience in a practical research and conservation role
- Experience organizing and executing dive surveys
- Demonstrated project management and leadership skills to deliver project outcomes on time
- Excellent presentation and communication skills, and very comfortable talking and engaging with guests with high expectations
- Confident swimmer and experienced SCUBA diver with minimum Rescue Diver certification (or willing to complete this after joining)
- Passion for marine conservation and willingness to contribute outside your role
- Fluent English

Desirable

- Demonstrated ability to work in a small team in remote locations
- Experience working in a 5-star resort or similar establishment
- PADI Divemaster or higher
- Fluent in languages in addition to English
- Peer-reviewed scientific publications
- Coral ID knowledge

To apply, please provide a 2-page CV and 1-page cover letter stating your experience and suitability for the role to greg.holder@sixsenses.com with the subject title 'Research Coordinator Application'.

Closing date: 5:00 pm (UTC) May 29th, 2024.

Start date: Mid-July 2024

Failure to abide by the above application requirements may result in your application not being reviewed. Successful candidates will be contacted after the closing date, and interviews conducted as soon as all applicants have been reviewed.