

Antarctic Marine Protection Officer

Purpose of the contract

To provide technical and policy advice on marine protection in the Southern Ocean in collaboration with other members of WWF's Antarctic Programme. The focus of this position is to deliver on a grant from the German government to WWF-New Zealand.

The vacancy is for a part-time, fixed-term contractor (see times and payment rates below).

Responsible to:

Programme Manager, Antarctic and Southern Ocean Initiative

Direct reports

No direct line reports. There may be instances where this position manages volunteers or external research contractors.

Main working relationships

Internal

- Programme Manager, Antarctic and Southern Ocean Initiative
- Communications Manager
- Executive Director
- Policy Advisor Ocean Governance, WWF-Germany
- National Manager, Oceans, WWF-Australia
- WWF International and national offices, especially WWF-UK and WWF-Netherlands

External

- Government officials, especially:
 - New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Ministry of Primary Industries
 - Australian Antarctic Division
- Scientists, especially:
 - New Zealand National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research
 - Australian Antarctic Division
- Academics
- Non-governmental organisations, especially Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition and its members
- Fishing industry

Other relevant information

WWF Antarctic and Southern Ocean Initiative

The oceans around Antarctica are some of the most pristine in the world. However, parts of the Antarctic are among the fastest warming places on the planet. The habitat and biodiversity are under increasing pressure from climate change and activities, such as fishing and tourism.

Geopolitical pressures and new interests in Antarctic natural resources are escalating. Consensus decision-making frameworks that govern Antarctica allow a single country to block management measures. As global fisheries become depleted, there is growing interest to expand fishing efforts throughout the region. Antarctica and the Southern Ocean are remote and inaccessible to the general

public. Scientists and government institutions have limited funds, capability and channels for engagement of their work in Antarctica.

To respond to these challenges, we:

- Highlight key conservation issues and solutions buried deep in scientific journals, producing accessible information campaigns for targeted audiences, using innovative platforms, including new digital initiatives at WWF-Australia and throughout the WWF global network.
- Invest in and deliver conservation projects that produce science for impact.
- Build partnerships with key agencies to amplify credible science and get information to those who need it.
- Monitor and report on the state of species, ecosystems and human impacts of this critical place.
- Communicate innovative solutions to achieve conservation impact such as establishing marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Southern Ocean.

German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation Agreement

WWF-NZ has an agreement with WWF-Germany and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) regarding marine protection in the Southern Ocean and the Arctic. The objective of this project is to develop the scientific basis for the long-term protection of significant marine species and habitats in Antarctica¹.

The project involves:

- Preparing analyses and nature conservation positions within the CCAMLR² process for the designation of MPAs in the Southern Ocean, including the Weddell Sea.
- Making summaries of relevant documents for the preparation of CCAMLR meetings.
- Participate in selected CCAMLR meetings with subsequent processing of results.
- Creation of nature conservation contributions to the process of revising the ATCM Guidelines for the designation of MPAs.

The agreement provides for the following number of days per calendar year: 90 days in 2016; 155 days in 2017; 80 days in 2018. The rate is €260 per day, plus travel costs for attendance at CCAMLR meetings. The number of days and the rate are potentially subject to change.

Responsibilities of the Position³

1. Support the development of the Weddell Sea MPA proposal.
2. Support the development and progress of other MPA proposals including that for the Ross Sea.
3. Work with other WWF offices on marine protection in the Southern Ocean.
4. Develop a strategic perspective on marine protection for the Southern Ocean.
5. Provide advice regarding the development of ATCM⁴ Guidelines for the designation of MPAs.
6. Develop policy/guidance on marine protection.
7. Contribute to MPA science and research.

Skills and experience required

Essential

1. Skills and experience in policy development and advocacy/implementation in both national and international contexts and a track record of developing pragmatic solutions to complex problems.
2. Technical knowledge of, and experience in, marine and/or polar biodiversity conservation.
3. Proven track record working autonomously and driving projects from inception to completion.
4. A positive, solutions-focussed style and team-working skills.
5. Ability to travel domestically and internationally.

¹ WWF-Germany is leading work in the Arctic.

² Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (www.ccamlr.org)

³ This may be subject to change.

⁴ Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings (http://www.ats.aq/index_e.htm)

Desirable

1. Experience with CCAMLR and/or ATCM processes.
2. Experience in the application of MPA planning and sustainable fisheries management principles and practices in the Southern Ocean.
3. Demonstrated negotiation, communication and interpersonal skills with experience advocating to senior stakeholders.
4. Demonstrated project management skills.
5. Fluency in a relevant language other than English (e.g. Spanish, Russian, Japanese, French).

Personal attributes required

- A commitment to WWF's values and an enthusiasm for being part of our mission to build a future where people live in harmony with nature.
- A commitment to and recognition of the Treaty of Waitangi.
- A commitment to and recognition of the Equal Employment Opportunities principles.
- An ability to focus on delivering an agreed work plan.
- An ability to manage and prioritise work load.
- An ability and commitment to work collaboratively as part of a small team.
- An ability to act with tact and diplomacy in the face of provocation.
- An appreciation of the social and political context of campaigning.
- Knowledge and interest in environmental issues without a personal political agenda.
- An understanding of the inherent challenges of working with a wide range of people with divergent views and backgrounds.
- An energetic and professional self-starter, able to lead and motivate by example.
- A willingness to adapt and take on new professional skills and develop new areas of expertise.
- A positive approach, able to persevere when faced with obstacles and find solutions.
- An ability to demonstrate integrity, inspire trust and resolve conflict.