



Opportunity with Dakshin Foundation

Number of vacancies: One

Position: Senior Research Assistant – Networks and Fellowship

Chief responsibilities: This role with the Communities and Resource Governance Programme (CRG) entails a 50:50 split between liaising to strengthen Dakshin's partner networks *and* developing and piloting a grassroots fellowship programme for new social science graduates

Last date to apply: Open call. Position will be filled as soon as a suitable candidate is identified

Project details:

Position: We invite applications from suitable candidates for the position of Senior Research Assistant – Networks and Fellowship with the CRG team at Dakshin Foundation. While this is a long-term position, we will initially offer a one-year contract to the successful candidate, to be renewed on the basis of performance and mutual fit. The position requires an independent, dynamic, enterprising and organised individual to fulfil the following responsibilities:

Coastal Grassroots Fellowship Programme (CGFP): Coastal community-based organisations (CBO) are often limited in their capacities to carry out activities due to lack of skilled personnel. Simultaneously new graduates of social science programmes around India are disproportionately concentrated in agricultural, forestry and non-coastal issues. The CGFP is envisioned as a win-win solution to the human resource shortfalls of coastal CBOs and the limited career options available to new activist-scholars

1. Develop and finalise the structure, procedures, protocols of the CGFP
2. Identify and forge partnerships CBOs within Dakshin's networks that can act as CGFP hosts
3. Identify and forge partnerships with academic institutes whose graduates can be CGFP Fellows
4. Identify and forge partnerships with experts who can provide advisory support to CGFP Fellows
5. Oversee and execute the pilot phase of the CGFP

Networks: Dakshin is Secretariat of the National Coastal Protection Campaign (NCPC), which is a national network of ocean, coast, and environment-focused NGOs and CBOs. Dakshin also supports the activities of the National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF), which is the national federation of fisher unions around India

6. Maintain regular communications with the NCPC and NFF to keep members abreast of latest coastal news, trends and policy developments
7. Spearhead network action on coastal issues and threats including organising of information-sharing platforms, meetings, collaborative capacity building workshops etc.
8. Compile articles and submissions to ministries and carry out other network-building activities as required by the CRG Programme

Location: The position will be based at Dakshin's head office in Bangalore but will involve considerable travel to the campuses of educational institutes and sites of Dakshin's partner CBOs and NGOs in coastal states around India

Candidates must possess the following basic qualifications/skills:

- A Master's degree in development/ sustainability studies, social work, management or other related social science disciplines and at least 2 years of relevant work experience

- Strong interpersonal and negotiation skills and demonstrated ability to independently chart out project plans, deliverables and timelines and facilitate meetings
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- Experience and ability to work with a range of social groups and local institutions in rural settings such as grassroots conservation organisations, fish worker associations, research organisations, educational institutions and urban and rural advocacy groups around India
- Attention to detail and strong project and people management and liaising skills
- Written and spoken proficiency in English and working knowledge of Hindi and at least one other coastal regional language

Candidates with the following additional qualifications/skills will be preferred:

- An understanding of higher education structures and institutes in India and aspirations of new activist-scholars graduating from these institutions
- Working knowledge of CBOs and challenges faced by these organisations at the grassroots
- An understanding of coastal and fisheries related issues and experience working with coastal communities and grassroots governance

Remuneration: Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and work experience, in line with our internal policy.

How to apply:

- Submit a complete CV along with a cover letter (not exceeding one page) clearly conveying why you consider yourself a suitable candidate for this position
- Provide the names of two referees along with their contact details in the CV
- Submit a writing sample (not exceeding two pages) with your application

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

This position will be filled as soon as a suitable candidate is identified; interested individuals are therefore requested to apply immediately. Short listed candidates will be invited for a personal interview.

Please email your application with subject line ‘ Application for position of SRA – Networks & Fellowship’ to apply.dakshinfoundation@gmail.com

About us:

Dakshin Foundation is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation based in Bangalore, India, with field offices and interventions carried out all along the Indian coastline and oceanic islands. Our mission is to inform and advocate conservation and natural resource management, while promoting and supporting sustainable livelihoods, social development and environmental justice. To learn more about our interventions and research projects please take a look at our website, www.dakshin.org.

Dakshin's Communities and Resource Governance Programme focuses on strengthening the formal and informal laws and institutions governing India's marine and coastal ecosystems. Our projects under this Programme seek to demystify coastal policies, enhance community inclusion and representation in coastal decision-making, and advocate for better environmental and coastal legislations around the country. The Programme also aims to strengthen networks and campaigns for coastal conservation and fisher rights around India by facilitating platforms for effective sharing of knowledge and experiences and dialogues between diverse coastal stakeholders.