



Dakshin Foundation
www.dakshin.org

Opportunity with Dakshin Foundation

Number of vacancies: One

Position: Intern – Monitoring green turtles in Lakshadweep

Location: The position will be based in the Lakshadweep archipelago, mainly Agatti, Kadmat, Kalpeni, and Kavaratti.

Last date to apply: 10th November 2022

About the project:

Seagrass meadows in the lagoons of Lakshadweep have decreased greatly due to intense grazing by green turtles. *Thalassia* and *Cymodocea*, the two major species of seagrass found in the lagoons have reduced in their cover. This decline is a consequence of an increase in the numbers of green turtles in the region over the past two decades. This has severely impacted abundances of seagrass dependent fish important for the subsistence of local fisher communities leading to resentful attitudes towards green turtles. Despite their impact on seagrass meadows, the foraging and movement patterns of the green turtle populations found in the Lakshadweep archipelago remain poorly studied.

Building on the work of Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF), we are monitoring the distribution of the green turtle populations, examining their diets and investigating seagrass characteristics and distribution in the lagoons of Agatti, Kadmat, Bangaram, and Kalpeni. We aim to elucidate the movement ecology of the green turtles in Lakshadweep through a combination of telemetry, and identification of individuals from photo and flipper tags. We have partnered with local dive masters to acquire opportunistic photos of sea turtle facial scutes to build a catalogue of individuals inhabiting the islands. Studies on green turtle movement patterns will be carried out to understand their foraging patterns and habitat use which are vital for making informed conservation decisions.

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Position details:

Dakshin Foundation invites applications from suitable candidates for a paid internship in the green turtle monitoring project in Lakshadweep. The Intern will assist the Programme Associate with data collection in the field. Field work involves snorkel and boat surveys in the lagoons of Lakshadweep. The internship will begin in December or January depending on the approval of entry permits, for a duration of three months.

Primary Responsibilities:

- 1) Assist with data collection and data entry.

Requisite qualifications/ Skills:

- 1) A Bachelor's degree in the Life Sciences or any allied discipline.
- 2) Snorkeling experience and being comfortable swimming in the ocean.
- 3) Interest in marine ecology and conservation.

Remuneration:

Stipend will be commensurate with the candidate's qualifications and work experience, in line with our internal scales.

How to apply:

- 1) Please fill in this form to apply for the internship: <https://forms.gle/3C766VXbtsHXcttd7>.
- 2) This position will be filled as soon as a suitable candidate is found. Interested candidates are requested to apply immediately.

About us:

Dakshin Foundation is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation based in Bangalore, India, with field offices and interventions across the coastline of India and in its oceanic islands. Our mission is to inform and advocate conservation and natural resource management, while promoting and

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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.

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