

## Two Postdoctoral Researchers

ISRA\_001\_GIS\_2022 (GIS/Spatial scientist)

ISRA\_002\_RES\_2022 (Research coordinator)

### Date posted

05 | May | 2022

### Application closing date

20 | May | 2022

### Expected starting date

01 | July | 2022

### Location

Remote / Travel for workshops

### Salary

The starting salary will be from USD\$ 45,000 per annum, depending on qualifications and experience.

### Type

Full-time

### Reporting to


Dr. Rima Jabado | Chair | IUCN Species Survival Commission Shark Specialist Group

### Job description

The IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group is seeking to appoint **two full-time Postdoctoral Researchers** to support the implementation of the **Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRA) project** funded by the Shark Conservation Fund. Both positions will start from 1 July 2022 on a fixed term basis until 30 June 2023 with possibility of extension for an additional two years depending on performance and funding.

Successful applicants will join a team of international researchers working on shark, ray, and chimaera (hereafter 'sharks') ecology, fisheries, and conservation. They will take part in the first





effort to apply a global spatial planning approach to sharks, while learning from the application of other similar approaches and evaluating how findings can be aligned (e.g., Important Bird and Conservation Area (IBA), Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSA), Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA), and Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMA)).

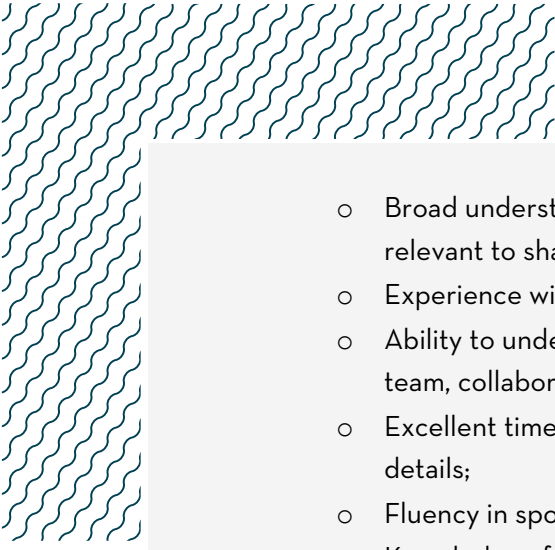
Sharks are facing a global extinction crisis. One-third of species are estimated to be threatened (Critically Endangered, Endangered, or Vulnerable) according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Successful applicants will provide support in the identification of discrete habitats of critical importance for the persistence of sharks around the world. ISRAs are identified based on the application of scientific criteria that allow the delineation of discrete portions of habitats that are critical to sharks. This identification process requires careful collation and examination of scientific data and the application of the ISRA Criteria region-by-region and in any aquatic ecosystem where sharks occur. Successful applicants will compile and synthesize information on habitat use and behavior of sharks at a region-by-region basis. They will participate in workshops and support the ISRA Team in the management of the project, preparing and delivering the workshops, supporting the review of candidate ISRAs, liaising with the Independent Review Panel, and reporting and communicating findings.

## Requirements

Successful applicants will have a relevant degree, be able to work independently, be motivated and deliver results on defined timeframes, present information on research progress and outcomes, communicate complex information, and have an interest in marine conservation issues. Previous experience of working with sharks (including in a field setting) is highly desirable.

Specifically, applicants will have:

- A relevant PhD in fisheries science, marine ecology, environmental science and management, natural resource management or economics, spatial planning, or a related field at the time of appointment;
- Demonstrated experience and knowledge in conservation science;
- Demonstrated experience and knowledge in shark ecology, conservation, and ideally, spatial planning and management;
- A track record of publishing in quality peer-reviewed journals, including in a lead author capacity;
- Demonstrated evidence of a track record delivering science outcomes that are relevant to end-users preferred;

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- Broad understanding of regional and international legislation and legal frameworks relevant to sharks, marine conservation, and protected areas;
  - Experience with preparing grant proposals and applications to external bodies;
  - Ability to undertake research work independently as well as part of an international team, collaborating remotely across time-zones;
  - Excellent time management and organization skills in addition to paying attention to details;
  - Fluency in spoken and written English; and
  - Knowledge of Spanish would be an advantage but is not essential.

### **Main duties and responsibilities**

- Undertake a bibliographic review of existing scientific information to support the delineation of ISRAs;
- Contribute to the delineation of ISRAs across regions of the world;
- Assist in project planning and writing documents, reports, and grants (including ISRA fact sheets and information to incorporate into the ISRA e-Atlas);
- Analyze and interpret results of the ISRA work and generate original research ideas based on outcomes;
- Identify areas for research on sharks based on outputs in each ISRA workshop region;
- Liaise with project partners on the delivery of collaborative research outputs;
- Lead and contribute to the production of collaborative research reports and manuscripts for submission to peer-reviewed journals;
- Present information on research progress and outcomes at national or international conferences and similar events and to funders;
- Contribute to collaborative decision-making within the ISRA Team; and
- Communicate complex information orally and in writing and generate graphic and textual summaries.

This job description summarizes the main duties and accountabilities of the postdoctoral positions and is not comprehensive: the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties of similar level and responsibility for other projects being led by the IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group. Successful applicants will also be provided the opportunity to mentor junior scientists in the group.

### **Specific requirements for Position ISRA\_001\_GIS\_2022 (GIS/Spatial scientist)**

- Lead on and provide GIS support to the project;
- Demonstrated experience and knowledge working with ArcGIS or QGIS;
- Strong quantitative and modeling skills including advanced modeling experience in R;

- Proficiency using GitHub and other modern data and content management, sharing, and presentation interfaces;
- Background in spatial modeling, marine protected area modeling, and/or meta-analysis;
- Experience with statistical analysis of spatial and temporal data (e.g., generalized linear models, generalized additive models, Bayesian approaches, machine learning), and species distribution modeling strongly preferred; and
- Ability to scope and evaluate available datasets and identify specific knowledge gaps (including tracking data on shark species, marine protected areas, and fisheries).

### **Specific requirements for Position ISRA\_OO2\_RES\_2022 (Research coordinator)**

- Experience with research and gathering information from a variety of sources (including peer-reviewed literature and grey literature);
- Ability to scope and evaluate available datasets and identify specific knowledge gaps (including tracking data on shark species, marine protected areas, and fisheries);
- Experience in the creation and management of databases;
- Proficiency using GitHub and other modern data and content management, sharing, and presentation interfaces;
- Ability to handle large volumes of information and to translate scientific data and findings into policy advice;
- Preference for experience with spatial analysis and working in R; and
- Preference for experience working with large datasets and integrating multiple kinds of data in an analytic framework.

### **Eligibility**

Applicants must have a valid passport to allow for international travel.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, or disability status.

### **To apply**

Applicants should submit a CV (max 4 pages), a short (2 pages) statement of research experience in relation to the requirements above and reason for interest in the project, a copy of their university degrees, PDF copies of up to three relevant publications, preferably those that demonstrate data collation, synthesis, and application of statistical models or GIS skills. Applicants should also include the names, affiliations, and email addresses of three professional references in the cover letter (*including the PhD supervisor*). At least one referee



will be contacted before decisions are made. All documents should be submitted as one consolidated PDF to the email listed below.

Review of applications will begin on May 23rd and continue until the position is filled. Interviewing and hiring will take place throughout May and June on a rolling basis. Positions will start in July 2022 at the latest.

### **Communications**

All communication should be addressed to Dr. Rima Jabado ([rimajabado@iucnssg.org](mailto:rimajabado@iucnssg.org)) and include the Position Reference in the subject line of the email. Failure to submit the requested documents will be reason for exclusion of the application.

### **IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group**

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is the world's largest global environmental network composed of both government and civil society organizations. It is a membership union with more than 1,400 member organizations and over 18,000 volunteer scientists in more than 160 countries. This diversity and vast expertise makes IUCN the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it.

The Species Survival Commission (SSC) is a science-based network of over 9,000 experts from almost every country of the world, all working towards achieving the vision of: 'A just world that values and conserves nature through positive action to reduce the loss of diversity of life on earth'. The work of the SSC revolves around a cycle that comprises assessing the status of biodiversity, planning for conservation, and catalyzing conservation actions.

The IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group (SSG) was established by the SSC in 1991 in response to growing awareness and concern of the severe impact of fisheries on shark, ray, and chimaera populations around the world. The SSG is now recognized as the leading authority on the status of sharks, rays, and chimaeras and has recently finished assessing the status of all known species. Central to this process has been the knowledge and expertise shared by its members. The SSG is now moving forward to ensure that this knowledge converts into plans and interventions that lead into conservation action for priority species groups.

[www.iucnssg.org](http://www.iucnssg.org)

