

## Programme Support Senior Officer – East Africa & The Comoros (EAC) at Blue Ventures

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Location: Kenya

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### Job Description

(adsbygoogle = window.adsbygoogle || []).push({}); We rebuild tropical fisheries with coastal communities Blue Ventures develops transformative approaches for catalysing and sustaining locally led marine conservation. We work in places where the ocean is vital to local cultures and economies, and are committed to protecting marine biodiversity in ways that benefit coastal people. Our story started over a decade ago, surveying coral reefs in the Mozambique channel. Vezo communities in southern Madagascar were concerned about the decline of their fisheries, so we supported one village to experiment with closing off a small section of their octopus gleaning area for a few months, to see whether this might boost productivity. When the closure was re-opened, communities experienced a huge increase in octopus landings and fisher incomes. As news of this remarkable fishery boom spread, neighbouring communities started copying this approach. Crucially, this sparked interest in more ambitious coastal management efforts, leading to the creation of the country's first Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) governed by a small network of fishing villages. Since then, this temporary fishery closure model has gone viral along thousands of kilometres of Madagascar's coastline, spawning a grassroots marine conservation revolution with 64 more LMMAs established to date. Today, 11% of the island's seabed is managed by communities, for communities. Our work is about much more than octopus. These experiences have guided our journey searching for new approaches to demonstrate that marine conservation can be in everyone's interest, and that taking less from our ocean can give us much much more.

### Responsibilities

## Partnership and grant management:

Oversee the administrative process of onboarding of new partner organisations ensuring procedures are followed in a timely manner

Coordinate the set-up, closure and renewal of grant agreements, supporting the Regional Manager and EAC country leads to finalise new grants

Support country leads to coordinate progress check in calls with partner organisations.

Lead the development of partner feedback surveys and ensure consistent partnership management is being delivered across the region

Support in monitoring the delivery of institutional and non-institutional grants, by reviewing reports and managing the payments of partner grants

Ensure all documentation and systems are maintained appropriately for each project and/or partnership

## **Programme support:**

Support the Regional Manager and EAC country leads in monitoring delivery against Organisational Key Results (OKRs)

Support the region's annual planning and budgeting process

Work with the Regional Manager and country leads to develop and maintain effective partnership and/or project tracking tools

Where required, support the team's operational needs, including planning travel, organising events and coordinating recruitment

## **Communications and learning:**

Supply regular updates for Blue Ventures' internal and external communications, reporting progress made in field activities and projects

Support Blue Ventures' communication and knowledge development teams in documenting, capturing and sharing key learnings, successes and challenges across the EAC region

## **Skills and experience**

## Required

Existing eligibility to work in East Africa (Tanzania, Mozambique or Kenya)

Graduate degree (or equivalent) in a relevant field and/or 5 years demonstrable experience working in environmental conservation and/or community-based programmes

Fluency in written and spoken English, with excellent writing skills

Proven experience in project management

A strong team player who is friendly and ideally has experience working with a diverse and multicultural team

Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and ability to convey complex messages clearly in meetings and written form to connect with people of all seniority levels and cultural backgrounds

Excellent organisational skills, an ability to pay attention to detail and continually improve systems and processes

Clear commitment to a community-based approach to conservation and development

Flexible with an ability to adapt to changing priorities, with a willingness to participate in a wide range of tasks

Trustworthy in managing sensitive situations and information; a high level of integrity

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