

CMEP Research Assistant

Learning and Engagement

Job Description

Data management and curation

- Organise, curate and manage digital and physical biodiversity data (e.g. specimens, samples, field data, images, reports) to support core research and externally funded projects.
- Assist in maintaining and developing our Arabian Peninsula in-house taxonomic database, including data entry, quality control, and export of data to support research and consultancy as well as to Specify and other programmes.

Manage and process spatial data

- Manage and process spatial data including collection, cleaning, organisation, and documentation.
- Conduct basic geospatial analyses using appropriate software (e.g., R, QGIS, ArcGIS).
- Produce high-quality, publication-ready maps and spatial visualizations for research outputs.

Taxonomic research

- Contribute to taxonomic research - particularly the development and maintenance of the Checklist of the Arabian Peninsula and Soqatra.
- Support work to identify field images and specimens.

Fieldwork

- Participate in fieldwork activities in the Middle East.
- Support the logistical aspects of field expeditions.

Other

- Scope to support teaching and capacity development initiatives (e.g. MSc and undergraduate projects).
- Contribute to report and paper writing.
- Other duties as reasonably required.

Person Specification

Essential Skills

- Ability to clean, manage, and analyse a variety of data sets/data types with attention to detail
- Plant identification skills
- Ability to communicate clearly and concisely (orally and written)
- Able to organise and manage diverse work strands, prioritise and deliver to tight deadlines
- Able to participate in fieldwork in remote areas, sometimes at relatively short notice
- Understanding of plant taxonomy and nomenclature
- Adaptability and willingness to learn new skills
- Interest in or knowledge of the plants and vegetation of the Middle East
- M.Sc. in relevant discipline (plant science, conservation, or a related field) or equivalent experience in a relevant area

Desirable Skills

- Proficiency in R programming, or other similar languages, for research data management, analysis and visualisation
- Competence in literature review and reference management
- Experience of collaboration and teamwork in multidisciplinary research environment and with diverse stakeholders
- Awareness of biodiversity data standards and key databases
- Understanding of downstream analyses and applications for biodiversity data for example Species Distribution Modelling, IUCN Red List and Green Status assessments, Protected Area designation and coverage
- Familiarity with Arabic language