MSSRF M S Swaminathan Research Foundation
Science for Sustainable Development

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR LEAD – COASTAL SYSTEMS RESEARCH - PRINCIPAL SCIENTIST

Job Title: Lead –Coastal Systems Research – Principal Scientist

Job Code: LCSR-20324-C

Programme Area / Department: Coastal Systems Research

M.S Swaminathan Research Foundation is looking for a leader in Coastal System Research (CSR). This position is pivotal in driving forward scientific research and innovation in coastal ecosystems and related fields. This position typically entails a combination of leadership, scientific expertise, and strategic planning to advance the objectives of the Coastal System Research programme.

Qualification: A Ph.D. or equivalent degree in a relevant field (e.g., marine biology, coastal ecology, environmental science).
Experience: Extensive research experience in coastal systems, including a strong publication record in peer-reviewed journals.

Responsibilities:

- **Scientific Leadership:** The CSR Principal Scientist provides scientific leadership within the Coastal System Research team, guiding research activities, setting scientific priorities, and ensuring the quality and relevance of research outputs. This involves staying abreast of the latest developments in coastal science, identifying emerging research areas, and fostering a culture of scientific excellence within the team.
- **Research Design and Implementation:** They are responsible for designing, planning, and overseeing research projects focused on coastal ecosystems, including fieldwork, data collection, analysis, and interpretation. This may involve collaborating with interdisciplinary teams of scientists, field researchers, and stakeholders to address complex research questions and challenges.
- **Partnership Development**: The Principal Scientist identifies, cultivates, and maintains partnerships with academic institutions, research organizations, government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders to foster collaboration, leverage resources, and enhance the impact of research efforts. This may include securing funding through grant proposals and developing collaborative research projects.
- **Publication and Dissemination:** They publish research findings in peer-reviewed journals, present research findings at conferences and workshops, and contribute to the development of scientific literature in the field of coastal systems research. Additionally, they may prepare technical reports, policy briefs, and other documents to disseminate research findings to a broader audience, including policymakers, practitioners, and the public.
- **Capacity Building:** The CSR Principal Scientist plays a key role in building the capacity of junior researchers, students, and other members of the research team. This may involve providing mentorship, training, and professional development opportunities to supp ort the career growth and skill development of team members.

- **Policy Engagement:** They engage with policymakers, government agencies, and other stakeholders to ensure that research findings are translated into actionable policies and management strategies for the conservation and sustainable management of coastal ecosystems. This may involve participating in policy dialogues, contributing to policy briefs, and providing scientific input to decision-making processes.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** They oversee the monitoring and evaluation of research projects to assess progress, measure impact, and identify lessons learned. This includes developing indicators, collecting data, analysing results, and using feedback to inform adaptive management approaches.

Required Competencies

- **Subject Matter Expertise:** A deep understanding of coastal ecology, marine biology, environmental science, or related fields is essential. This includes knowledge of ecological processes, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem dynamics, and the impacts of human activities on coastal environments.
- **Research Skills:** Proficiency in research design, data collection, statistical analysis, and interpretation is critical. The ability to conduct fieldwork, analyse complex datasets, and apply rigorous scientific methods is essential for generating high-quality research outputs.
- **Leadership and Management:** Strong leadership skills are necessary for guiding interdisciplinary research teams, setting research priorities, and managing research projects effectively. This includes the ability to inspire and motivate team members, foster a culture of collaboration and innovation, and navigate complex organizational dynamics.
- **Communication Skills:** Excellent communication skills are essential for conveying scientific findings to diverse audiences, including peers, policymakers, stakeholders, and the public. This includes writing scientific papers, presenting research findings at conferences, and engaging in science communication activities to promote public awareness and understanding of coastal issues.
- **Strategic Thinking:** The ability to think strategically and prioritize research objectives is important for aligning research efforts with the goals of the Coastal System Research programme. This includes identifying emerging research areas, anticipating future challenges and opportunities, and developing long-term research agendas.
- **Partnership Development:** Strong networking and partnership-building skills are necessary for collaborating with academic institutions, research organizations, government agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders. This includes cultivating relationships, negotiating collaborations, and leveraging resources to support research initiatives.

Any other professional assignments including organizing events as directed by the Executive Director and Chairperson.