Vacancy: Lab Technician – Coral Reef Restoration

Overview

Sint Eustatius National Parks Foundation (STENAPA) is seeking a motivated Lab Technician to support the operations of our marine laboratory and the Coral Reef Restoration Project. The Lab Technician contributes directly to aquaculture and marine restoration work, focusing on the restoration of grazers like the long-spined sea urchin (*Diadema antillarum*).

The Lab Technician supports the daily running of the laboratory, including the aquaculture systems, water quality, maintenance, and data collection. The position reports to the Lab Facility Manager and is part of the National Parks Foundation team.

Key Responsibilities

- Support the setup and maintenance of aquaculture systems, including water quality monitoring and tank maintenance.
- Assist in laboratory experiments, sample processing, and data collection for marine restoration project.
- Perform routine maintenance, including equipment maintenance, cleaning and plumbing to ensure laboratory efficiency.
- Support the cultivation of Diadema antillarum (sea urchins), including spawning, larval cultivation settlement, grow-out and behavioral conditioning.
- Support microalgae culture and nutritional optimization of the different life stages
- Participate in fieldwork and assist in the collection of biological samples.
- Maintain accurate records of experiments, data collection, and lab activities.
- Ensure compliance with health and safety regulations in the lab.
- Take part in outreach activities such as educational sessions for local schools, junior rangers and lab tours.
- Assist in supervising and training interns
- Support other STENAPA activities as required.

Personal Specification and Qualifications

- Minimum BSc in marine biology, aquaculture, environmental science, or a related field or equivalent experience from working as a technical hatchery professional or aquarist.
- Demonstrated experience working with aquaculture systems.

- Experience with laboratory work, including sample processing and data recording.
- Detail-oriented and methodical in carrying out lab procedures.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills; fluent in English.
- Proficiency in standard software tools (e.g., MS Office).
- Ability to work collaboratively in a team and adapt to changing project needs.
- Flexibility to work rostered weekends/evenings when required to keep lab operation running.
- Valid driver's license.
- Capacity to learn new skills and to adapt to a working environment where resources are limited.

Desirable Qualifications

- Experience in marine organism and microalgae cultivation.
- Previous fieldwork experience in marine environments; advanced scuba diving certification.
- Experience and interest in communication and outreach

Additional Information

- Full-time position (36 hours/week).
- 12-month fixed-term contract, from 1 February 2027 to 31 January 2028.
- Health insurance included.
- The expected start date for this position is February 1, 2027.

Due to immigration regulations, preference will be given to applicants holding a Dutch or US passport. We also warmly encourage applicants from St. Eustatius and the wider Dutch Caribbean region to apply.

Sint Eustatius is a small (10 sq. miles, 26 sq km. pop 3,250) island in the Eastern Caribbean. STENAPA is responsible for the management of the Boven National Park, Quill National Park, the National Marine Park. The organization also works on conservation of flora and fauna outside of the National Parks. www.statiapark.org

Send your CV and motivation letter, addressed to Dr. Erik Boman, Director of STENAPA, to info@statiapark.org. Closing date 15 December 2026. For questions about this position, please contact pauline.raimbault@statiapark.org. Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted regarding the status of their application.