

Two master projects within tropical marine ecology starting fall 2022 on sustainable management of small-scale fisheries



Photo: Charlotte Berkström

Our research group (Charlotte Berkström, Maria Eggertsen and Linda Eggertsen) from the Dept. of Aquatic Resources at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU Aqua) and Universidade Federal de Santa Maria, Brazil, are seeking two motivated master students for a research project focused on development of sustainable management of small-scale seagrass fisheries in the Bazaruto archipelago, Mozambique, East Africa. We have run a number of projects on the topic with collaborators from Tanzania and Mozambique and look forward to supervise and introduce new master students to local collaborators and stakeholders. The master student/projects will aim to map the current seagrass fishery, identify ecologically and socially important fishing grounds and identify certain groups of fishes/characteristics that make them susceptible or resistant to overfishing/overexploitation. Results from the two projects will be used within the development of future management plans for the Bazaruto Marine Park. To achieve this, a multi-disciplinary approach will be taken, combining interview studies, field surveys and molecular methods.

All field work will be conducted in close collaboration with the marine park management which offers an excellent opportunity to get to know the biodiverse seascape of the Bazaruto Archipelago while also being presented with many of the challenges that management of tropical marine ecosystems face today, as well as the reality of the people that are depending on these ecosystems. International collaboration and exchange of knowledge with researchers and students at the two Mozambican Universities (the Universidade Pedagógica and the Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo) are key components of the two

projects. Travels to Mozambique, accommodation and most costs related to the field work will be covered. Field work is planned to take place during October - December 2022.

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