



## Manta Ray Conservation Project Leader

<b>Location:</b>	Municipality of El Nido, Palawan
<b>Length of Position</b>	Minimum of One Year
<b>Position Type:</b>	Full-time, paid
<b>Salary:</b>	Php 25,000 + additional benefits including food and housing when in field
<b>Starting Date:</b>	July 2023

### About Large Marine Vertebrates Research Institute Philippines (LAMAVE)

Large Marine Vertebrates Research Institute Philippines (LAMAVE) is a Filipino non-stock, non-profit, non-government organization dedicated to the conservation of marine megafauna and their habitats in the country. LAMAVE strives to ensure a secure and prosperous ocean for marine life and people by applying science-based solutions to conservation challenges, investing in the transfer of skills for long-term impact at the grassroots level, and advancing the knowledge to enable people and governments to protect their natural resources.

### Job Purpose:

LAMAVE has been running a Manta Ray Research and Conservation Project in Northern Palawan studying the local manta ray population since 2018. We are looking for a Project Leader to join the team to live on-site and the project, with the primary goal being the establishment of a marine protected area around the study habitat.

As a Project Leader, you will be responsible for running the research base and ensuring research goals are achieved within LAMAVE standards by working with a dedicated LAMAVE team as well as with local stakeholders, communities, and government units. You will be supported by the Research Assistant who will primarily assist in managing the day-to-day fieldwork on site.

You will work closely with the LAMAVE senior staff to map project activities while providing periodic updates about the project. The selected individual will also be expected to assist in the various scientific, community and educational activities LAMAVE is involved with. This position is ideal for someone who has a background in marine science and is interested in volunteer management, gaining experience on fieldwork management, and establishing community ties for conservation work.

This is an excellent opportunity for someone who wishes to further develop their career in marine conservation working in the non-profit sector. We are looking for individuals who can contribute their enthusiasm, ideas and expertise as we expand our teams and project sites. This position will provide you with the chance to improve multiple important skills including project management, planning, organizing, as well as the opportunity to learn new things like scientific diving and novel research methods. You will work with a diverse team of volunteers, scientists, educators, filmmakers and professionals from various fields

and backgrounds who are all aspiring to make a positive contribution to conservation through scientific research and education. You will also have the opportunity to live on the incredible island of Palawan.

As a staff member you will be presented with a one-year contract (renewable for an additional two years) which will include the following benefits:

- Comprehensive DAN scuba diving accident insurance
- A semi-flexible choose-your-own leave schedule (subject to approval by your supervisor)
- Monthly stipend
- Food and housing provided when on-site

Food, drinking water, shared accommodations, house essentials and project-related transport are all covered by LAMAVE. However, flights from your closest airport to the project site and back are not covered. While at base, any additional personal expenses like day off activities, fun dives, snacks and beverages outside of daily budget will not be covered.

### **Introduction to the Manta Projects:**

LAMAVE's manta projects aim to understand the remaining populations of manta and devil rays in the country, identify conservation priority areas and migratory corridors and set the basis for the creation of a dedicated network of protected area to allow the species to recover.

Our team started monitoring the largest dedicated fishery for mantas and mobulas in the coral triangle in Bohol in 2011 while simultaneously collecting sightings data from around the country. In 2017 we started monitoring Manta Bowl -- the largest manta cleaning station in the Philippines that is located within the province of Masbate. In 2018 LAMAVE confirmed the presence of a cleaning station in Northern Palawan where a citizen science project was quickly established. In December 2019 a full team of volunteers and staff from LAMAVE set up base in Northern Palawan to continue data gathering and further research in the area. More information can be found [here](#).

**Reporting to:** Program Coordinator

### **Major Duties and Responsibilities**

- Contribute to the regular data collection and processing in water and on land
- Conduct in-depth volunteer training for all the research techniques and outputs used on site
- Facilitate volunteer orientation sessions including mobulid biology and ecology, life at base, LAMAVE research and impact, etc.
- Periodically check that data collected is consistent with project standards and address any errors encountered
- Conduct regular back-ups of all files
- Communicate directly with LAMAVE's executive board and top management on all scientific matters

- Submit a monthly report of the research activities and update the project research database
- Periodically conduct data summary presentations to the volunteer team
- Be responsible for the project equipment and conduct regular inventory and maintenance
- Involvement in the analysis of the data and the presentation of results in conferences and through scientific publications
- Plan and attend meetings with local government units and other stakeholders
- Foster relationships with local stakeholders including representatives from the local government, community leaders, universities and other relevant parties
- Manage project finances and submit monthly accounting reports
- Regularly check social media for citizen science opportunities and posts

## Requirements

### Essential:

- Filipino citizen
- Commitment for at least one year
- Minimum SCUBA certification of Dive Master or equivalent, Instructors will be given priority
- Fluency in oral and written English and Filipino
- Ability to work well and live amongst a team of different backgrounds and cultures
- Comfortable living in shared conditions in the tropics with simple amenities and in a remote location
- Professionalism and good people management skills

### Desirable:

- A degree in marine sciences, biology or relevant field and/or significant relevant experience such as working with other conservation organisations
- Previous experience working with an NGO
- Strong passion for marine conservation
- A Philippine Driver's License

## How to Apply

Please submit your CV and a cover letter including:

- How you meet the job specification
- The name, contact and relationship of 2 References that may be contacted for further information.

Please email your CV and cover letter to [hr@lamave.org](mailto:hr@lamave.org)

LAMAVE is an equal opportunity employer and will consider all qualified Filipino applicants regardless of religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, disability, civil status.

In keeping with our mission to build in-country leaders, we are currently accepting only Filipino citizen applications. Thank you for supporting this goal.

After reviewing your application, our team will contact you to inform you if we would like to pursue your application to the interview stage. Due to the expected volume of incoming enquiries, the NGO does not have the resources to provide feedback on applications that have not been accepted. Thank you for your interest.