



What did you do at the Lighthouse ?

I studied the Northern fulmar colony on Eynhallow for my BSc thesis project. We spent a few weeks on the uninhabited island ringing and monitoring the fulmars to collect data during their nesting season. While back at the Lighthouse and writing up data, I was able to assist with data collection on the effect of anthropogenic noise on harbour porpoise populations and even attended the stranding of a northern beaked whale.

What are you doing now ?

I am now an Ecological Scientist working on a game reserve in South Africa. I qualified as a Field Guide and have been living and working in the African bush for 15 years. I manage a project called Askari Wilderness Conservation Programme which is based on Pidwa Wilderness in the Limpopo province. We work towards restoring old farmland and hunting areas back to its true wilderness state. Volunteers come from around the world to help us with our work, monitoring the wildlife and carrying out various projects around the reserve. I teach, guide and lead the volunteers through the work and around the reserve and have since completed my Masters researching the translocation of brown hyaenas.

What advice would you give someone who wants to follow in your footsteps ?

Don't listen to anyone who tells you "you can't do it" or "you won't make it". Dare to dream big and then follow those dreams. Work hard and always remember the end goal, even if you have to endure some tough situations along the way. Aim for the moon because, even if you don't make it, you'll be among the stars, and in my book that beats staying on land any day!



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