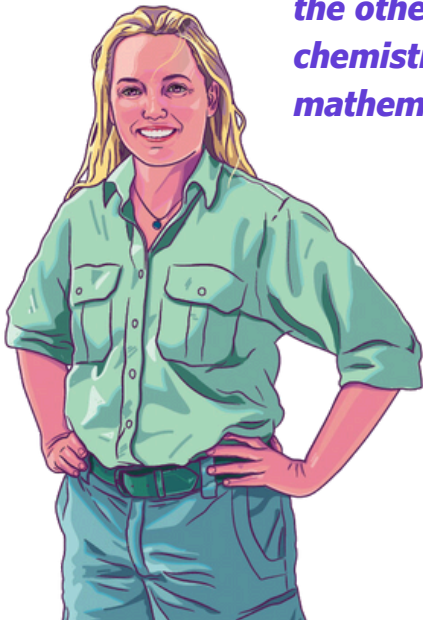


# Wildlife Conservation Officer

**Phoebe** is a wildlife conservation officer. She protects animals and natural environments, stops wildlife criminals, and knows a lot about sharks and stingrays. Find out more at:

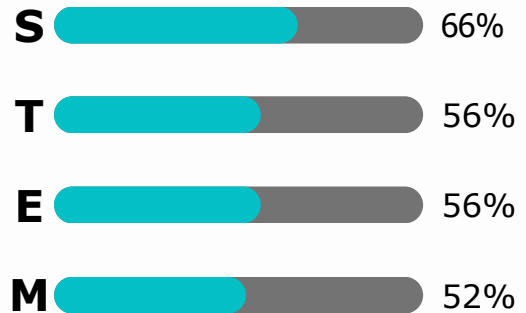
[futureyouaustralia.com.au/pathfinders/phoebe](http://futureyouaustralia.com.au/pathfinders/phoebe)



*'I wasn't very good at the other sciences, like chemistry or even mathematics.'*

## STEM Meter

How much Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) does this job use?



Source: [jobsandskills.gov.au](http://jobsandskills.gov.au)

## 5 reasons why you should do this job

- 1** Protect endangered species
- 2** Preserve our oceans
- 3** Discover new sources of medicine
- 4** Save the bees to secure food production
- 5** Protect the ecological balance

### 3 STEM skills required for this job

Research

Data management

Problem-solving

### Subjects to develop these skills

Science, HASS

Science, Mathematics

Design and Technologies, Digital Technology

# An example of a day in the life of a wildlife conservation officer

This is what a typical day could look like if you became a wildlife conservation officer.

- 4.00am** I am up VERY early today because I have field work scheduled. I am monitoring some sharks I have been tracking, and sharks are always very active at dawn. I drive down to the beach and send my drone up to capture footage of their movements. I love watching animals in their natural habitat – there is something very soothing about it.
- 7.30am** I am starving. I head back home to shower and have breakfast after spending far longer than I expected watching the sharks. Worth it, though.
- 8.30am** With my field work out of the way, I head into the office to start my desk-based work. I stop by my colleagues' desks before heading to my own to show them some of the shark footage. We are all a bit obsessed with wildlife here. It's great!
- 9.00am** Socialising out of the way, it's time to work. My work with the sharks is part of a larger recovery planning project. Numbers of this species of shark have been dropping considerably, so we are working on a plan to rebuild the numbers to restore balance to the ecosystem. To support this, I am drafting a recovery planning document that involves various stakeholders (stakeholders are people or businesses or organisations that have an interest or concern in what we are doing). Today I am going to be adding the data about the shark numbers, so I am doing some serious spreadsheet analysing and creating lots of informative graphs and infographics to ensure people can clearly see the issue we are trying to solve.
- 10.30am** My brain is mush. So many numbers running through my head! I need a break. I grab my drone and upload the footage to the shared drive so I can analyse the behaviour later and write a report on it. This report will be included in the recovery planning document as evidence of the impact of the decrease in the shark species numbers.
- 11.00am** It's my manager's birthday, so we all stop for a break (and a chat) to enjoy fruit platters and cupcakes. I head downstairs to grab a coffee as well, because I was up at 4am and I am tired!
- 11.30am** Back to my desk to check on the footage. It has uploaded! Yay. No tech issues for me today, so I start the process of taking detailed notes about the behaviour of the sharks. This takes AGES, but I love it because I get to watch animals in their natural habitat for the second time today.
- 1.30pm** I lost track of time. I am hungry. I grab my colleague and we head outside to enjoy some sunshine and some food. Today I am having a lentil dahl. It's delicious. I also saved my cupcake from earlier and have a nice post-lunch treat. Yum.
- 2.30pm** I have a webinar to attend about the role forensics can play in addressing conservation challenges. This is of particular interest to me as I am very curious about what we can learn through forensic science to improve conservation efforts. I have my notepad at the ready.
- 4.30pm** WOW! So much information. So much valuable learning. But I am well and truly spent for the day now and need to head home. It was a very early start and I meant to finish early, but I really wanted to attend that webinar so I could ask some questions at the end.
- 5.00pm** I get home, slip on my slippers, and sit down with the family to ask them about their day. We are all feeling a bit drained, so my partner suggests we get pizza for dinner. I do not object.
- 7.00pm** Dinner was great. The kids are doing their homework. I am going to make a cup of tea and sit down in my favourite chair and do some reading – fiction – because I think I've done enough learning for today.
- 8.30pm** I am going to bed. I was up early and am exhausted. I say goodnight to the fam and head off to probably dream about sharks.