WCMC

collaborating with UN Environment

Internship Description

Title:	Global Biodiversity Modelling
Programme:	Science
Hours:	37 hours per week
Pay Status:	£7.83 per hour
Line Manager:	Samantha Hill/Emma Scott

Internship Summary

UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC works with scientists and policy makers worldwide to place biodiversity at the heart of environment and development decision-making to enable enlightened choices for people and the planet.

The internship will be hosted within UNEP-WCMC's Science programme which aims to enhance the scientific quality of UNEP-WCMC's work through research, training, advisory and partnership development. The programme mainly works on biodiversity monitoring and mapping, cumulative threat and ecosystem services mapping and modelling, impacts of conservation interventions such as protected areas and REDD+ community conservation.

This internship will involve supporting the development of a project which aims to map the potential for biodiversity restoration, carbon storage, and other ecosystem services. The intern would be required to collate datasets from primary literature to strengthen a global biodiversity database (the PREDICTS database) and use the data collected to produce statistical models. The model results will be used to support the development of decision-support tools, such as maps, that help countries to translate existing international biodiversity and climate targets onto operational targets at the national level.

The intern will be mentored to find and process data for analyses, and will have opportunities to learn more about the developing of science-based products to support decision-making on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the strategy, structure, operating procedures, systems, culture and values of a typical conservation organisation.
- Understand biodiversity practices in an organisational setting.
- Understand the roles of colleagues within the centre as well as the internship role to ensure effective team working.
- Develop self-awareness to learn how to recognise when more technical knowledge is required, as well as how to gain it and check its reliability.
- Gain experience of working in a project led environment and strengthen time management skills in order to ensure tasks are delivered to deadlines.
- Learn how to gather data and conduct statistical analyses using R statistical software.
- Gain awareness on global data gaps and gathering processes.
- Gain a further understanding of referencing styles and data standards.
- Gain experience using reference management software used through the scientific community.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Work with Science programme staff to interpret and deliver on requirements.
- Gather data on ecological community composition from the published literature.
- Conduct statistical analyses of the gathered data using R statistical software.
- Help maintain the Centre's reference database using reference management software, including uploading references, editing citation styles and removing duplicates.

Requirements and Qualification

We would expect the intern to be an organized and competent individual, capable of independent research and drafting reports and summaries based on that research. We would expect the individual appointed to be outgoing and willing to learn from colleagues.

- Recently completed a Bachelor's degree in an appropriate subject.
- Ability to work both independently and as part of a team.
- Demonstrable interest in environmental sciences
- Must be competent with excel and with the R statistical software.