Thank you for your interest in the Area-based commitments Internship within the Nature Conserved team at UNEP-WCMC

UNEP-WCMC has developed an online platform to encourage and support the submission of commitments by non-state actors. In order to increase the number of area-based commitments included on the platform, we are looking for an intern that will explore, identify and document relevant area-based commitments using available resources. Each commitment will require accurate categorization in relation to a set of criteria for inclusion into the existing platform database.

The intern will determine the specific sites to which commitments are related and assign a unique ID to each, as well as compiling necessary information for key fields in the database. The intern will gain experience in completing operational processes, including UNEP-WCMC’s quality assurance/quality checking process to ensure accuracy and consistency prior to ‘publication’ of commitments on the platform. In cases where specific information is missing, the intern may be required to make direct contact with data providers or organisations.
ABOUT THE TEAM

Our Nature Conserved team enables and empowers decision-makers around the world to take action for nature. We do this by equipping governments and partners with trusted science, data, and policy advice to support better decision-making for the benefit of people and nature. We also provide partners at the local, national and regional level with knowledge on the state of biodiversity and its threats, ensuring that it is accessible and is driving decision-making across sectors and scales. Our aim is for resilient, connected ecosystems in which species are conserved, sustaining all life on Earth.

Our dedicated team of 34 people plays a central role in high profile collaborations that are at the leading edge of efforts to deliver a nature-positive world. This includes: delivering the Protected Planet Initiative, a global platform for knowledge and data on the status and trends of protected and conserved areas; our work in support of global, regional and national efforts to regulate the international trade in wildlife; our support to international efforts to promote ecological connectivity and conserve migratory species across terrestrial, marine and freshwater systems around the world; and our input to the upcoming post-2020 global biodiversity framework under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

We work as one organisation. While our projects, partnerships and collaborations form the basis of the Nature Conserved team’s focal initiatives, they are delivered across the whole Centre.
ABOUT THE ROLE

Internship Description

Strengthening cooperation and collaboration across sectors is essential to meet the proposed ambitions of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. At present, commitments from non-state and sub-national actors (including private individuals, NGOs, companies, local communities etc.) are encouraged through a range of initiatives. One such initiative is the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People (referred to as ‘Action Agenda’ hereafter). Through the Action Agenda, non-state and sub-national actors can register and showcase their commitments that aim to contribute towards biodiversity conservation.

As a contribution to this effort, UNEP-WCMC has developed an online platform to encourage and support the submission of commitments by non-state actors. The platform has been designed to complement the Action Agenda and enable interoperability with other platforms to facilitate the automatic delivery of commitments from relevant platforms and initiatives. The platform is thematic in nature, aiming to capture non-state actor commitments to take specific actions to enhance/improve an existing area or to establish new areas for the purposes of biodiversity conservation. In this context, such area-based commitments may include a wide range of spatially-explicit approaches that can contribute towards biodiversity conservation and sustainable use objectives. Area-based commitments may include areas subject to specific site-based management approaches, such as restoration areas, sustainable use areas and locally managed marine areas, among others.

In order to increase the number of area-based commitments included on the platform, the intern will explore, identify and document relevant area-based commitments using available resources. Each commitment will require accurate categorization in relation to a set of criteria for inclusion into the existing platform database. The intern will determine the specific sites to which commitments are related and assign a unique ID to each, as well as compiling necessary information for key fields in the database. The intern will gain experience in completing operational processes, including UNEP-WCMC’s quality assurance/quality checking process to ensure accuracy and consistency prior to ‘publication’ of commitments on the platform. In cases where specific information is missing, the intern may be required to make direct contact with data providers or organisations.

Communications and outreach will play a key role in enhancing the ability of the platform to showcase area-based commitments and their contribution to conservation. The intern will liaise with the Communications and Development Team to support the development of communications materials to raise awareness of the platform and its purpose as well as help in the preparation of a launch event scheduled for May 2022. Collating such information will help to support the Centre’s efforts to showcase and support work by non-state and sub-national actors to conserve and restore biodiversity. On a day-to-day basis, the intern will work closely with experts from across the Centre to develop high-quality products and gain insight and experience in undertaking projects at the science-policy interface.
Learning Objectives

- Gain experience in database management, including documenting and storing information and building metadata on area-based commitments that contribute towards biodiversity conservation objectives.
- Develop an understanding of conservation actions, such as restoration, designation and management of protected areas, sustainable use, etc.
- Understand biodiversity conservation practices within an organisational setting.
- Understand the roles of colleagues within the Nature Conserved and Nature Restored Impact Areas, as well as the internship role to ensure effective team working.
- Gain experience of working in a project-led environment, including completing operational procedures and strengthening time management skills to meet project deadlines.
- Build support for the use of the area-based commitments platform through news stories and bespoke communications.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Identify, document and catalogue area-based commitments and associated metadata.
- Identify area-based commitments specific to restoration projects, sustainable use initiatives etc.
- Work with the team to develop communications materials, including means of raising awareness of the role of non-state actors in area-based conservation.
- Involvement in discussions within internal and external partners regarding the platform.
- Write and present a summary of progress to members of UNEP-WCMC at the end of the internship.
- Provide additional support to the team.

Requirements and Qualification

- Strong written communication skills in English (along with other UN languages would be desirable).
- Preference for Master’s Degree in conservation related field (current student or recent graduate).
- A familiarity with GIS skills to compile spatial data area-based conservation.
- Confident user of Microsoft Excel and Access.
- Strong analytical skills and ability to summarize information in a user-friendly way.
- Proven ability to balance multiple workloads and deliverables and to produce high-quality outputs to strict deadlines.
OUR OFFER

Job Title: Area-based commitments Intern
Team: Nature Conserved
Reporting to: Senior Programme Officer
Job Reference: ITN097
Start date: As soon as possible
Salary: GBP 9.50 per hour
Contract: Temporary – 6 weeks, additional 2 weeks to be confirmed/dependent on appointment
Location: The post holder will be expected to locate within commuting distance of our main offices in Cambridge, UK. This role is not suitable for sponsorship.

This is not a United Nations Post

As a minimum we aim to match market rates for the conservation charity sector in Cambridge and invest a lot of effort to benchmark our salaries, ensuring that people are rewarded fairly for their role. To add to this, we offer some great benefits - here are the highlights:

- Flexible and family friendly working
- Life assurance against death in service (4X annual salary)
- Extended pay protection for serious illness that exceeds 6 months
- Excellent training and development opportunities, tailored to individual needs
- Scheme to buy (or sell) additional annual leave
- Cycle to work Scheme
- Fantastic shared social space and kitchen facilities
- Employee assistance programme and bereavement line to offer help and advice to staff and their families
- Brilliant Social committee that help to keep things fun!
- Caring Staff Liaison Committee
- Focus on environmental sustainability kept in check by our Environment Committee
- Free (proper) tea and coffee!

Training

Our aim is to do our best for every person who works for us, so that they build their skills and knowledge over their career with us, and when they leave (some never do!) they are better placed to move onto the next stage of their career.

We have a comprehensive induction programme that spans the first 6 months including what’s critical in the first week, first month, and then monthly afterwards.

- We encourage everyone to use 5 days for their own personal development each year
- Standard training course which include: Management Development; Coaching culture; Resilience; Negotiation; Pitching and closing a deal.
- We also design our training annual personal development reviews and organise bespoke training courses that meet the skill gaps in the organisation and fulfil the training needs of the people within it.
- Peer-to-Peer learning from our community of experts, taking advantage of the breadth and depth of knowledge and experience across the organisation.
- Internal and external invited speakers, workshops and talks that anyone can join or initiate.
ABOUT UNEP-WCMC

The UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) is a global Centre of expertise in biodiversity. We work at the interface of science, policy and practice to tackle the global crisis facing nature.

The Centre operates as a collaboration between UN Environment Programme and the UK registered charity WCMC. Our cutting-edge science, data and insights inform policy and business decisions worldwide. This position is with the charity WCMC, working in collaboration with UNEP.

Achieving our vision of a world living in harmony with nature will require transformative and systemic change across all sectors. We bring together governments, businesses, research bodies and more to put nature at the heart of decision-making.

“We are entering a make or break decade for nature with UNEP-WCMC set to play a pivotal role in ensuring humanity finally begins to reverse the catastrophic loss of biodiversity globally.”

Jonny Hughes, CEO of WCMC
Our strategy

We deliver our strategy through four independent impact areas which are complemented by three cross cutting innovation areas.

VISION 2050
Living in harmony with nature

MISSION
We develop knowledge and capacity for a nature-positive world
We really take our diversity seriously, as we operate globally and need to have the people perspectives within the organisation, to fully understand our clients and partners that we work with. Our aim following the introduction of the points based immigration system was to increase our diversity not only in our range of nationalities, but in all protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignement, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex).

We have a sponsorship licence and always take the best candidate for the role from a whole range of applicants and offer sponsorship to those that require it. We have people that have worked for us, for more than 30 years, and our fantastic internships often attract the best and brightest graduates.

Our culture is very supportive. There are lots of ups and downs in life, and we want to support our people through the difficult patches, so they can flourish again. We have a free employee assistance line that is available to all employees and their families and offers 6 remote counselling sessions and other advice services.

We have redesigned our kitchen and library to make a fantastic social space where you can have a quiet chat or a loud lunch with your colleagues! We also have tea every Wednesday afternoon, with locally homemade cakes and catch up with everyone and everything that is going on in the Centre.

We are affiliated with Cambridge University, and have rooms in the David Attenborough Building that we can use when we wish. We are also a member of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative and often collaborate with our CCI colleagues here.

WCMC attaches great importance to addressing safeguarding and ethical considerations in all activities carried out by its staff, including where partner organisations or individuals are part of the delivery of our work. This includes children and vulnerable adults in the community who may be vulnerable to abuse. WCMC acts with integrity, is transparent and expects applicants to share the same values.

The people

We have around 180 amazing people who make up our organisation. We are a really friendly bunch of professionals and do not think a single person has ever left the organisation without saying that it is the people that make the organisation fantastic and how much they will miss them when they leave. We truly do have world class scientists and professionals!

The culture

Diversity
If you are looking for a rewarding and motivating internship, we want to hear from you.

Please send your 2 page CV and a cover letter through this link. Please note that application forms and personal detail forms are not required.

If you cannot submit the application without attaching a document into the application form/personal detail form fields, please submit your CV and cover letter twice.

We screen candidates based on skills and experience and not their personal details. Please do not include a photograph on your CV, and note that any applications which include a photograph may be automatically rejected.

Closing date: 22nd February 2022.