



**Internship to provide valuable information materials for the elaboration of a technical series on
The Interdependence of Biodiversity and Development under Global Change
(Cultural Chapter)**

PURPOSE

The purpose of the internship is to gather, systematize and document valuable information for the Cultural Chapter of a technical series entitled *The Interdependence of Biodiversity and Development under Global Change*, which the SCBD will produce in cooperation with scientific partners.

BACKGROUND

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) has provided a comprehensive assessment of 24 Ecosystem services that make a direct contribution to human well-being, and has called for a worldwide agenda to overcome the irreversible degradation of ecosystems and biodiversity loss. There is an urgency to creatively resolve these challenges and establish global tasks in order to protect humankind against disasters with unprecedented consequences.

Yet the challenge of designing and operationalizing this global agenda requires further research, consultation and institutional reforms and arrangements to find the most appropriate way to move forward.

Complex systems find dynamic equilibrium through a well-balanced and continuous exchange of energy between their interdependent components. If this energy flow is interrupted or dramatically changed, the system will collapse.

The eco-system approach (system perspective) is increasingly understood and applied not only by most scientific disciplines, but also for operational purposes by public planners, politicians, private sector, NGOs and other institutions. All of them have to deal with the fact that Biodiversity and Development are two fundamental interdependent components of the same overall system.

The sustainable management of ecosystem goods and services (EGS) is one of the key strategies to prevent a global ecological collapse. But prevention needs more specific information and tools for informed decision-making and effective implementation at all levels.

Using an interdisciplinary system approach, the SCBD in collaboration with different partners among the scientific community will elaborate a technical series identifying some of the key challenges, crucial themes and global tasks that are necessary to face in order to establish a new, balanced relationship between our environment and development needs.



The technical series will be structured in four disciplinary chapters: a bio-physical, an institutional, an economic and a cultural chapter, each will analyze and describe open questions to get a better implementation and balance between biodiversity conservation and development.

The aim of the present internship is to facilitate through the systematization of relevant information and ongoing research and studies valuable inputs to the **cultural chapter** of the mentioned technical series.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

To identify and answer key questions related to the participative management of protected areas and related ecosystem services: How ecotourism can contribute to the valorisation and integration of TEK, and local knowledge.

- Analyse and assess participative protected area management processes, and the role of indigenous communities in local development;
- Examine the role and contribution of local economic initiatives, such as ecotourism practices for enhancing community development through the analysis of case studies in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and identify best practices /lessons learnt and gaps.

The methodology

The methodological approach of the internship is quantitative and qualitative: it is based on participant observation, review of the literature, group discussions, interviews and semi-structured questionnaires.

The main tasks of work will entail the following:

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- Conducting review of relevant documents, assessments and general internet research;
- Organizing discussion groups with relevant programme officer and other resource persons;
- Liaising with relevant research institutes
- Conducting specific semi-structured questionnaires with key informers;
- Document the results as input for the institutional chapter of the technical series

Expected products of the internship: A systematized compilation of fact sheets, conclusions of group discussions, semi-structured interviews and structured input paper for the technical series

TIMEFRAME: A total timeframe of 3 months is envisaged for the delivery of the products and services specified above. The internship is expected to work from December 2009 to February 2010.

MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR AN INTERNSHIP

Please note the following minimum eligibility criteria for an internship at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Applicant **MUST**:

1. Be currently enrolled in a third or fourth year of under-graduate (BA/BSc) or in a graduate (Masters) or post-graduate (PhD) programme.
2. Submit an endorsement from the Nominating/Sponsoring Institution.
3. Be willing to intern on a full-time basis spending five days a week usually for a period of at least **TWO MONTHS**.
4. Be covered by medical insurance and before arrival (if selected), provide the Secretariat with a medical doctor's attestation of your general health.

QUALIFICATIONS

Candidates for all disciplines are welcome for this post; however, a strong interest in multilateral diplomacy and sustainable development is essential, and a prior exposure to biodiversity issues and protected areas would be an asset.

Additional required qualifications-

- Strong writing skills in English
- Ability to familiarize him/herself with complex tasks in a brief period of time and to work under minimal supervision and tight deadlines
- Enjoy working in a dynamic and multicultural environment
- International mindset and a desire to change the world

Desirable qualifications-

- Ability to read and write in languages other than English
- Familiarity with website design and data base management
- Experience living in developing country and/or rural community contexts

GENERAL CONDITIONS GOVERNING THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

- Internships with the UN are not remunerated and all the expenses connected with it must be borne by the intern or by the sponsoring institution or government;
- there is no expectancy of employment at the end of the internship; and the UN accepts no responsibility for accidents and/or illness incurred during the interns stay;
- that the UN does not deal with immigration authorities in Canada and, therefore, the intern is responsible for obtaining any necessary visas on his/her own.

Further:

- the intern will conduct him/herself at all times in a manner compatible with the responsibilities as a holder of a UN internship programme, and will not engage in any activity that is incompatible with the discharge of duties with the organization;
- the intern will exercise the utmost discretion in all matters of official business of the organization;
- the intern will not communicate at any time to any other person or authority external to the UN, any information known by reason of the internship which has not been made public, except in the

course of duties or by authorization of the UN; nor shall the intern at any time use such information to private advantage;

- the intern shall keep confidential any and all unpublished information made known by the accepting office in the course of the internship and not publish any reports or papers on the basis of information obtained during the length of the programme, except upon the authorization of the UN.
- the intern shall arrange for own transport to and from the UN;
- the intern will provide a written notice in case of illness or other unavoidable circumstances which might prevent him/her from fulfilling his/her obligations;
- the intern will prepare an exit report and an exit questionnaire and submit them to the Human Resource Management Service at the end of the assignment.

(N.B. You may be requested to supply documentary evidence, which supports the statements you have made in your application. Do not, however, send any document or evidence until you have been asked to do so by the Organization and, in any event, do not submit the original text of references or testimonials unless they have been obtained for the sole use of the Organization. Applications will not, as a general rule, be valid or be retained by the United Nations for more than six months from date of receipt.)

How to apply

The application deadline for this contract is 11 September 2009 and all applications should be sent to secretariat@cbd.int