



## INTERNSHIP: REVIEW OF THE FOURTH NATIONAL REPORTS

**Period:** 3 months; beginning 21 September 2009

**Location:** Montreal, Canada

**Purpose:** The purpose of this internship is to provide assistance in the preparation of background documents for the third Business and the 2010 Biodiversity Challenge meeting to take place in Asia in November 2009. Additionally, the internship will contribute to the expanding database of case studies on business and biodiversity initiatives around the world. The internship offers an opportunity for an advanced undergraduate or graduate student in environmental science, public policy, business, or comparable academic background, to gain work experience with a United Nations agency and become acquainted with the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its objectives and targets.

### Background:

The Convention on Biological Diversity, administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), is one of the key agreements adopted at the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, where world leaders agreed on a comprehensive strategy for sustainable development – meeting our needs while ensuring that we leave a healthy and viable world for future generations. The Convention, with its 190 Parties, has achieved quasi-universal membership. It sets out commitments for maintaining the world's ecological underpinnings as we go about the business of economic development. The Convention establishes three main goals: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg in September 2002, world leaders endorsed the so-called 2010 biodiversity target – to significantly reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010.

### Responsibilities:

Under the supervision of Programme Officer for National Reports, the intern will contribute to reviews of the fourth national reports and relevant documents to be prepared for SBSTTA, WGRI and COP 10 (including relevant working and expert group meetings if necessary). The intern will review the reports in Arabic and/or Russian, by following the guidelines agreed internally for such review and the requirements for preparing the meeting documents mentioned above, including:

- Analyzing the status and trends of and threats to biodiversity;
- Analyzing the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and relevant strategies and plans as well as mainstreaming of biodiversity into relevant sectors;
- Analyzing progress in achieving progress towards the 2010 target and the implementation of the Strategic Plan;
- Analyzing the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and the Programme of Work on Protected Areas as well as relevant thematic programmes and cross-cutting issues adopted under the Convention;
- Collecting cases or success stories related to all the above from the reports and other sources.

**Competencies:** Qualified candidates could have a background in environmental sciences, public policy, business or similar academic qualifications. Minimum requirements are:

- Good understanding of, and interest in, environmental issues and the business community;
- Good organizational skills;
- Excellent drafting skills;
- Familiarity with MS-Office software
- Good interpersonal skills including the ability to establish and maintain effective partnerships and working relations in a multi-cultural environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity;

**Languages:** Fluency in English, Arabic and/or Russian an asset.

**Please note:**

- Application forms and eligibility criteria are accessible at: <http://www.cbd.int/secretariat/vacancies.shtml>
- 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 intern's stay;
- 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.

**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 minimum period of three months and a maximum of six 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.

## **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.
- 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.

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Please send your application to Email: [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int)

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