



SCBD INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY: FINANCIAL MATTERS

Terms of Reference

Organizational Settings and Reporting

This internship will be located in the Technical Support for Implementation (TSI) Division in the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD). The internship is for an initial period of three (3) months with the possibility for extension for another three (3) months, depending on the needs of the hosting office. The internship is UNPAID and full time. Interns work five (5) days per week under the supervision of a staff member in the department or office in which they are assigned.

Purpose

The purpose of this internship is to support the Resource Mobilization work of the SCBD in its activities and to become acquainted with the implementation, objectives and targets of the Convention.

Background

The CBD, 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 193 Parties, has achieved quasi-universal membership. The CBD sets out commitments for maintaining the world's ecological underpinnings as global economic development continues apace. 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 its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention adopted a resource management strategy through Decision IX/11. Furthermore, paragraphs 21 and 22 of Decision XI/4 request the Executive Secretary to compile views and lessons learnt on possible risks and benefits of country-specific innovative financial mechanisms, including on possible principles and safeguards for their use and further develop the discussion paper on safeguards for consideration at WGR15.



Convention on
Biological Diversity

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Responsibilities

Under the overall guidance of the Principal Officer of the Programme Officer of TSI and under the direct supervision of the programme officer handling resource mobilization, the incumbent will assist in the compilation of case studies on new and innovative financial mechanisms implemented at all levels globally and analyze its impact on increasing funding to support the three objectives of the Convention.

These mechanisms will include the following:

- Schemes for payment for ecosystem services;
- Biodiversity offset mechanisms where relevant and appropriate while ensuring that they are not used to undermine unique components of biodiversity;
- Environmental fiscal reforms including innovative taxation models and fiscal incentives for achieving the three objectives of the Convention;
- Markets for green products, business-biodiversity partnerships and new forms of charity;
- Integration of biological diversity and its associated ecosystem services in the development of new and innovative sources of international development finance, taking into account conservation costs; and
- Taking biodiversity objectives into account biodiversity when developing any funding mechanisms for climate change.

Competencies

Candidates should have a background in biological or environmental science, international economics and development, business, international relations, public policy or a related academic background.

Minimum requirements are:

- Good understanding of, and interest in, sustainability and government policy issues;
- Good organizational skills;
- Excellent drafting skills;
- 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.

Education

Applicants must be enrolled in a degree programme as either a third or fourth year undergraduate student or enrolled in a graduate (Masters) or post-graduate (PhD) programme or, if pursuing their studies in countries where higher education is not divided into undergraduate and graduate stages, have completed at least four years of full-time studies at a university or equivalent institution towards the completion of a degree.

Applicants must be currently enrolled as a student, and will continue to be enrolled during the period of the internship and after.

Work Experience

Applicants are not required to have professional work experience for participation in the programme.

Languages

English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. For this post, fluency in oral and written English is required. Knowledge of another official language of the United Nations is an advantage, particularly Spanish.

Special Notice

Your application for this internship must include:

1. A completed Personal History Profile (PHP). You can do this by accessing the PHP form at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/vacancies/2011/scbd/personal-history-en.rtf>. Once completed, print and include in your application. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. In your PHP, be sure to include any past work experiences, IT skills, and three references.
2. An accompanying letter (cover note) that includes:- Title of degree you are currently studying- Graduation date (when you will be graduating from the programme) - List the IT skills and programmes that you are proficient in using- Explain why you are the best candidate for the internship and what you hope to gain from the internship.
Explain your interest in the United Nations Internship Programme at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) in Montreal.
3. A letter from your university or equivalent institution clearly indicating the status of your enrollment, what programme you are enrolled in and the anticipated date of graduation from the programme.

Due to a high volume of applications received, **ONLY** successful candidates will be contacted.

4. The United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs. (Charter of the United Nations - Chapter 3, article 8). The United Nations Secretariat is a non-smoking environment.

No Fee

THE UNITED NATIONS DOES NOT CHARGE A FEE AT ANY STAGE OF THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS (APPLICATION, INTERVIEW MEETING, PROCESSING, OR TRAINING). THE UNITED NATIONS DOES NOT CONCERN ITSELF WITH INFORMATION ON APPLICANTS' BANK ACCOUNTS.

Please send all applications to secretariat@cbd.int by 1 July 2013
