



Terms of Reference Internship: Contribution of Global Biodiversity Outlook 3

Duration: 3 months (renewable)

Start Date: 4th August 2008

Location: Montreal, Canada

PURPOSE The purpose of this internship is to provide assistance in raising awareness of the status of world's biological diversity and promote the objectives of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. The internship offers an opportunity for an advanced undergraduate or graduate student in environmental science, public relations, journalism, 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.

Global Biodiversity Outlook is the flagship publication of the Convention (see www.cbd.int/gbo). The third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3) will be launched in 2010 which has been declared the International Year for Biodiversity by the United Nations General Assembly. GBO-3 will take advantage of this fortuitous timing to assess and communicate the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target, by communicating success stories in achieving the target and, using case studies and data from the framework of indicators, by demonstrating the extent to which the target was achieved in regions and ecosystems. It will point the way that Parties might need to act to realize the objectives of the Convention in the post-2010 period.

Responsibilities Under the overall guidance of the Executive Secretary and under the direct supervision of the Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 (GBO-3) task team, the incumbent will contribute to the preparation of GBO-3. Specific tasks may be designated in accordance with the incumbent's experiences, preferences and internship requirements, as well as taking into account potential synergies with academic work requirements. Responsibilities may include:

- Contribution to the structure and elements of the content of GBO-3;

- Background research on possible case studies, assessments and scenarios for possible inclusion in GBO-3;
- Supporting programme officers in reviewing and summarizing content for GBO-3;
- Support in the preparation of effective graphics for possible inclusion in GBO-3.

Competencies No particular academic background is required – qualified candidates could have a background in environmental sciences, public relations, journalism, or similar academic qualifications. Minimum requirements are:

- Good understanding of, and interest in, environmental issues and of political mechanisms governing the environment;
- 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;

Languages

Fluency in English; fluency in French and/or Spanish is 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.

Please send all applications to secretariat@cbd.int by 30 June 2008
