



Terms of Reference

Internship on the preparation of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4)

Background

The Convention on Biological Diversity was signed at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992 and entered into force in 1993. It is the first global agreement to cover all aspects of biological diversity: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, based in Montreal, Canada, was established to support the goals of the Convention. Its primary functions are to assist member governments in the implementation of various programmes of work, coordinate with other international organizations and collect and disseminate information.

Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO) is the flagship publication of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It is a periodic report that summarizes the latest data on the status and trends of biodiversity and draws conclusions relevant to the further implementation of the Convention. The reports are based on different types of information including national reports, scientific literature, information from the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and supplementary studies. While the main target audience for the report is policy makers, it is written to be accessible to a range of audiences including the general public.

Three editions of the Outlook have been published and preparation of the next edition of the report is currently underway. The [fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook](#) (GBO-4) will be prepared to provide a mid term assessment towards the progress in the implementation of the [Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets](#). The report will be released in 2014 so that its findings can be considered by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity during its twelfth meeting. GBO-4 will also be an important communication tool during the [United Nations Decade on Biodiversity](#).

Responsibilities

Under the overall guidance of the Executive Secretary and under the direct supervision of the team working on GBO-4, the incumbent will contribute to the preparation of GBO-4. The internship will consist of researching and synthesizing information from a variety of sources including government reports, scientific literature and other assessments relevant to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in order to help assess progress towards the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. This work will take the form of an assessment of progress towards specific (combinations of) Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The incumbent will also participate in meetings relevant to the preparation of GBO-4 and assist with the

preparation of and provide feedback on documents related to the GBO-4 production process. Additional specific tasks may also be assigned in accordance with the incumbent's experiences, preferences and internship requirements.

Competencies

- Good understanding of, and interest in, environmental issues and of the political mechanisms governing the environment;
- Strong research and organizational skills;
- Good interpersonal skills including the ability to establish and maintain effective partnerships and working relationships in a multi-cultural environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity;

Languages

- Fluency in English or French with excellent writing skills;
- Fluency in the other official languages of the United Nations is an asset.

Application

Interested applicants are encouraged to complete an internship application form (<https://www.cbd.int/doc/vacancies/frm-scbd-intern-en.doc>) and to send it along with a copy their curriculum vitae and a cover letter to secretariat@cbd.int. In section 16 of the internship application form applicants should also indicate which Aichi Biodiversity Targets they are particularly interested in working on.

Please note

- Eligibility criteria are accessible at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/vacancies/scbd-intern-req-en.pdf>
- 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;
- 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.
- Our Internship Programme has a minimum duration of three months and a maximum of six months. This Internship opportunity will start on January 2013.