



## Terms of Reference Internship: Business and Biodiversity

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**Duration: 3-6 months**  
**Start Date: February 2012**  
**Location: Montreal, Canada**

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**PURPOSE** The purpose of this internship is to support the Business and Biodiversity unit of the United Nations Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) in its activities, and thereby help to raise awareness of biological diversity in the business community thus promoting the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The internship offers an opportunity for an advanced undergraduate or graduate student in biological or environmental science, international economics and development, business, international relations, public policy or a related academic background, to gain work experience with a United Nations agency and become specifically acquainted with the implementation, objectives and targets of the CBD.

**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 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 engagement with business as a key decision in moving forward.

The business decision coming out of COP 10 (Japan, 2010) called on the SCBD Executive Secretary to encourage the establishment of national and regional business and biodiversity initiatives; to compile information on tools and mechanisms and to encourage the development and application of tools and mechanisms to facilitate the engagement of businesses in integrating biodiversity concerns into their work; to also encourage the monitoring of the aforementioned tools and mechanisms; to disseminate the tools and examples of best practice to businesses, including small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs); and to encourage businesses to communicate their biodiversity-relevant activities to their consumers, customers, and other stakeholders. Based upon these decisions, the Business and Biodiversity unit of the SCBD has embarked upon an ambitious plan of outreach and information dissemination to businesses around the world.

**Responsibilities** Under the overall guidance of the Executive Secretary and under the direct supervision of the programme officers handling business and biodiversity, the incumbent will assist in the compilation and analysis of tools and mechanisms designed to help businesses integrate biodiversity concerns into their daily work as well as helping to prepare for national workshops designed to disseminate these tools. 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:

- Analyzing the effectiveness and utility of a variety of tools and mechanisms designed for businesses;
- Compiling further tools, mechanisms and case studies that may be applicable to the business community and that could be placed on the Global Platform website;
- Assisting the programme officers with preparation for the national workshops to be undertaken in the spring/summer of 2012 including Rio+20 and initial preparation for COP11;
- To assist programme officers with the development of information guides for businesses.

**Competencies** Candidates should have a background in biological or environmental science, international economics and development, business, international relations, or similar academic qualifications.

Minimum requirements are:

- Good understanding of, and interest in, environmental issues and of political mechanisms governing the environment;
- Good understanding of international trade and business issues, and how these relate to biodiversity and sustainability;
- 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 another UN official language 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.

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Please send all applications to [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int) by 17 February 2012

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