

WCMC

**SPACES Remote Sensing for Biodiversity and
Carbon Intern
Application Pack**

ABOUT THE TEAM

The Science Innovation area drives the research focus of UNEP-WCMC, using primarily quantitative techniques to produce novel information on biodiversity and ecosystem services. We sit at the cutting edge of conservation science, and our work feeds into all areas of the Centre and its impact.

Our team works with academics, other researchers, and practitioners across the world to design new ways of assessing interactions and relationships between biodiversity and pressures, biodiversity and ecosystem services, climate, health and other aspects of human wellbeing. We strive to understand current relationships, and use this knowledge to drive robust scenarios of future changes. We develop and utilise models such as PREDICTS, Madingley and WaterWorld. We produce novel indices such as the Biodiversity Intactness Index, the Ecosystem Integrity Index, and the Multi-dimensional Biodiversity Index. We find integrated solutions to complex goals such as restoring biodiversity, reducing pressures, and feeding the world, for instance, our work on Bending the Curve, RESTORE+, the China Biodiversity Outlook, Trade Hub and Global Infrastructure Modelling & Mapping. We have projects within Science but also work collaboratively with all the other Centre teams.



ABOUT THE ROLE

Internship Description

The UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre works with scientists and policy makers worldwide to place biodiversity at the heart of environment and development decision-making to enable enlightened choices for people and the planet.

The Science programme aims to enhance the scientific quality of UNEP-WCMC's work through research, training, advisory and partnership development, providing scientific advice to the centre and to external agencies, mainly linked to the UN system. The programme mainly works on biodiversity monitoring and mapping, cumulative threat and ecosystem services mapping and modelling and impacts of conservation interventions such as protected areas.

The SPACES project is building a global coalition that aims to mobilize spatial intelligence to support governments and the private sector in jointly achieving climate and nature goals, anchored in the broader sustainable development goals framework. In the first half of 2022, SPACES is assessing the state of the art and emerging datasets, tools, techniques and approaches relevant to spatial planning and consulting widely on the needs and interests of countries and business on spatial intelligence for climate and nature.

One of the objectives of the SPACES project is to advance the integration of remote sensing and biodiversity data. Keeping that objective in mind, we will be writing a technical paper on options for integrating remote sensing into biodiversity and carbon analysis systems to strengthen insights into the biodiversity and carbon implications of land-use change and potential applications by governments, business, and civil society.

This 12-week internship will contribute to:

- Analysing the current and expected availability of land use and land change detection from remotely sensed data sources.
- Identifying existing approaches for estimating impacts on biodiversity of land cover changes.
- Reviewing current methods for estimating impacts on carbon stocks.
- Investigating how these results can be applied in a spatial planning framework.
- Writing the technical paper summarising how remote sensing data sources can be used to estimate impacts on biodiversity and carbon stocks.

The intern will work with UNEP-WCMC staff and SPACES project partners in understanding current approaches deriving value added biodiversity and carbon stocks information from land use and land cover data as well as a horizon scanning of the state-of-the-art methods of applying remote sensing to biodiversity and carbon workflows.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the strategy, structure, operating procedures, systems, culture and values of a typical conservation organisation.
- Understand biodiversity practices in an organisational setting.
- Understand the roles of colleagues within the Science programme as well as the internship role to ensure effective team working.
- Develop self-awareness to learn how to recognise when more technical knowledge is required, as well as how to gain it and check its reliability.
- Gain experience of working in a project led environment and strengthen time management skills in order to ensure tasks are delivered to deadlines.
- Gain experience of working at the interface between an international science organisation and businesses.
- Gain experience of, and enhance skills in searching, and synthesising content from, both refereed and grey literature across a wide range of disciplines.
- Become familiar with a wide range of conservation projects from the UNEP-WCMC portfolio.
- Gain experience using reference management software and referencing styles.
- Become familiar with the impact that SPACES work has on biodiversity, carbon and spatial planning and how it can be used by governments, business, and civil society.
- Enhance the understanding of remote sensing technology, and land use land cover change in particular, and its role in deriving value-added information to biodiversity, carbon stocks and spatial planning workflows.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Help maintain the Centre's reference database using reference management software, including uploading references, editing citation styles and removing duplicates.
- Carry out literature review, extracting relevant information from peer-reviewed literature as well as other web-based resources to identify relevant trends in the use of remote sensing data for biodiversity and carbon.
- Bring together findings to aid colleagues in determining next steps in the development of the paper.
- Helping identify, describe and summarise internal UNEP-WCMC projects where land use and land cover data sources have been used to derive information related to biodiversity and carbon as well as providing use cases where this information has been used in a spatial planning context.
- Helping to coordinate inputs from different authors and contributors within UNEP-WCMC and external partners.
- Helping with the writing/editing of the final technical paper ready for submission to internal quality assurance process and external reviewers.
- Join regular internal meetings, held remotely, and provide updates on ongoing work.

Requirements and Qualification

We are seeking an organized and competent individual, capable of undertaking independent research and succinctly presenting the results of that research. Our preferred candidate would have the following:

- Bachelor's or Master's degree in an appropriate subject, e.g. environmental sciences, sustainability or development studies.
- Demonstrable interest in the subject area (biodiversity, carbon stocks, spatial planning and remote sensing).
- Good knowledge of text and data processing software (e.g. Word, Excel).
- Demonstrable experience in carrying out literature reviews.
- Demonstrable ability to communicate clearly (professional speaking and writing).
- Strong written communication skills as well as editing skills to ensure correctness, accuracy, consistency, and completeness of written text.
- Interest in topics related to the role of remote sensing in contributing to advance knowledge in biodiversity and carbon stocks.

OUR OFFER

Job Title: SPACES Remote Sensing for Biodiversity and Carbon Intern

Team: Science

Reporting to: Associate Programme Officer

Job Reference: ITN103

Start date: ideally 2nd May 2022 - but to be confirmed

Salary: GBP 9.50 per hour

Contract: Fixed term contract for 12 weeks, full time 37 hours per week

Location: The post holder will be expected to locate within commuting distance of our main offices in Cambridge, UK. This role is not suitable for sponsorship.

This is not a United Nations Post

As a minimum we aim to match market rates for the conservation charity sector in Cambridge and invest a lot of effort to benchmark our salaries, ensuring that people are rewarded fairly for their role. To add to this, we offer some great benefits - here are the highlights:

- Flexible and family friendly working
- Life assurance against death in service (4X annual salary)
- Extended pay protection for serious illness that exceeds 6 months
- Scheme to buy (or sell) additional annual leave
- Cycle to work Scheme
- Fantastic shared social space and kitchen facilities
- Employee assistance programme and bereavement line to offer help and advice to staff and their families
- Brilliant Social committee that help to keep things fun!
- Caring Staff Liaison Committee
- Focus on environmental sustainability kept in check by our Environment Committee
- Free (proper) tea and coffee!

Training

Our aim is to do our best for every person who works for us, so that they build their skills and knowledge over their career with us, and when they leave they are better placed to move onto the next stage of their career.

You will attend various induction programmes, including what's critical in the first week.

You may also be able to take advantage of:

- Peer-to-Peer learning from our community of experts, taking advantage of the breadth and depth of knowledge and experience across the organisation.
- Internal and external invited speakers, workshops and talks that anyone can join or initiate.

Please note there are training opportunities for longer term employees and that many of our interns have secured longer term roles following successful completion of an internship.



ABOUT UNEP-WCMC

The UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) is a global Centre of expertise in biodiversity. We work at the interface of science, policy and practice to tackle the global crisis facing nature.

The Centre operates as a collaboration between UN Environment Programme and the UK registered charity WCMC. Our cutting-edge science, data and insights inform policy and business decisions worldwide. This position is with the charity WCMC, working in collaboration with UNEP.

Achieving our vision of a world living in harmony with nature will require transformative and systemic change across all sectors. We bring together governments, businesses, research bodies and more to put nature at the heart of decision-making.

"We are entering a make or break decade for nature with UNEP-WCMC set to play a pivotal role in ensuring humanity finally begins to reverse the catastrophic loss of biodiversity globally."

Jonny Hughes, CEO of WCMC

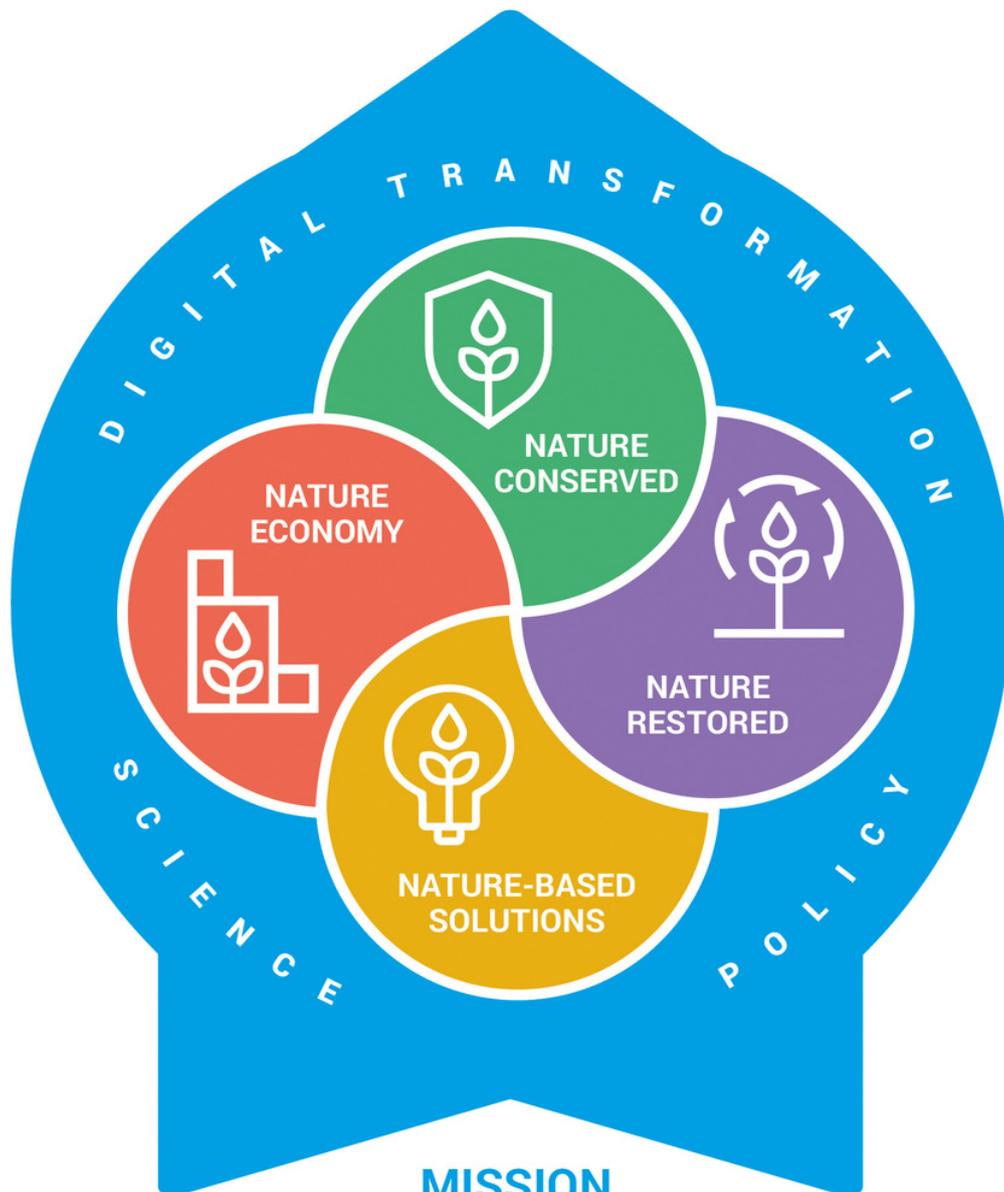


Our strategy

We deliver our strategy through four independent impact areas which are complemented by three cross cutting innovation areas.

VISION 2050

Living in harmony with nature



MISSION
We develop knowledge and capacity
for a nature-positive world



The people

We have around 180 amazing people who make up our organisation. We are a really friendly bunch of professionals and do not think a single person has ever left the organisation without saying that it is the people that make the organisation fantastic and how much they will miss them when they leave. We truly do have world class scientists and professionals!



The culture

Our culture is very supportive. There are lots of ups and downs in life, and we want to support our people through the difficult patches, so they can flourish again. We have a free employee assistance line that is available to all employees and their families and offers 6 remote counselling sessions and other advice services.

We have redesigned our kitchen and library to make a fantastic social space where you can have a quiet chat or a loud lunch with your colleagues! We also have tea every Wednesday afternoon, with locally homemade cakes and catch up with everyone and everything that is going on in the Centre.

We are affiliated with Cambridge University, and have rooms in the David Attenborough Building that we can use when we wish. We are also a member of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative and often collaborate with our CCI colleagues here.

WCMC attaches great importance to addressing safeguarding and ethical considerations in all activities carried out by its staff, including where partner organisations or individuals are part of the delivery of our work. This includes children and vulnerable adults in the community who may be vulnerable to abuse. WCMC acts with integrity, is transparent and expects applicants to share the same values.



Diversity

We really take our diversity seriously, as we operate globally and need to have the people perspectives within the organisation, to fully understand our clients and partners that we work with. Our aim following the introduction of the points based immigration system was to increase our diversity not only in our range of nationalities, but in all protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex).

We have a sponsorship licence and always take the best candidate for the role from a whole range of applicants and offer sponsorship to those that require it. We have people that have worked for us, for more than 30 years, and our fantastic internships often attract the best and brightest graduates.

HOW TO APPLY

If you are looking for a rewarding and motivating internship where you can help shape this exciting field, we want to hear from you.

Please send your [2 page CV](#) and a [cover letter](#) through this [link](#). Please note that an application form is not required.

If you cannot submit the application without attaching a document into the application form/personal detail form fields, please submit your CV and cover letter twice.

We screen candidates based on skills and experience and not their personal details. **Please do not include a photograph on your CV, and note that any applications which include a photograph may be automatically rejected.**

Please note we reserve the right to take down the advert ahead of the closing date if a suitable candidate is found so please don't delay your application.



WCMC

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