

A photograph of two brown bears in a forest. The bear in the foreground is looking towards the camera, while the one behind it is looking slightly to the right. The background is filled with trees and foliage, with sunlight filtering through, creating a warm, golden glow. The text 'WCMC' is overlaid in the top left corner.

WCMC

Restoration Carbon Finance Intern - ITN099
Nature-based Solutions Team
Application Pack

ABOUT THE TEAM

Our team works collaboratively to advance public and private sector use of nature-based solutions (NbS) to address sustainable development challenges, focusing particularly on climate change mitigation, ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change (EbA) and nature for health and well-being.

We synthesise existing knowledge and experience to support wider understanding and appreciation of the multiple benefits that NbS can provide; recent examples include summarising evidence on the global potential of [nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation](#), a synthesis report on [NbS for adaptation](#) to support the Global Commission on Adaptation. Another key focus is developing and enhancing access to tools and knowledge to support NbS implementation. This has included developing a [navigator](#) to help practitioners and others access tools that can support EbA planning and implementation, and providing support on [monitoring and evaluation for EbA](#). We also support development of legal, planning and policy frameworks that enable effective and scaled up implementation of NbS. This includes shaping new approaches and provided support to countries on safeguards and spatial planning for REDD+, supporting countries and others on [integrated spatial planning for climate and nature](#), work on enhancing [private sector uptake of NbS for infrastructure resilience](#), and new work on providing coordinated access to data from the multiple disciplines that are needed to support a One Health approach.

We work as one organisation, so, while our projects, partnerships and collaborations form the basis of the Nature-based Solutions team's focal initiatives, they are delivered across the whole Centre.



ABOUT THE ROLE

Internship Description & Summary

Restoration Carbon Finance Internship:

This role will focus on reviewing the opportunities and barriers to scaling up ecosystem restoration through voluntary carbon markets.

The UN Environment Programme 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.

A key focus for the Nature-based Solutions (NbS) Impact Area is the role that approaches such as restoring and protecting ecosystems can play in climate change mitigation. Our work also aims to support the development of climate change policies and actions that deliver a range of environmental benefits, by providing decision-makers with relevant data, analyses, capacity-building and tools.

There is growing interest within the private sector to offset emissions through the purchase of carbon credits, and voluntary carbon markets are scaling up to meet demand. In particular, demand for offset credits from NbS has increased greatly in recent years. Furthermore, as demonstrated in the outcomes of COP26, voluntary carbon markets are expected to play a key role in scaling up finance for NbS. This presents an opportunity for ecosystem restoration projects to unlock further funding through demonstrating their climate change mitigation potential. However, there remain several barriers to engagement of landscape restoration projects with the voluntary carbon market. These include both the potential costs of doing so (which impacts on financial returns) and limited understanding of how to navigate markets and the options available.

This is a practical, 12-week internship which will contribute to identifying how biodiversity-focused landscape scale restoration projects under the Cambridge Conservation Initiative's [Endangered Landscapes Programme](#) (ELP) can unlock additional finance opportunities through the voluntary carbon market to scale up their restoration and conservation interventions. Working with UNEP-WCMC staff, the intern will develop a tool that can help projects investigate the costs involved in participating in the market. This will involve working in collaboration with the RSPB and FFI on an [advancing and applying knowledge grant funded by the Endangered Landscapes Programme](#). It forms part of the Centre's wider work under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, which started in 2021.

ABOUT THE ROLE

Learning Objectives

- Understand the strategy, structure, operating procedures, systems, culture, and values of a conservation organisation working at the science-policy interface.
- Understand the roles of colleagues within the Nature-based Solutions Impact Area and how they relate to 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-based organisation and governments, businesses, and research groups.
- Gain experience of, and enhance skills in searching, and synthesising content from, both refereed and grey literature across a wide range of disciplines.
- Gain experience using reference management software and referencing styles.
- Gain experience building interactive tools in a software such as Excel.
- Become familiar with the impact that ecosystem restoration has on biodiversity, carbon, and well-being.
- Enhance the understanding of ecological processes that underpin restoration and its impacts, as well as the socio-economic challenges and opportunities of engaging with voluntary carbon markets.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Review and extract information from relevant scientific papers and reports related to transaction costs of carbon projects.
- Engage with relevant organisations and groups to collect real-world data on the costs involved in setting up a carbon project.
- Develop methodology and design for a dynamic template relevant for landscape restoration projects evaluating costs of engaging with the carbon market.
- Engage with ELP projects and partners to understand needs within the programme and identify pathways to meet these.
- Bring together findings to aid colleagues in determining next steps and use cases for the data.
- Support the team in interpreting the results, communicating to ELP projects and partners how the tool can be used in cost-benefit analysis in written guidance materials and workshops.
- Join regular internal team meetings and stand-ups, held remotely, and provide updates on ongoing work.
- At the end of the internship, write a blog post and present key findings to the Programme and/or wider Centre.

Requirements and Qualification

We are seeking an organised 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, ecology etc.
- Demonstrable interest in the subject area (biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, climate change mitigation).
- Good knowledge of text and data processing software (e.g., Word, Excel).
- Demonstrable experience in using spreadsheet software for data analysis,
- Familiarity with economic evaluation methods, particularly cost and benefits analysis.
- Demonstrable ability to communicate clearly (professional speaking and writing).

OUR OFFER

Job Title: Restoration Carbon Finance Intern

Team: Nature-based Solutions

Reporting to: Associate Programme Officer

Job Reference: ITN099

Start date: January 2023

Salary: GBP 9.50 per hour

Contract: Temporary, fixed term contract for 12 weeks, 37 hours per week (full time)

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

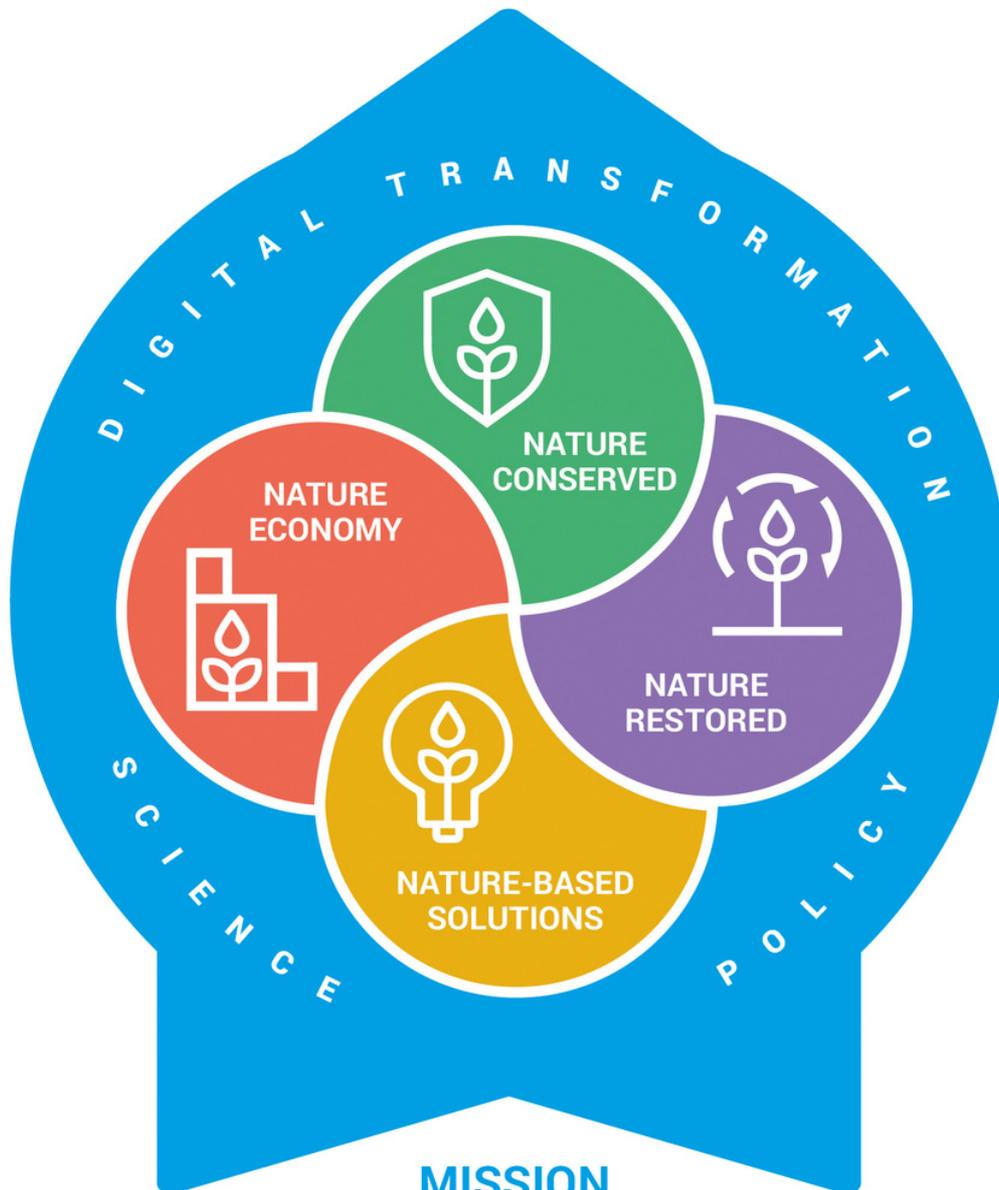


Our strategy

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 application forms and personal detail forms are 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.**



WCMC

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UNEP-WCMC

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