A close-up, profile view of a leopard resting on a large, textured rock. The leopard's fur is a mix of tan and black, with distinct dark spots and stripes. Its eyes are partially closed, and its long, white whiskers are prominent. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a natural, outdoor environment with trees and foliage.

WCMC

**ITN110 Observation of Ecosystem Changes
for Action with Citizen Science Internship -
Science**

Application Pack



ABOUT WCMC

The World Conservation Monitoring Centre (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.

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 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



ABOUT THE TEAM

The Science innovation team 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.

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

OBSGESSION, a European Commission-funded project, aims to advance the understanding of direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity change. By integrating Earth Observation methods, in-situ observations - including citizen science - and state-of-the-art ecological modelling the project addresses critical science-policy gaps. It supports conservation planning, and promotes knowledge sharing to foster effective engagement among international and EU stakeholders, ultimately enhancing ecosystem and biodiversity management efforts.

As part of this initiative, the internship focuses on advancing the understanding of ecosystem changes through the integration of citizen science data with expert in-situ datasets. Leveraging platforms like iNaturalist and fostering community engagement, the project aims to address under-documented regions and taxonomies in Europe. By enhancing data collection, this work contributes to more accurate ecosystem monitoring strategies.

The intern will play a central role in engaging the iNaturalist community and expanding participation in targeted campaigns.

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 practical experience in integrating citizen science data with expert in-situ datasets to support biodiversity monitoring.
- Develop skills in community engagement by working with platforms like iNaturalist to promote participation and expand data collection in under-documented regions.
- Learn to analyze and evaluate citizen science contributions, understanding their role in advancing ecological research and decision-making.
- Enhance problem-solving abilities by addressing gaps in biodiversity data and designing strategies to overcome them effectively.
- Build an understanding of the intersection between technology, community engagement, and ecological modeling in tackling biodiversity challenges

Duties and Responsibilities

- Help maintain the Centre's reference database using reference management software, including uploading references, editing citation styles and removing duplicates.
- Evaluate current iNaturalist activity in priority areas, identifying levels of user engagement and data contribution patterns.
- Assess the types and quality of data available to inform campaign strategies.
- Identify and connect with active iNaturalist contributors in target regions.
- Introduce the campaign to these contributors, emphasizing its goals and the importance of focusing on specific taxa or geographic areas
- Highlight the benefits of collaboration to potential participants and partners, creating a compelling case for involvement.
- Participate in team meetings to share progress and receive feedback.
- Work alongside colleagues to integrate citizen science data into existing in-situ datasets
- Prepare a report summarizing findings from iNaturalist activity analysis, highlighting opportunities and challenges for data collection.
- Deliver a short presentation on the outcomes of the targeted campaign, including lessons learned and recommendations for future efforts.

Requirements and Qualification

We are seeking an organized and competent individual with enthusiasm for community engagement and outreach, particularly in the context of scientific 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
- A strong interest in biodiversity conservation, ecosystem monitoring, and data-driven ecological research.
- Basic knowledge of biodiversity data collection methods and ecological concepts.
- Strong attention to detail and analytical skills for evaluating datasets and identifying patterns or gaps in biodiversity information.
- Familiarity with citizen science platforms, especially iNaturalist, or a willingness to learn.
- Experience in digital communication, including social media.
- Ability to work independently, take initiative, and manage tasks effectively in a project-based environment.

OUR OFFER

Job Title: Observation of Ecosystem Changes for Action with Citizen Science Internship

Team: Science

Reporting to: Associate Programme Officer

Job Reference: ITN110

Start date: As soon as possible

Salary: £11.44 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. This position is with the charity WCMC, working in collaboration with UNEP.

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.

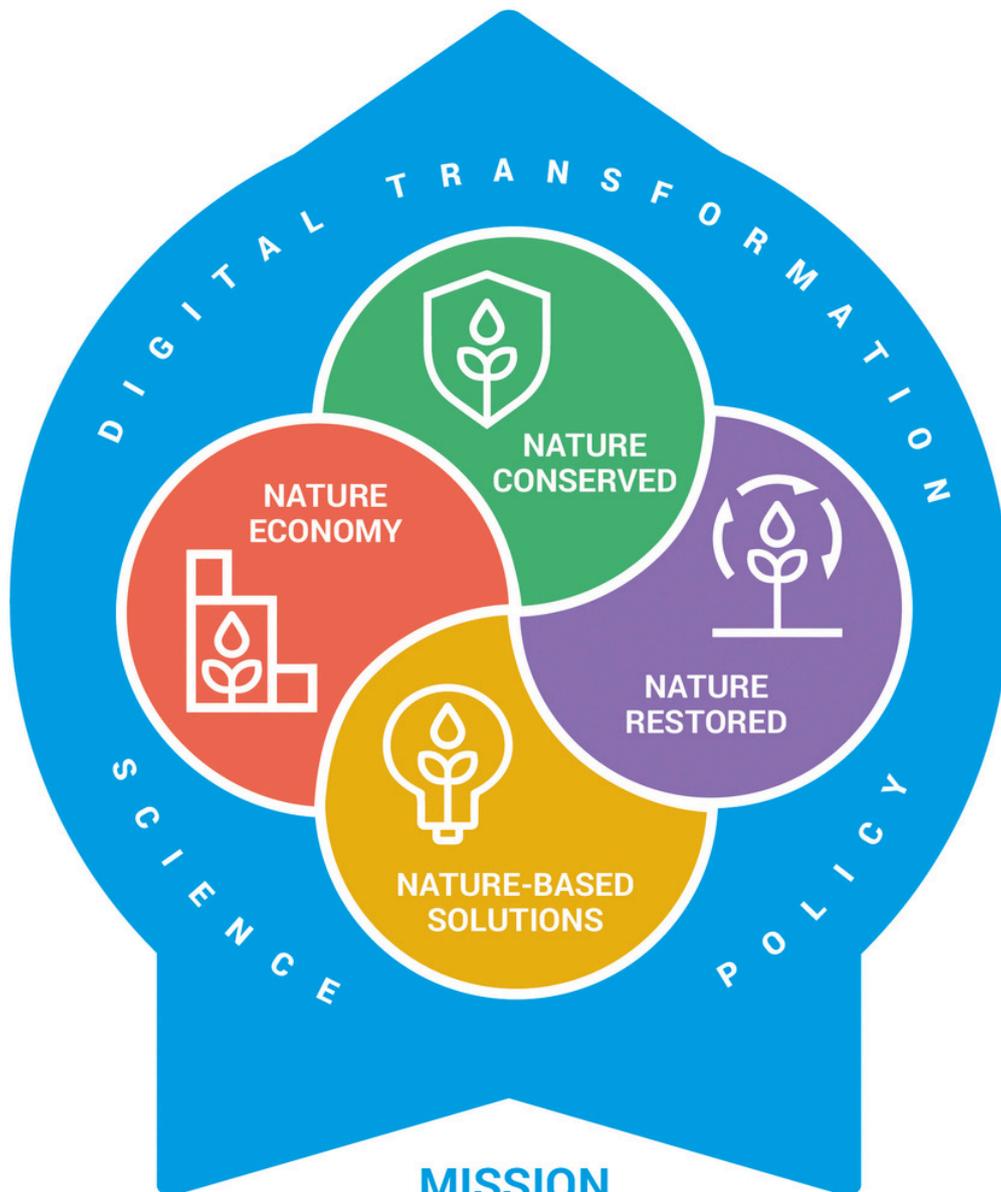
Please note there are training opportunities for longer term employees and that many of our interns have secured longer term roles following successful completion of an internship.

UNEP-WCMC strategy

UNEP-WCMC delivers its strategy through four independent impact areas which are complemented by three cross cutting innovation areas.

VISION 2050

Living in harmony with nature



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. UNEP-WCMC is also a member of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative and we often collaborate with our CCI colleagues in our work.

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

www.unep-wcmc.org