



IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, was founded in 1948 and brings together over 1,290 members (States, government agencies, NGOs and affiliates) and some 10,000 scientists and experts from 181 countries in a unique worldwide partnership. Its mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable. Within the framework of global conventions IUCN has helped over 75 countries to prepare and implement national conservation and biodiversity strategies. IUCN has approximately 1,000 staff, most of whom are located in its regional and country offices while some 150 work at its Headquarters in Gland, Switzerland. IUCN is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from qualified women and men.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

INTERNSHIP

Duty station:	Cambridge, UK
Department:	Species Programme, Freshwater Biodiversity Unit
Reporting to:	Freshwater Biodiversity Unit Manager
Availability:	Immediate
Duration:	One year
Function Group:	Junior Professional Associate

The IUCN Global Species Programme is seeking an intern to help with the implementation of projects assessing the conservation status (IUCN Red List status) and distribution of freshwater species and to provide general support to the Freshwater Biodiversity Unit. Some of the intern's time will be spent assisting in checking large data sets, compiling GIS species distribution maps, liaising with partners and consultants, and assisting in overseas workshops.

This position is ideally suited to a postgraduate or young professional, who seeks to gain further experience in conservation at the international level. The position also provides an opportunity to learn new technical skills. Some international travel may be required.

BACKGROUND

Freshwater systems contain the greatest concentration of biodiversity on Earth, and provide valuable ecosystem services to humanity. However, this diversity faces a catalogue of threats which is leading to an extinction crisis that has implications that are deadly serious. A Global Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment is being undertaken to document the status of our planet's freshwaters according to the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*[™]. The assessment is being conducted in partnership with organizations with demonstrated experience and expertise in biodiversity assessment, in particular – the IUCN Species Survival Commission, Conservation International and NatureServe. The priority taxa being assessed are freshwater

fishes, molluscs, dragonflies and damselflies, freshwater crabs, crayfish and shrimps, and turtles worldwide, adding these to existing assessments of freshwater mammals, birds, crocodiles, and amphibians to provide a comprehensive picture of the state of life in the planet's freshwaters. The global assessment is being completed through a combination of regional assessments.

The main tool employed in species assessments is the IUCN Red List. Since its conception by Sir Peter Scott in 1963, the Red List has become the most authoritative source of assessments on the conservation status of species in the world; it is now widely used to underpin decision-making and conservation action around the world. The Red List is the result of a massive data gathering and data management exercise produced by a vast partnership. The work is carried out by members of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), by IUCN members and partners, with support from and in close association with the IUCN Global Species Programme.

JOB DESCRIPTION

The intern will provide assistance to staff in the Freshwater Biodiversity Unit to implement a number of regional assessment projects and a larger project focused on Key Biodiversity Areas. The intern will also provide general support to other activities in the Freshwater Biodiversity Unit. Specifically, the intern will:

(as a contribution to implementation of ongoing projects)

- Contribute to species distribution mapping through production, editing, and checking of GIS maps.
- Edit and quality check text in assessments in the project database.
- Assist in the editing of regional reports.
- Assist with Red List assessment and evaluation workshops as required.
- Assist with KBA validation workshops as required.

(as a contribution to the general work of the Unit)

- Provide general assistance with the everyday running of the Unit.
- Assist in the implementation of other ongoing or new projects.
- Update literature references in the Unit's database.
- Source photographs for use in publications and obtain permission for use.
- Update the Unit website.

SELECTION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should have, as minimum:

- At least a first degree in an environmental/ecological science.
- Ability to work both independently and as part of a team.
- Excellent attention to detail.
- Proficiency in the use of computer software programmes, particularly spreadsheets and databases.
- Good GIS skills.
- Excellent editing and writing skills in English.
- Good communication skills

In addition to the above requirements, the following skills and attributes would be advantageous:

- Knowledge of freshwater ecology.
- Prior knowledge of the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria.
- Skills in web design, use of HTML, etc.
- Fluency in French and/or Spanish.

REMUNERATION

A gross stipend of £1,375 per month is offered and the costs of 75% of a return economy class airfare will also be covered, if necessary. The prospective intern would also be given assistance in finding suitable accommodation.

APPLICATIONS

Interested candidates who meet the selection requirements are requested to send their *curriculum vitae*, academic transcript if recently graduated, a letter of motivation in English, examples of previous work including articles or report summaries and the names and contact details of two referees (academic or work).

Applications by email are preferred. They should be sent only to the following address by 22nd February 2012.

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