



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, Red List Unit
Reporting to:	Red List Unit Manager
Availability:	Immediate
Duration:	One year
Function Group:	Junior Professional Associate

The IUCN Species Programme is seeking an intern to help with the preparation and production of updates of the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*[™] throughout 2012, and to provide general support to the Red List Unit. Some of the intern's time will be spent running basic quality checks on assessments, helping to finalize GIS maps for species accounts on the Red List web site, and helping to process large datasets for the IUCN Red List. Other tasks include answering emails from the general public to the Red List web site, working with the IUCN communications teams to help prepare communications materials for the Red List launches, and answering media enquiries during and after the launch.

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

BACKGROUND

Since its conception by Sir Peter Scott in 1963, the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*[™] 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 IUCN 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 Species Programme.

Since 1999, the Species Programme through its Red List Unit has managed the IUCN Red List. In addition to managing Red List data and ensuring the Red List web site is updated on a regular basis, the Red List Unit supports the red listing activities of the SSC network by providing technical advice and training, advises organizations involved in regional and national Red List compilation, and contributes to the development of tools to broaden the uses of the IUCN Red List (e.g., biodiversity monitoring tools such as the Red List Index).

The Red List Unit processes thousands of assessments every year and, as a result of increasing demands on staff in the Red List Unit, an opportunity for an internship has opened up to help with the 2012 IUCN Red List updates.

JOB DESCRIPTION

The intern will provide assistance to staff in the Red List Unit throughout the process of updating and releasing the Red List, and will provide general support to other activities in the Red List Unit. Specifically, the intern will:

- Provide assistance to all aspects of the Red List Unit with emphasis on the 2012 Red List updates.
- Check that assessments submitted for inclusion in the Red List have the required standard documentation, that the Red List Categories and Criteria are applied correctly and run quality checks on entries in the Red List database (e.g., spell-checks for supporting documentation).
- Help to finalize GIS range maps for species accounts.
- Help to update pages on the Red List web site in preparation for each of the 2012 Red List launches: two launches are planned for release during summer and autumn of 2012.
- Help with testing of the web site.
- Help Red List Unit staff and IUCN communications teams prepare materials for the 2012 Red List launches and any other associated products.
- Respond to general requests for information about the IUCN Red List.
- Answer media enquiries related to the Red List updates.
- Help prepare meeting and workshop materials, as required.

SELECTION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must be eligible to work in the UK and 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 databases.
- Good GIS skills.
- Excellent editing and writing skills in English.
- Strong written and oral communication skills.

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

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

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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