

Internship Description

Title:	Improving business engagement in biodiversity initiatives
Programme:	Business and Biodiversity Programme
Hours:	37 hours per week
Pay Status:	£8.72 per hour
Line Manager:	Programme Officer

Internship Summary

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 Business and Biodiversity Programme works to ensure that businesses have the incentives, knowledge and capacity to take well informed decisions which might impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services. In delivering this internship, the Centre will work to strengthen the evidence-base for the importance of biodiversity and natural capital to the private sector.

The main purpose of this internship is to work in close collaboration with members of the Business and Biodiversity team to develop an understanding of which businesses and financial institutions are engaging in private sector initiatives at the Centre, for example the [Aligning Biodiversity Measures for Business](#) collaboration, and determine how engagement approaches can be improved to reach a more diverse audience.

As part of this internship it will important to establish why and how businesses and financial institutions engage with private sector initiatives at the Centre. Can we engage with a wider audience by adapting our approach for different organisations or by engaging at different events? How can we diversify the businesses engaging with our projects and where do we need to focus to increase our business reach?

The main objective will be improving business engagement in the Aligning Biodiversity Measures for Business collaboration. It will be closely linked with a new project under the collaboration funded by the European Commission, called ALIGN, which aims to support businesses and other stakeholders in developing standardised natural capital accounting practices generally, and for biodiversity modules specifically, that ensure appropriate management of environmental risks and mitigation opportunities, while reducing related transaction costs called for by the EU Green Deal. The internship will also generate lessons learned more broadly that can be applied through other initiatives, for example ENCORE and the Proteus Partnership.

The internship will involve stakeholder mapping of those businesses and financial institutions already engaged in the Aligning Biodiversity Measures for Business collaboration and explore the various methods of engagement by attending webinars/community of practice sessions that will take place through the ALIGN project. It will seek to understand commonalities between these engaged businesses and how they are connected through various initiatives using publicly available data on their websites, strategy announcements and knowledge within the Business and Biodiversity team members. It will determine existing clusters and links that may enable the team to change our business engagement approach, and open new areas for engagement that have previously been missed.

At the end of the internship, it is anticipated that actionable recommendations for improving proposed and existing business engagement strategies will be identified and built into the ALIGN project, as well as other initiatives at the Centre where relevant. In addition, the internship will build transferable skills in workshop planning, business engagement and project management.

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 Business and Biodiversity team 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 (e.g. by reaching out for guidance when needed), 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 the private sector.
- Present to the Centre and project partners on the findings.
- Gain experience engaging with the private sector to increase awareness of biodiversity related issues, and improve understanding of business engagement practices.
- Provide actionable recommendations to the Business and Biodiversity team to improve proposed and existing business engagement strategies.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Complete a desktop review of business engagement with biodiversity initiatives at the Centre, focused on the Aligning Biodiversity Measures for Business collaboration
- Conduct a network analysis of the links between businesses, projects, global goals and inter-linking partnerships
- Participate in and support webinars and community of practice sessions
- Develop actionable recommendations for the Business and Biodiversity team in the new ALIGN project and other initiatives where relevant
- Deliver a presentation and summary report of findings for diversifying business engagement

Requirements and Qualification

Working towards or holding a Bachelor's degree in natural sciences, economics, social sciences, law or related disciplines.