Internship Assignment

Natural Sciences Unit, UNESCO Phnom Penh Office

Terms of Reference

Reference No: INT/NSU/001

Functional Title: Environment Research Intern

Organizational Unit: UNESCO Phnom Penh Office, Natural Sciences Unit

Duty Station: Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Duration of the contract: 6 months (full-time office based is preferred, but home-based option may be considered given the COVID-19 travel restrictions)

Application deadline: 27 October 2020

Start Date: As soon as possible

Background:

As the United Nations specialized agency with a specific mandate for science, UNESCO works to advance and promote science in the interests of peace, sustainable development and human livelihoods, in close collaboration with its Member States and a wide variety of partners, through its Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR).

Tonle Sap is the largest freshwater lake in South East Asia, covering up to 1-1.6 million ha in the wet season with 8-11 m deep. It harbours rich biological diversity and ecosystems as well as vast cultural heritage, being one of the world’s most productive inland fishing waters. Recognizing its unique ecological, economic and cultural values, Tonle Sap was inscribed on the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves in 1997, and intently enforced by Royal Decree in 2001.

The Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve (TSBR) project, implemented by the UNESCO Phnom Penh Office, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, line ministries, and relevant stakeholders and partners, aims to provide a robust coordination architecture for the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve, to preserve the lake’s resources and sustainably improve livelihoods of local communities, by strengthening functions of the TSBR, which include conservation, livelihoods development, and knowledge-exchange, as outlined through UNESCO’s MAB Programme. The project is implemented as part of the “Complementary Support to the Cambodia Programme for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth in the Fisheries Sector – Capture Component (CAPFISH-Capture program)”, in partnership with FAO, and with overall support from the European Union.

Within the framework of the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve (TSBR) project, UNESCO works to promote effective coordination between various stakeholders, and supports new and innovative approaches for facilitating sustainable development and promoting conservation and wise use of biodiversity through scientific solutions-based approach.
Overview of the functions of the post:

Under the overall authority of UNESCO Representative to Cambodia, and the direct supervision of the Natural Sciences Unit in UNESCO Phnom Penh Office, the intern shall undertake the following tasks in relation to the TSBR project, including:

1. Assist the project team in implementing project activities, including organizing workshops, conferences and consultative meetings, preparing meeting notes, and supporting with follow-up activities.

2. Conduct research, analysis and document published reports on conservation, biodiversity and livelihoods at the TSBR. Document analysis of relevant assessments, tools and frameworks, in relation to ecosystem services at both the global and regional levels, that can be incorporated into various elements of the project.

3. Collect data, maps, information, photos and identification/verification of coordinates to support in developing GIS-based databases, and perform spatial and non-spatial statistical modelling or analyses, in relation to the TSBR ecosystem.*

4. Provide assistance to maintain and strengthen strategic partnerships, including with academic institutes and universities, and with stakeholders working at the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve, to support better coordination of activities at the lake, and promote environmental conservation and sustainable development, in line with UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere (MAB) frameworks.

5. Support the project team in managing and conducting field-level missions, in consultation with subject-experts, officials, and relevant project partners to undertake assessments, establishing baselines and providing technical assistance for improving management of the lake.

6. Assist in preparing project progress and monitoring reports, and relevant documents in relation to the project.

7. Carry out any additional tasks and responsibilities as assigned by the project team and UNESCO Country Representative.

*Knowledge and demonstrated experience with GIS-software is essential for this assignment. The applicant must be familiar with collecting, managing and analyzing geographic / spatial data. Sound background in computer science and programming is preferred.

Qualifications/Requirements:

Education: University degree in a relevant field such as environmental sciences, natural resource management, environmental management, geography, hydrology, ecosystem services, or a related field is required. Advanced degree in the above or related fields is preferred.

Language: Excellent written and spoken English.

Required Skills: Knowledge and demonstrated experience with GIS-software is essential for this assignment. The applicant must be familiar with collecting, managing and analyzing geographic / spatial data. Sound background in computer science and programming is preferred.

Competencies:

- Knowledge of technical cartography methods applicable to land use and land classification, ecosystem services, and of coordinate systems and relevant GIS software
• Demonstrates, applies and shares expert technical knowledge across the organization
• Works effectively in a multi-cultural team environment
• Possesses strong strategic and analytical skills, and excellent interpersonal and communication skills, including writing and oral
• Good IT skills, including knowledge of MS software (Word, Excel etc.)

Note: You can apply for this internship if:

1. You have completed your full-time university studies (bachelor’s degree or equivalent) at a university or equivalent institution prior to commencing the assignment

   or

2. You are enrolled in a graduate programme (second university degree or Master's degree or equivalent, or higher), at the time of application

   or

3. You have recently graduated with a university degree (first or second degree as defined above), within the last 12 months

Apply To:

Interested candidates must apply by completing both steps (1) and (2) below:

(1) Please apply with a Curriculum Vitae (CV) and Cover Letter explaining motivation and prior relevant experience, to pnp.recruitment@unesco.org.

   The subject of the email should be “Internship Application: UNESCO PNP Office – Natural Sciences Unit – Ref: INT/NSU/001”

(2) To know more about the internship programme, please carefully go through this webpage: https://en.unesco.org/careers/internships

   Applicants are requested to carefully go through the instructions given and ensure that they meet all requirements before submitting an application.

   Applicants are also requested to submit their applications to the UNESCO Internship Programme, available at the following link: https://en.unesco.org/careers/internships

   Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

   UNESCO does not remunerate interns. There is no compensation, financial or otherwise for internship assignments.

   In line with UNESCO’s overall gender mainstreaming strategy, the incumbent is expected to integrate a gender perspective in all activities and apply gender analysis and mainstreaming concepts whenever possible.

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