PRIMARY LOCATION

Singapore and working from home

DURATION

3-6 months

NUMBER OF POSITIONS

2

ORGANISATION DESCRIPTION

PEOPLE NEED NATURE — Conservation International works to spotlight and secure the critical benefits that nature provides to humanity. Since our inception in 1987, we’ve helped to protect more than 6 million square kilometres of land and sea across more than 70 countries. Currently with offices in 29 countries and 2,000 partners worldwide, our reach is truly global. Building upon a strong foundation of science, partnership and field demonstration, Conservation International empowers societies to responsibly and sustainably care for nature, our global biodiversity, for the well-being of humanity.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Tonle Sap Lake is Southeast Asia’s largest freshwater lake and the heart of one of the world’s largest and most important fisheries. The Tonle Sap supports the livelihoods of 1 million people who rely upon its natural resources for their daily survival. CI has been working on the Tonle Sap since 2006 to improve livelihoods of fishing communities and conserve the lakes unique biodiversity. The Tonle Sap is fringed by extensive flooded forests, shrublands and grasslands which are a site of irrecoverable carbon.

An opportunity exists for local communities to manage their forests to store and enhance the current carbon stocks. Carbon management is a potential source of income for local communities and protecting the forest benefits both biodiversity and fisheries. However local communities need to receive adequate funding to protect their forests which are threatened by fire and land clearance. Local communities supported by CI have also been restoring degraded forests which may also have long term carbon storage benefits. We are interested in determining the potential costs and benefits of sequestering flooded forest carbon and how this relates to local communities.

https://www.conservation.org/places/greater-mekong

ABOUT THE ROLE

The intern will report to Freshwater Manager, CI Greater Mekong and explore the potential for local communities to receive payment for carbon sequestered in the flooded forests they manage.

The intern will:

- Collate relevant biophysical and economic data;
- Analyse the data to determine the potential income that could be generated through managing the forest for its carbon. This will need to be balanced against management costs (e.g. fire suppression) and lost opportunity costs (clearance for agriculture).
Qualifications

- Reading an Undergraduate or Master’s degree in Economics, Environmental Management, Natural Capital Assessment, Geography, or related fields
- Familiarity with data management and basic statistical analysis, cost-benefit analysis, and GIS

Desirable skills/traits

- Independent thinker and worker
- Interest in climate change mitigation, payment for ecosystem services, and/or carbon markets.

Benefits

The intern will be provided with a monthly stipend of SGD 800-1,000 for a 5-day work week.

If the internship requires travel, the intern can expect to receive a modest travel grant. However, all travel will be highly dependent on prevailing COVID-19 restrictions, programmatic needs, and available funding.

Application

To be considered for this internship, please apply to singapore@conservation.org with the subject line “Application: Carbon Economics Intern” with the following documents:

1. Curriculum vitae.
2. Cover letter, which should include the applicant's period of availability, interest in working with Conservation International’s field programmes in the Asia-Pacific and demonstrate experience relevant to the project.