

## NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING FOR CLIMATE INTERN

We are seeking a promising and self-motivated Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) for Climate Intern to support the long-term growth and success of Conservation International's work for a period of 3-6 months. The internship will be focused on countries where Conservation International is currently implementing both NCA and climate projects. The intern will have the opportunity to work under the guidance of NCA and climate experts at Conservation International as well as other relevant organizations and specialists to support ongoing natural climate solution projects.

The Conservation International University Internship Program is open to Master's level students in local universities reading Environmental Economics, Statistics, Political Science, Natural Resources Management, Development, or other relevant disciplines.

### **About Conservation International**

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 kilometers 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.

In Singapore, Conservation International envisions a vibrant, resilient and sustainable city for generations to come and aims to empower the community to protect nature through individual and collective action. Conservation International Singapore's country program is focused on community engagement and education, capacity building through student internships, and exploring and supporting innovative solutions for conservation science and research.

### **Conservation International Values**

We expect that all employees will embrace the values of our organization:

- **Passion:** Inspired by people and by nature, we are urgently compelled to drive change for a sustainable future.
- **Integrity:** We are honest, transparent and accountable for our actions.
- **Teamwork:** We work together as one CI, recognizing that inclusion, collaboration and cooperation are fundamental to achieving a healthy and prosperous world for all.
- **Respect:** We respect each other and work to earn trust, valuing our diversity of cultures, talents, and experiences.
- **Courage:** We pursue our vision, taking bold action, persevering and overcoming challenges.
- **Optimism:** We are optimistic about the capacity of people to be caring, generous and brilliant, and believe that with partners, we can inspire humanity to create a better future.

## **Location**

Singapore (remote-working)

Must have stable and secure internet access for work.

## **About the Project**

Governments around the world devote significant resources to track the size and health of their economy. These measurements, compiled in national accounts, are used to inform investment, guide development planning, and shape public policy. However, the contribution of nature to the economy in supporting economic growth has largely been omitted in national accounts.

NCA refers to the measurement of stocks of natural resources – both renewable and non-renewable – and the flow of benefits they provide. NCA efforts in the public sector are the domain of the United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounts (SEEA), an internationally accepted framework to incorporate nature into national accounting systems. This year we achieved a significant milestone: the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) adopted the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts – Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA-EA) as a statistical standard to account for natural capital and to link such information to economic and other human activity.

This is a critical juncture for NCA: the climate crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic are showing the urgency to move away from an economic model that ignores nature, and that makes us vulnerable to the effects of climate change and the transmission of zoonotic diseases.

NCA can provide the transformative change that governments increasingly recognize to be needed for a more climate-resilient development path, as well as for more holistic recovery responses. By following the principles and classifications underlying the system of national accounts, NCA-derived climate statistics can be used with other socio-economic data, thus informing cross-sectoral economic policy and planning.

## **About the Role**

This internship will provide an assessment of the interlinkages between NCA and climate change, exploring opportunities to advance the application of NCA-derived data and methodology to track progress toward countries' design and implementation of climate change monitoring frameworks e.g., such as through the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) implementation plans, as well as to inform/assess the potential for climate-related policies – both mitigation and adaptation that can benefit from NCA.

Working with the Senior Director, Ecological Economics based in Singapore and colleagues across Conservation International's countries implementing NCA projects, the intern will provide support in a technical report outlining the following:

1. A synthesis of SEEA accounts and IPCC GHG emission inventories with a focus on methodological approaches, comparing and contrast the differences, commonalities and synergies.
2. Scoping report of current tools and applications used for supporting and undertaking SEEA carbon accounting, identifying, and providing recommendations of key indicators,

- and illustrating their uses towards post-accounting analytical policies (e.g., for Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), showcasing examples from around the world.
3. Synthesis of key recommendations for adoption of SEEA for climate statistics and policies, and its inclusion on countries revision and implementation of NDCs, as for its continuous monitoring and reporting.

### Qualifications

- Current enrolment in a Singapore university (or gap year), reading a Master's degree on environmental economics, statistics, political science, natural resources management, development, or other relevant disciplines.
- Ability to work independently, and to proactively reach out and engage with a range of experts to ensure inclusion of different experiences and perspectives.
- Fluency and strong written and oral communication skills in English.
- Flexibility to make ad-hoc changes as and when the need arises; ability to perform under stress; willingness to keep flexible working hours.

### Desirable Qualities

- Understanding of environmental science, sustainability sciences and environmental policy.
- General understanding of climate change, including mitigation and adaptation strategies.
- Interest on multidisciplinary solutions, including ecological, economic, and social science and policy.
- Interest in statistical analysis and programming (e.g., Python or R to collect, clean, analyze and visualize unstructured/semi-structured data).
- Curiosity and willingness to learn.

### Benefits

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

### Application

To be considered for this internship, please apply to [singapore@conservation.org](mailto:singapore@conservation.org) with the subject "**Application: Natural Capital Accounting for Climate Intern – [full name]**" and the following attachments:

1. Curriculum vitae.
2. Cover letter, which should include the applicant's interest in working with Conservation International's field programs in the Asia-Pacific and any relevant experience working in an NGO or environmental conservation setting.
3. Period of availability.
4. Portfolio and/or writing sample

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview.