


GLOBAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

FORM 1 APPLICATION FORM: GLOBAL TRAINING PROGRAMME


REFERENCIA: EHU04

CORPORATIVE INFORMATION			
Name of the company		BIODIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (BDI) NPC (Non Profit Company)	
Contact Person		Les G Underhill	Email:
Location	Country	South Africa	
	City	Cape Town	
	Address	25 Old Farm Road, Rondebosch, 7700, South Africa	
Sector		Biodiversity, research	
PROPOSED INTERNSHIP INFORMATION			
Number of trainees to host (in case you want more than 1 trainee, indicate the different departments where they will work)		Two (we have hosted two interns for each of the past three years)	
Extension time (extra months and salary) OPTIONAL SEE DOCUMENT: "FORM 2_Global Training 2023 extension preliminary agreement"	Extra months	Not feasible	
	Monthly payment for extra months (between 0-1600€/month)		
INTERNSHIP/PLACEMENT INFORMATION			
Department		Biodiversity monitoring and citizen science	
Description of project/activities		<p>One of the main foci of the BDI is on biodiversity informatics. We primarily produce up-to-date distribution maps for 1000s of species, both animals and plants. Our main source of data is Citizen Scientists. Trainees assist with several projects: (1) Fieldwork which aims to describe breeding productivity of African Oystercatchers on Robben Island, and which monitors biodiversity on several farm where the aim is to do both sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation simultaneously – this is a critical need for the future of the planet – this fieldwork can potentially involve bird ringing; (2) Fieldwork and possibly laboratory in support of two PhD projects which I cosupervise: a project on the water hyacinth, and major invasive pest on fresh water bodies near Cape Town; a project which aims to set up a bird observatory near Cape Town; (3) Assistance with the management of our citizen science projects, motivating people to submit records (This is a training in project in the management with volunteers); (4) Applying statistical/biological skills in generating summaries of the data, writing up the results for publication in the form of policy briefs or research publications.</p>	
COMPETENCES, SKILLS and EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS			
Requested profile(s) information (Studies, previous experience, language skills, other skills...)		Studies	Biology
		Language skills	English

	<p>Other (professional experience, software, other skills...)</p>	<p>We are searching for intern(s) (1) with enthusiasm and skills in biodiversity fieldwork (eg an oystercatcher project on Robben Island which has measured breeding success since 2001, (2) with a passion for citizen science (involving members of the public in the submission of data to projects, and assisting with the coordination of citizen science projects); (3) keen to learn about the analysis and writing up of biodiversity data into research papers and policy documents; and (4) experience of bird ringing, however small, will be a positive skill.</p> <p>The ideal intern would be a student who has completed a master’s degree in some field of biology, and is wanting to develop the skills needed to get into a PhD research project. These experiences will include fieldwork skills (including potentially bird ringing), communication skills, and research/analytic skills.</p> <p>Ideally, one intern would arrive near the end of November, and be involved in the Robben Island project for the oystercatcher breeding season; the second intern would arrive in January-February, and be mostly focused on the projects on farms.</p>
<p>Other commentaries</p>	<p>The core values of the Biodiversity and Development Institute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation: <u>Informing, influencing and motivating biodiversity policy development based on sound quantitative and scientific evidence through our commitment to long-term monitoring and analysis.</u> • Partnership: <u>Nurturing partnerships with people, organizations and governments on the African continent to benefit biodiversity conservation and mutual growth.</u> • Empowering: <u>Enabling people to play a meaningful and living role in the science conversation by transforming Citizen Scientists into “ambassadors for biodiversity”.</u> • Openness: <u>Adopting an “Open Access” data sharing paradigm that maximizes the benefit derived from data collectively gathered, and thus advancing interdisciplinary scholarly research and informing conservation needs.</u> • Innovation: <u>Continuing the pioneering work that has made us leaders in Citizen Science.</u> • Education: <u>Providing training and research opportunities to the next generation of scientists, leaders and environmentalists.</u> 	

COMPANY/INSTITUTION	SIGNATURE	DATE
<p>REPRESENTATIVE :</p> <p>Leslie Gordon Underhill (Director)</p>		<p>15 May 2024</p>

INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPANY/INSTITUTION

<p>LOGO</p>	
<p>WEBSITE</p>	<p>https://thebdi.org</p>
<p> INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY AND THE AREA WHERE THE COMPANY/ISTITUTION IS LOCATED (General information about SECURITY, ACCOMODATION, PUBLIC TRANSPORT...) </p>	<p>The BDI is located in the suburb of Rondebosch, 10 km from the CBD of Cape Town, and one of the city's most sought after suburbs. Cape Town is one of the world's tourist treasures. Rondebosch, and the adjacent suburbs (Observatory, Mowbrary, Rosebank, Claremont, Kenilworth) are, in general terms, the safest parts of Cape Town</p> <p>Previous interns from the Global Training Programme have mainly used Uber to get around. Uber in Cape Town is efficient and safe. I use it a lot myself. Uber works well in Cape Tpwtn, and is one of the most sensible and safest ways to travel.</p>
<p>GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPANY/INSTITUTION</p>	<p>The Biodiversity and Development Institute is legally constituted as an NPC (Non Profit Company). It has taken over many of the projects that were run through the Animal Demography Unit. The ADU itself no longer exists, having been closed down by UCT on Professor Les Underhill's retirement. However, he continues to supervise postgraduate students at UCT, through his appointment as a Senior Research Scholar. He is currently lead supervisor of three PhD and two MSc students, so the linkage with the University of Cape Town remains strong</p>
<p>SIZE OF THE COMPANY (EMPLOYEES)</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>NUMBER OF PEOPLE AT THE DEPARTMENT WHERE THE TRAINEESHIP WILL TAKE PLAKE</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE COMPANY/INSTITUTION</p>	<p>The Biodiversity and Development Institute (BDI) is a non-profit company designed to foster research and community action in the fields of biodiversity conservation and social development. The Biodiversity and Development Institute is composed of three departments .The Citizen Science Department seeks to connect people with conservation- and development-related research projects and seeks to help orchestrate that research, disseminate the results, and support community action. This is the department in which the intern is primarily located. The Research Consulting Department seeks to promote rigorous research in conservation and development by providing technical and logistical support to the existing research community. The Research Training Department seeks to train and build the capacity of research professionals across several rungs of the research ladder, including undergraduate students, post-graduate students, field assistants, and early-career scientists</p>

<p>A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF MAIN PROJECTS</p>	<p>Currently, the main focus of the BDI is on projects involving the mapping and monitoring of animal populations. We concentrate on biodiversity informatics. Unlike many similar groups around the world with a base at an academic institutions, our focus is outwards, and on the communication of results to citizens and policy makers.</p> <p>As an example of this, we have been entrusted with a dragonfly project, for which our main responsibility is not the collection of more and more data, but on “mainstreaming” the dragonflies. In other words, we have to make the dragonflies relevant to a variety of constituencies, and especially increase awareness of them and their importance as indicators of the quality of freshwater across the population as a whole, but also get dragonflies used in policy decisions about biodiversity value of landscapes (eg in environmental impact assessments)</p>
<p>PREVIOUS COLLABORATION IN INTERNSHIP/TRAINING PROGRAMMES?</p>	<p>Over the years, we have hosted 11 interns from the Global Training Programme: Eukene Rueda, Maria Gonzales, Idoia Fuertes, Unai Apodaka, Itxaso Quintana, Jon Blanco, Josu Meléndez, Maite Gonzalez and Jon Zubillaga. This year we are hosting Amaia Sagarzazu and Ángela Colina., interns 10 and 11.</p>
<p>OTHER COMMENTARIES</p>	<p>Our experiences with the interns from the Basque Country have been extraordinarily positive. Each one of them has been a superb ambassador for your programme, and for the Basque Country</p>