



The Natural Capital Initiative

Advancing the ecosystems approach from theory into policy and practice

Internship opportunities 2010

The [Natural Capital Initiative](#) (NCI) is supporting the development of UK science, policy and practice aligned with the ecosystem approach; a way of looking at whole ecosystems in decision making and of valuing the goods and services they provide. In relation to this NCI is:

- Providing an independent and inclusive forum for debate;
- Identifying gaps in science, policy and its implementation and facilitating the debate about how to address these gaps;
- Liaising with, and informing, key government, research council and other initiatives, and
- Engaging the public and inspiring the next generation.

NCI is a partnership between the [Society of Biology](#), the [Centre for Ecology and Hydrology](#) and the [British Ecological Society](#). NCI's current work themes are: valuation of ecosystem services, the links between social and natural capital, ecosystem services and human health. More information about NCI is available at www.naturalcapitalinitiative.org.uk

Opportunities available:

The Natural Capital Initiative has two volunteer opportunities to assist the Secretariat in the planning and running of its activities. Volunteers would need to commit a minimum of three days per week. Each placement would be for a minimum of two months full time equivalent and for a maximum of three months full time equivalent. Volunteers will help:

- Investigate topics related to NCI work themes (volunteers are likely to need to work on multiple work themes)
- Assist with the organisation and running of NCI events
- Assist with the preparation of reports and articles
- Assist with administrative tasks

One volunteering period would be expected to start in summer 2010. The other would be expected to start in the autumn of 2010. NCI partner offices are in Oxfordshire and Central London. Wherever possible, volunteers will have an opportunity to choose their primary work location. Lunch expenses and limited costs for travel between partner offices will be available, subject to prior *agreement*.

Qualifications, knowledge and skills:

- Graduate of a discipline related to the work of NCI
- Knowledge, or proven interest, in public policy and/or business and the environment
- Ability to gather and interpret information rapidly
- Excellent communication skills
- Good IT skills
- Broad knowledge of issues in environmental science and management

Application process:

Please provide a CV and covering letter (no more than 1 page) stating:

- your career goal
- why you think the ecosystem approach is important
- details of when you would be able to start and days available to work with NCI

Applications should be sent to Policy@britishecologicalsociety.org. **Closing date: 5 pm, Friday 21st May.** Interviews will be on 9th June.