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**UNESCO Sponsored Traineeship Programme**

**Terms of Reference**

**Trainee: Natural Sciences Unit**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Duration:** 12 months (2 candidates)

**Location:** UNESCO Bangkok Office

**Organizational Unit**: Natural Sciences Unit (in partnership with all units)

**Supervisor (name, title):** Benno Böer, Programme Specialist

**DESCRIPTION OF THE TRAINEESHIP**

One or even two trainees are desired to assist UNESCO Bangkok’s Natural Sciences Unit with regard to:

Support the mobilization of Extra-Budgetary Resources regarding a number of concept notes:

UNESCO Bangkok, in partnership with UNESCO Regional Science Office in Jakarta, UNESCO Headquarters, and UNESCO Field-Offices in Asia/Pacific has produced a number of Concept Notes for the implementation of activities in support of the Global Network of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in Asia/Pacific:

* The Plastic Initiative (need: 3,500,000 US$)
* Floating Mangroves (need: 880,000 US$)
* UNESCO Green Academies: (need: tbd.)
* The World Climate ATLAS: (need: tbd.)
* The Global Halophyte Alliance (need: tbd.)

These concept notes all require the active mobilization of extra-budgetary funds and resources. Most explicitly, the new regional activity ‘The Plastic Initiative’, that has been developed by Bangkok, Beijing, Islamabad, Jakarta, New Delhi, SC/EES and BSP needs a major and continuous fund-raising campaign, including the mobilization of targeted Governmental support, identification of foundations, NGOs, and supported by crowd-funding campaigns. This is a lot of work, for which additional staff support is urgently needed.

The Plastic Initiative is most urgent. There is no ‘Easy-Fix’ to improve the plastic-pollution situation globally. School-clean-up-campaigns are not enough. We need to mobilise the youth, raise awareness, enhance environmental education, and turn to action. We need to involve Government authorities to adjust policies and practices, and the private sector to support professional actions to clean up the mess. Within 152 UNESCO Biosphere Reserves we will test best waste-management practices and behavioural change and implement the most effective strategies in local communities.

The other concept notes on ‘Floating Mangroves’ and ‘Green Academies’, as well as ‘Global Halophyte Alliance’ all support biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and good water practices.

**REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS**

**Education:** Master’s degrees or equivalent in environmental sciences (biology; ecology; botany; zoology; geology; geography; environmental management) or international relations/business development, economy, or similar.

**Subjects:** Environmental management; business development; international relations.

**Language skills:** English.

**Competencies and skills:** Self-motivated; willing to carry out desk-research, meet a lot people, act on their own initiative, previous experiences in crowd-funding desirable but not essential, good time-keepers, common sense; awareness of contemporary issues of relevance to humanity.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

They will learn about every aspect in view of:

1. Ecological sciences.
2. Environmental sciences.
3. Water management.
4. Climate change realities.
5. Become actively engaged in EXB mobilization, fund-raising-strategies, from Government, Foundations, the Private Sector, and the Crowd.
6. Learn about the SDGs; contemporary environmental issues and how to turn from rhetoric to action.
7. Building long-term partnerships.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**