



Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle Service du Patrimoine Naturel

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<http://www.mnhn.fr/spn/>
<http://inpn.mnhn.fr>

Application for : Internship “European synthesis of vegetation mapping experiences”

The Service du Patrimoine Naturel (SPN) of the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle provides scientific and technical support to the Ministry of Ecology, in the framework of the national programme on knowledge and protection of biodiversity. It is in charge of the French Natural Heritage Survey (<http://inpn.mnhn.fr>).

BACKGROUND

In the framework of its national biodiversity strategy 2011-2010, the French State is committed to launch a programme of national habitat mapping (CARHAB). A French quantitative map of natural and semi-natural vegetations will be prepared at a 1: 25 000 scale based on a phytosociological approach.

The Ministry of Ecology has given a mandate to several partners to implement the programme : the Conservatoires Botaniques Nationaux, Cemagref, Fédération des Conservatoires botaniques nationaux (FCBN), the Inventaire Forestier National, the Muséum national d'histoire naturelle and the Société Française de Phytosociologie.

The period 2011-2013 will be dedicated to the development of the mapping methodology and the preparation before the field implementation from 2014.

Due to the complexity of the task, it is considered essential to learn from other mapping projects and therefore a survey of relevant projects across Europe will be undertaken in order to obtain an overview of existing experience and to find the most relevant methods for France.

This survey will be lead by the FCBN for the French part and by the SPN for the other European countries in close collaboration with the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity (ETC/BD).

DESCRIPTION OF INTERNSHIP

The intern will work within the SPN team under the authority of the CARHAB Officer and the Head of division and in close relation with the ETC/BD. S/he will be in charge of the analyses of the European survey and will take part in the preparation of a bilingual (French / English) paper that aims to be a state-of-the-art review of national or regional habitat mapping in Europe. Depending on their skills, the intern may take part in field habitat mapping.

The mission will include:

- Gathering relevant literature,
- Organisation of the survey: communication, calls, in-depth discussions...
- Analysis of the results and preparation of a synthetic report in liaison with the CARHAB Officer
- Initiating a reflexion on the opportunity of a European network of area-wide vegetation mapping operators
- Co-editing of the final publication
- Field habitat mapping (to be define at the beginning of the internship)

MNHN partner: ETC/BD.

External partners: European experts institutions dealing with mapping.

ELIGIBILITY

- Master's degree student in ecology
- Scientific rigor, good writing and synthesis skills
- Excellent knowledge of English and basic knowledge in French is essential; a third EU language would be an asset.
- Knowledge on habitat typologies, phytosociology and GIS tools
- Practical experience in vegetation characterization and mapping would be an asset.
- Good skills in work organization and working in a team environment

CONTRACTUAL CONDITIONS

Type of contract: Internship

Period: up to 6 months.

Compensation: French legal rate for internships, eligible to Leonardo and Eurodysée grants.

Starting date: from February 2012

Location: Brunoy (91) 20km south of Paris

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Interested candidates should apply by 20.01.2012 to: recrutementspn@mnhn.fr

Please mention: **Candidature Stage « Synthèse européenne de cartographie des habitats ».**

Documents required :

- a detailed *curriculum vitae* including all relevant activities ;
- a letter of interest

For further information, candidates can contact:

Jean Ichter, CARHAB Officer (jichter@mnhn.fr)

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