Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources  
University of Vermont  
Perennial Summer Internship Program - 2017

**Internship Title:** Intern, Wildlife Trade Trend Alerts

**Internship Site:** WWF-US office in Washington, DC, preferred

**Description:**

WWF is the world’s largest and most respected independent conservation organization, with over six million supporters and a global network active in over 120 countries. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

As the human population grows, so does the demand for wildlife. Increased globalization, connectivity and disposable incomes have only exacerbated human desire for and consumption of wildlife and their products. The internet unintentionally serves as an open, thriving marketplace for wildlife cybercriminals to conduct business. With increased international and national regulation on wildlife trade and the relatively low risk of detection and traceability online, sellers are shifting operations from traditional brick-and-mortar stores to e-commerce and social media sites. Patterns of human consumption of wildlife aren’t static. Factors such as popular culture, species rarity and diminishing supply all cause shifts in what humans want and buy. Predicting these trends is not an exact science. Traditionally, regular market surveys and past trade record data would indicate human interest, but there is often a critical time lag. Currently, WWF and TRAFFIC are exploring whether wildlife trade trends can be determined through the use of online search term queries and data analytics, which could lead towards early warning and detection of problematic wildlife trade. WWF is seeking an intern to assist with data collection and management, as well as providing general assistance to the team implementing this pilot project.

**Desired qualifications/skills/coursework:**

- Proficiency with Microsoft Office programs, specifically Excel, and internet-based research
- Excellent communication, organizational and time management skills
- Ability to work independently and multi-task effectively
- Some knowledge of CITES and wildlife trade
- Experience using and analyzing dataset
- Passionate about wildlife conservation, particularly wildlife trade
- Database experience is a bonus
- Positive attitude and a sense of humor

*Rubenstein students currently in their sophomore and junior years are eligible to apply. Earning internship credit through the Rubenstein Internship Program is required.*

**Supervision:** Robin Sawyer, Program Officer, TRAFFIC, robin.sawyer@wwfus.org
Start and End Dates:

Mid-May – Mid-August, 2017 (exact start/end dates are negotiable)

Total Hours:

20 hours/week, 12 weeks guaranteed. Additional hours may be possible depending on funding.

Compensation: $12.50/hour

How to apply: Follow step by step application instructions which are available on the Rubenstein Perennial Internship Program website. This will include logging into the CEMS-RSENR Internship, Co-Op, Research System and submitting the following (as pdfs whenever possible) by midnight, Sunday, January 29th 2017:

a. Resume
b. Cover Letter - You should upload and submit unique cover letters for each position to which you’re applying
c. Position Ranking - If you are applying for more than one Perennial Internship, please provide list of the positions in rank order.
d. Reference(s) – Provide name & contact information for at least one professional reference (this could be someone who supervised you in a past work/internship/volunteer position, a professor or teacher, etc.)
e. Transcript – Login to your my uvm portal, click on the Registrar link, click Request Official Transcript by email, once received save it as a pdf and upload.
f. A recommendation form, completed by a faculty member or teaching assistant, will also need to be submitted on your behalf. Please send this link to the faculty member/teaching assistant when you ask if they are willing to complete the recommendation form for you. Your recommender will complete & submit this form online and then your recommendation will be confidentially uploaded to your application(s).