



Internship Description

Dam removal

Background

Biodiversity along European rivers has decreased by more than 80% over the last 40 years, which means the need to halt and reverse this decline is now imperative. With tens of thousands of dams interrupting European waterways, the removal of these hugely detrimental barriers has proven to be the most environmentally and economically effective measure for restoring rivers.

Rewilding Europe is a partner in Dam Removal Europe (DRE), a European-wide coalition of organisations working to revitalise European rivers by removing old and non-used dams and weirs. Within this coalition, Rewilding Europe is leading the development of business models for the removal of dams. Such scalable (financial) models serve both ecological and socio-economic goals.

To explore the potential for developing these dam removal business models (on a country-by-country basis) further, Rewilding Europe is offering a new, six-month internship, starting in October 2019.

Internship tasks

The internship tasks include (but will not be limited to) exploring the following issues, on a per-EU country basis:

- Identify and summarize the legislation that supports removal of old and non-used dams;
- Identify and characterize the financing mechanisms/offsetting schemes that support the removal of dams;
- Quantify the amount of money available for dam security and maintenance (prevention of dam breaches) and identify their sources;
- Track record of dam removal per country and the circumstances under which dam removals occurred;
- Information about the state of maintenance of dams and their relative significance for the function (hydropower, agriculture, drinking water) for which they were built.

Required outcomes

- A per-EU country broad overview of those policies, legislations and subsidy systems that support or hinder dam removal (i.e. a matrix that gives insight into where there is the highest potential for different business models).
- An first-level analysis of the most promising dam removals in the most opportunity-rich countries and their potential for upscaling to other similar situations in Europe.
- Recommendations to Rewilding Europe as to how to assimilate these scalable models into a rewilding investment fund.

Desirable skills

This is a half-year internship, most suited to an MSc student or young professional with a legal, economic, policy and / or environmental background. It will require an analytical and entrepreneurial mind-set, combined with a proficiency for internet research, particularly with regard to government legislation and financing mechanisms.

It will also require:

- A passion for conservation, wild nature and dam removal;
- An independent and proactive attitude and personality;
- An ability to work from home with your own laptop / internet connection;
- Full proficiency in English (speaking, reading and writing);
- The ability to start work in October 2019.

Benefits

In return, Rewilding Europe will offer the dam removal intern the following:

- All necessary background information about Dam Removal Europe and dam removal business models;
- Appropriate guidance;
- Freedom to work partly from home;
- Official feedback (for university students who require internship evaluation);
- A chance to be part of a truly dedicated team and make a real difference to European conservation!

Remuneration

This internship is unpaid, however, travel costs to and from the office in Nijmegen (if you're based in the Netherlands) will be covered.

Applications

All applications should be sent to info@rewilding-europe.com no later than September 21, 2019, including a CV and motivational letter. Any questions regarding this position should also be sent to this email address.