

Drylands Natural Resource Centre
Call for Internship/Student Exchange Applications

Background

Drylands Natural Resource Centre (DNRC) is a fast growing non-governmental organization that promotes the sustainable development of natural resources in the dryland regions of Kenya. Founded in early 2007 by three Americans and a Kenyan colleague, DNRC utilizes agro-forestry and farming best practices to boost economic agricultural yields in farming communities around Mbumbuni, Kenya. Benefits to participating families include enhanced soil fertility, reduced soil erosion, improved water retention and preserved biodiversity in order to increase overall agricultural productivity.

Core activities of DNRC

- Operation of an expanding tree nursery of 15,000+ saplings with over 10 tree species
- Cultivation and development of native grass species in the nursery for land restoration purposes
- Consulting and educational services to community members on alley and perimeter cropping (agro-forestry), charcoal production and small business development
- Rapidly expanding commercial operations
 - Target sale of 100,000 tree saplings annually by 2011
 - Charcoal production utilizing state-of-the-art retort kiln, which will be sourced with wood from sustainable tree farms
- Management of two full-time employees and multiple part time employees

Currently available internships

1. Marketing and Sales Associate

Activities: develop a marketing strategy for selling 100,000 tree saplings annually by 2011; plan and manage marketing activities (e.g., placing advertisements, putting up signs for the nursery along roads, marketing saplings at regional markets); forecast future costs for sapling sales associated with marketing strategy; develop a reporting and accounting system for the tree nursery operations and sapling business; cultivate relationships with institutional buyers of saplings (e.g., government, NGOs, and agro-forestry organizations); market sizing analysis for charcoal production business (e.g., demand, pricing, location, competitors)

Qualifications: entrepreneurial interest; background in economics, marketing or finance

2. Operations and Charcoal Production Associate

Activities: technical feasibility analysis of kiln charcoal production costs (e.g., determine whether locally built or externally sourced); develop business and operational plan charcoal production; formulate plan for optimal tree sapling production and inventory management (e.g., how many trees, which type, which method, and when); support in the design, development, and optimization of the new demonstration farm

Qualifications: technical interest in operations; background in engineering, economics, sciences, etc.

3. Community, Communications & NGO Liaison

Description: work closely with farmers in Mbumbuni to understand and document their challenges; document the progress of the project and the participants through film, photographs, and/or writing; create communication materials for wider dissemination (e.g., progress reports, blog, website); support DNRC in their fundraising efforts; reach out to other NGOs to develop strategic partnerships

Qualifications: interest in working with people on-the-ground, passion for economic development, media, public relations, social networking; interest in cultivating relationships with NGOs

Note: part of this internship could take place in the United States

4. Agro-forestry, Agriculture and Science Associate (role TDB)

Requirements

- Expected bachelor's degree
- Demonstrated interest in economic development or agriculture
- Comfort with close interaction with farmers and rural community

Compensation

Internship is unpaid and intern must cover airfare (additional funding may become available to offset some costs)

Food and lodging will be fully covered while in village

Location and timing

Interns will live in the rural compound of DNRC co-founder Nicholas Syano in Mbumbuni, Kenya

Duration of internship between 8-12 weeks, with the possibility of extension

Timing of internship anywhere from May 2010 – December 2010

To apply, please email your resume along with the intern role you are interested in to Chas Taylor at cha.taylor@gmail.com or Daniel Pike at danieljamespika@gmail.com

Please do not hesitate to contact DNRC with any questions