



The International Centre for  
Underutilised Crops

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# ICUC-News #44

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Dear colleagues,

Today is the International Day for Biological Diversity. The promotion and increased use of underutilised crops can contribute significantly to the maintenance and even increase in agricultural biodiversity. ICUC together with its host IWMI is marking the day with a special seminar at IWMI headquarters in Colombo.

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With best wishes,  
Hannah

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## 1. Funding & Job opportunities

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### 1.1 IUCN Programme Officer – Ecosystem Management

Duty station: IUCN Headquarters, Gland, Switzerland  
Expected start date: As soon as possible  
Function group: P2  
Work percentage: 100%

#### BACKGROUND

The Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) provides expert guidance on integrated approaches to the management of natural and modified ecosystems to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. It has about 400 members from a variety of backgrounds (natural as well as social researchers and practitioners) from the developed and the developing world. Working in close partnership with the IUCN Ecosystem Management Programme, CEM members provide expert advice for the implementation of IUCN regional and thematic programmes, which in turn are developing and implementing activities related to dryland and island ecosystems, as well as representing IUCN in related international policy debates.

#### DUTIES

1. Act as the focal point for the IUCN Ecosystem Management Programme, particularly for activities related to the Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) and IUCN's Regional and Country Offices.

2. Work closely with IUCN regions, global thematic programmes and Commissions to develop and maintain an appropriate project portfolio for CEM and its programme partners.
3. Liaise with staff in Headquarters and Regional Offices concerned with ecosystem issues, especially in relation to islands and drylands, and ensure that their priorities are shared within the CEM network.
4. Identify best practices and lessons learned from IUCN's work on drylands and islands, and ensure that these are shared throughout IUCN networks in the most effective way (including through meetings, workshops, publications, the Internet and other electronic communication channels).
5. Coordinate with the CEM Chair the development and circulation of IUCN policy positions on islands and drylands in international policy debates (e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity, UN Convention to Combat Desertification) and with the media as appropriate.
6. Mobilize technical experts from CEM, and other IUCN Commissions as appropriate, to ensure quality planning and delivery of selected IUCN programmes and partnerships.
7. Maintain and develop further the CEM Expertise Register and help with other support duties as appropriate.
8. Provide support for the production of the Ecosystems newsletter and other CEM communications products.

### QUALIFICATIONS

- An advanced degree (minimum MSc) in natural sciences or a relevant field.
- At least five years' experience, and a good understanding and background in international environmental issues.
- Project management experience (workplans, budgets and financial tracking, periodic reporting, liaison with relevant stakeholders, etc.).
- Demonstrated ability to work as part of a team.
- Strong organizational and analytical skills and attention to detail.
- Good interpersonal and capacity building skills; demonstrated ability to communicate in a cross-cultural environment and to a wide range of audiences, including with volunteer experts and colleagues across the world.
- Written and spoken fluency in English and in one of the other two (French and Spanish) official languages of IUCN.
- Advanced computer skills and familiarity with major software packages. Excellent knowledge of electronic communications and networks. Knowledge of website development and maintenance.

### SALARY

The gross annual salary for this position is in the range from CHF96,160 to CHF120,200, subject to deductions for social security contributions and second-pillar pension, and before tax.

### APPLICATIONS

Applicants are requested to submit **at the latest by 1 June 2007** their curriculum vitae, a supporting letter of motivation in English that specifically addresses the skills and qualification requirements, and the names and contact details of three referees (including one recent employer) to:

Human Resources Officer  
 The World Conservation Union (IUCN)  
 Rue Mauverney 28, 1196 Gland, Switzerland  
 Fax: +41 22 999 0339; E-mail: [jobapplications@iucn.org](mailto:jobapplications@iucn.org)

Applications by email are preferred. They should be sent **only** to [jobapplications@iucn.org](mailto:jobapplications@iucn.org)

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## 2. Workshops & Training Courses

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### 2.1 FARA General Assembly and Africa Agriculture Science Week

The 4<sup>th</sup> FARA GA and Africa Agriculture Science Week is taking place in Johannesburg, South Africa from 10-16 June. A long and exciting list of side events are being planned. Check out the website: [www.faraweek.org](http://www.faraweek.org).

ICUC will be present with a stand which we will share with PROTA – Plant Resources of Tropical Africa.

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### 3. Publications & Information

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#### 3.1 IDRC launches Intellectual Platform for Developing Countries

Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is pleased to announce the launch of its [Digital Library \(http://idl-bnc.idrc.ca\)](http://idl-bnc.idrc.ca), the first Open Access Institutional Repository established by a Canadian research-funding organization. The IDRC Digital Library provides full access over the Internet to IDRC's rich research archive. In addition to making information more freely available, this initiative provides IDRC-funded researchers with a much-needed outlet to publish and showcase their work.

The Digital Library is an institutional repository – a database driven by open source software that makes content freely available through the Internet, permitting users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to information, as long as the source is acknowledged and cited. More than 700 academic institutions and research organizations worldwide have established repositories since 2000, but IDRC is among the first funding agencies to do so.

In addition to making information more freely available, this initiative will enable IDRC-funded researchers to publish and showcase their successes, insights, and expertise. Through the IDRC Digital Library their work will be available, not just to a select few subscribers of journals, but to the entire global research community.

Throughout its 35-year history, IDRC has believed that knowledge must be shared to bring about positive change in some of the world's poorest countries. Soaring costs of accessing research literature, and difficulties in having research published in traditional journals are restricting the development of research capacity in the developing world.

The Digital Library will help IDRC research partners engage in the international dialogue on important development issues and increase the impact of their research.

"The IDRC Digital Library raises the bar considerably for information sharing," said Rohinton Medhora, Vice President of Programs at IDRC. "By making sharing and collaboration much easier, the Digital Library will also strengthen IDRC-supported research networks. And by giving all stakeholders equal access, it will make it easier for research results to play a central role in public debate about development issues."

For information:

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#### 3.2 Most Innovative Development Project

2007 Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP) Competition Submissions are welcome for the Global Development Network's annual competition for the Most Innovative Development Project, which carries prizes in cash and travel of over US \$50,000! The finalists will present their proposals at GDN's Annual Global Development Conference in Brisbane, Australia in January 2008. Submissions are accepted for an ongoing development project implemented in a developing or transition country. Criteria include the degree of innovation and the potential for broad application of the project in other countries. Applicants are requested to use the new application template available on our website. Deadline for submission: August 20, 2007. For more information on the competition visit our website at <http://www.gdnet.org/2007awards>.

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#### 3.3 IFPRI 2020 Writing Contest

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) is pleased to announce a writing contest for youth. We invite you to present your views on how to arrive at a world where no one lives in poverty and hunger.

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To participate, you must be between 14 and 18 years old.  
Deadline for submissions (typed and in English only): August 1, 2007  
Length: 2,000 words maximum

Use your writing skills to write an essay, short story, poem, open letter to a national leader, short play, or other text on How we can make poverty and hunger problems of the past in all nations across the globe.

Prizes: First prize is US\$ 500, plus a booklet in which your essay will be published with other high-quality contributions. Runner up prizes are US\$ 250, plus a booklet in which your essay will be published. The booklet will be posted on IFPRI's website. The essays from the last contest are available at <http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/books/oc45.htm>.

For additional guidelines and details, please visit our website:  
<http://www.ifpri.org/2020chinaconference/chconfcontest.asp>

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**4. ICUC-related information**

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**4.1 Recently published: A value-chain analysis for the Sri Lankan rambutan sub-sector**  
ICUC-Research Report No. 2 "A value-chain analysis for the Sri Lankan rambutan sub-sector" by Ismael Barry is now available online:  
<http://www.icuc-iwmi.org/files/Publications/ICUC%20RR-2%20web.pdf>. For a hard copy please contact Sushilla Rajamanie ([s.rajamanie@cgiar.org](mailto:s.rajamanie@cgiar.org)).

The report describes the rambutan subsector in Sri Lanka and develops recommendations on production capacity, product development, markets and product distribution, and pricing. The report is part of a series on value chain analyses for underutilised crops. It will be followed by a report on woodapple and beli, also in Sri Lanka, and amla, tamarind and kokum in India.

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Championing underutilised plant species for food, nutrition and sustainable development