Nature Foundation SINT MAARTEN

INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION

Education and Outreach

Type	• On-site (Sint Maarten, Caribbean) • Part- or full-time (32-40 hours/week)
Benefits	From mid-March, housing on the premises provided along with USD 300/month stipend
Timeline	Mid-March 2027 through Mid-August 2027 *Alternate or shortened timelines will be considered.*
Nationality	Local, Dutch or French, or American applicants preferred due to visa requirements.
Application deadline	15 January 2027

Background

Since 1997, the Nature Foundation Sint Maarten has operated as a non-governmental, non-profit organization working to improve the conditions for the conservation, management, and restoration of Sint Maarten's biodiverse natural ecosystems and wildlife. Sint Maarten is a constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the Caribbean. It encompasses the southern side of the island of Saint Martin, while the northern part of the island constitutes the French overseas collectivity of Saint-Martin. English is the predominant language on Sint Maarten, though Dutch is also spoken, as well as French on Saint-Martin. Tourism is the primary economic driver on the island, which supports a seasonal industry of mega yachts, cruise ships, sailing boats, and other tourists. The main coastal ecosystems found include beaches, rocky shores, coastal lagoons, salt ponds, and mangroves.

Description

The Education and Outreach internship offers an active opportunity to improve educational content related to Sint Maarten's natural ecosystems and directly engage with community members. Insufficient and ineffective education regarding marine and terrestrial ecosystems has contributed to the ongoing exploitation and pollution of the island's remaining mangrove fringes, seagrass beds, forest vegetation, rocky intertidal zones, and more. Working under the supervision of our education officer, the intern will immerse themselves in Sint Maarten's natural environment and learning spaces to form a basis for their eventual review of existing curricula, assessment of knowledge gaps, and development of improved educational materials that adhere to local school standards. This will involve updating or creating materials such as presentations, games, curricula, social media, booklets, and signs. The intern will also assist with managing innovative educational initiatives, such as a public resource library for teachers. In addition, the intern will help organize and support educational events relative to the Nature Foundation 30th anniversary.

As a Nature Foundation intern, the role also includes support of the organization's other programs and activities, including fieldwork, inventory organization, and more.

Responsibilities

- **Outreach and communications (40%)**
  - Help coordinate and organize educational outreach initiatives
  - Support and/or lead company and summer camp presentations
  - Assist with distribution of educational resource library
  - Assist with the organization and implementation of the 30th anniversary events
- **Resource development (30%)**
  - Update and/or develop educational materials for ecosystems and wildlife
  - Improve internal pedagogical templates, resources, and organization
  - Design creative signs, booklets, games, and other visual materials
  - Communicate science through social media posts and press releases
  - Draft small grant proposals for educational materials and funds

    - Maintain accessible and updated website for the public
    - Develop an educational report of activities and recommendations to inform future organization's technical reporting
- **Contextual research (20%)**
    - Review historical maps, archival documents, and old studies for public use
    - Self-study behavioral change techniques and successful campaigns
    - Devise methods to build institutional learning and knowledge
- **Miscellaneous (10%)**
    - Support additional Nature Foundation activities such as fieldwork, sea turtle patrols, site maintenance, and other programs
    - Assist with routine maintenance, emergency response, and inventory of organizational equipment

Qualifications

Age and Education

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Must be a current student or recent graduate working toward a bachelor's or master's degree, or a recent bachelor's graduate within 1 year, in environmental studies, education, behavioral science, communication, or a related field

Experience and Skills

- Excellent writing, communication, and interpersonal skills
- Passion for working with children, whether in summer camps or schools
- Experience communicating science to those with limited formal education
- Strong interest in environmental topics, community outreach
- Some background in event planning and coordination
- Capable of both independent work and teamwork
- Notable self-efficacy, creativity, resourcefulness, and time management
- Desire to work with individuals and communities of diverse backgrounds
- Ability to work productively in a small and active office environment

Language, Nationality, and Location

- Oral and written fluency in English
- Ability to legally reside on St. Maarten for the internship duration
- Local, Dutch, or American applicants are preferred due to visa requirements
- Proficiency in French, Dutch, or Spanish is a plus

Other

- Valid driver's license is mandatory; ability to drive manual is an asset
- Ability to safely lift and move heavy items up to 20 kg or (44 lbs)
- Experience with Canva and Microsoft 365 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.)
- Experience utilizing social media platforms (Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn)
- Valid first aid certification is an asset

Apply

Students and recent graduates interested in participating should submit their application to Gaia Piccaluga by **15 January 2027** via email at **gaia@naturefoundationsxm.org** and **info@naturefoundationsxm.org** in cc**.** The application should include the following contents:

- Up-to-date curriculum vitae/résumé (PDF)
- Cover letter/letter of motivation with available start and end dates (PDF)

Please ensure that the subject line reads "Application: Education and Outreach Intern".