**GIS Intern opportunity**

Island Conservation (IC) is a science-driven, non-profit organization dedicated to preventing extinctions and protecting island ecosystems. IC is headquartered at the University of California, Santa Cruz’s Long Marine Laboratories. Learn more about us at [www.islandconservation.org](http://www.islandconservation.org). We are a world recognized and rapidly growing conservation organization with over 30 staff members located worldwide.

**Position Overview**

Although islands comprise less than 5% of the earth’s land area, 80% of known species extinctions have taken place on islands and 40% of Critically Endangered species currently inhabit them. The foremost cause of extinction and endangerment of insular species is introduced species. However, invasives can be eradicated, resulting in remarkable recoveries of endangered species and threatened island ecosystems. Importantly, eradication of invasive species has high upfront costs, so efforts should be directed to islands and archipelagos that offer the greatest biodiversity benefits at the lowest cost. The ability to identify and prioritize islands for eradications is hindered by a lack of comprehensive and reliable data on the global distribution of island threatened species, threats, physical attributes and human utilization.

Island Conservation is seeking an intern to provide spatial support towards developing a geospatial database of islands x threatened species x invasive vertebrates. Would include working with public databases (e.g. Global Island database, IUCN Red List). *This position would likely start in January 2012.*

**Duties/Responsibilities**

- Create global distribution maps of:
  - Human population size on islands with IUCN CR EN vertebrates (approx. 2000 islands)
  - Island area size on islands with IUCN CR EN vertebrates
- Digitize island polygons where they do not appear on the Global Island Database
- Calculate new layers identifying clustering of islands with IUCN CR EN vertebrates based on political affiliation, geographic distance, and invasive vertebrates present.
- Create maps and layers of islands with IUCN CR EN vertebrates and other protected areas (Alliance for Zero Extinction sites, World Conservation Monitoring Center sites)
- Additional map creations and spatial analyses as needed by IC
- General office assistance.

**Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities Duties/Responsibilities**

- Proficiency with ArcGIS (ArcMap, ArcCatalog, ArcScene and ArcGlobe) and GoogleEarth
- Database management
- Excellent organizational, multi-tasking, and prioritization skills and attention to detail
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Excellent PC computer skills with Windows XP Professional and Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Outlook, etc.)
- Strong work ethic and passion for the mission of the organization.
- Understanding of conservation and ecological principles a plus.

**Compensation**

This position may qualify for course credit. The non-monetary compensation includes a unique opportunity to be part of an innovative, meaningful, fun, and globally recognized conservation organization that is changing the world through the protection and restoration of island species populations. There may also be an opportunity to participate in a peer-reviewed publication identifying and prioritizing islands with high conservation benefit. We feature an office co-located with the Long Marine Laboratory in Santa Cruz on the bluffs overlooking Monterey Bay. Most importantly, you will be part of one of the most passionate, motivated, and effective teams in the NGO sector.

Email cover letter and CV or resume in Microsoft Word format to jobs@islandconservation.org. No phone calls please.