

**Opportunity for MSc Students to participate in an
international conservation & media project**

What if we change

www.whatifwechange.org

**Are you looking for a topic and partner to collaborate with for your
final research and thesis?**

We have a voluntary position available for a:

**Video Reporter /
Participatory Video Facilitator
in Baviaanskloof, South Africa**

- STORYTELLER
- SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS
- LISTENER
- TRANSLATOR

What if we change is a revolutionary online documentary showing people the importance of nature restoration for people and nature.

What if we change promotes understanding and communication about the restoration of planet earth and humankind and inspires people with hope and the possibility to create change.

What if we change documents global restoration practices with video.

What if we change connects and involves people worldwide through live presentations, film screenings and a web-based platform: to be able to experience with your own eyes what the possibilities of ecosystem restoration are and start 'fixing the Earth together'. Our video reporters are the eyes and ears of our online participants. The public can get in touch with the reporters, ask questions and receive answers in video replies. These global voices are collected and shared with world leaders and decision makers at conferences and global meetings.

It is your job to use audiovisual media to document change, build capacity and to show the transformation in the way people think and act when they decide to change their own future for the better by restoring degraded natural areas and improving local livelihoods in Baviaanskloof, Eastern Cape, South Africa.

You will share facts, first-hand impressions and background stories with our online visitors about the Participatory Restoration of Ecosystem Services & Natural Capital in the Eastern Cape (PRESENCE) learning network in Baviaanskloof, Eastern Cape, South Africa. You also present your own vision through answers, texts and images on your personal blog and other social media. You stay in close contact with your colleague reporters in Bolivia, Bonaire, Mali and India.

***What if we change* is an initiative of IUCN NL, implemented in partnership with the Loefflab Foundation (media), John Liu (IUCN ambassador for ecosystem restoration) and NGO's in South Africa (PRESENCE), Bonaire (DCNA), India (Wildlife Trust of India), Mali (Wetlands International) and Bolivia (Fundación Natura). *What if we change* is made possible by the Dutch Postcode Lottery.**

You:

- Are interested in conservation and development issues and/or in South Africa.
- Are a curious world citizen who wants to connect different actors involved and tell their story to raise awareness on the importance of ecosystem restoration worldwide.
- Can work with people from different walks of life. You have the ability to listen but also to ask difficult questions.
- Can tell a good story.
- Can work with a video camera and editing software preferable in HD.
- Must be able to write and speak English.
- Like to work in the field.
- Have strong social, organizational and [intercultural] communicative skills.
- Have experience as a facilitator. Preferably with participatory video (also called community video).
- Are interested and have basic skills in social media.
- Want to stay on this post for a minimum of six months, preferably longer (the project ends 15 May 2013).

Your tasks:

You will produce regular video reports from the project location [Baviaanskloof, Eastern Cape, South Africa] and write for blogs and social media like Twitter, You Tube and Facebook. You will seek out answers to questions that visitors have posted on the website *What if we change*. You will do background research, track current developments and share new insights generated by the project. Additionally, you will assist in organizing meetings and workshops with project employees, locals, politicians and business people. You will work with local people on the production of audiovisual media, so they can tell their own stories. And you will work closely with the Living Lands staff and local partner organizations within the PRESENCE network.

- Actively engage and experience the project (for example by participating in local meetings and activities).
- Actively engage with project staff and local people.
- Establish and maintain contact, with project staff and local population and between people with diverse backgrounds, visions and project references and you therefore research, contribute, stimulate, reflect and also perhaps (unwillingly) evoke resistance.
- Establish and maintain contact with the other project reporters in Bolivia, India and Bonaire.
- Cooperate, ask and offer help and participate in the project and be closely involved with the target groups in The Netherlands as well as locally and regionally.
- Introduce new ways of communication [local and for this kind of work] and will make and show media to project participants and the target group in The Netherlands, locally and worldwide.

- Act as an independent reporter in the field but with all cooperation of the local organisation and the project members in the Netherlands.
- Preferably work together with a counterpart/buddy from the Netherlands on the topic of migrating birds.
- Make storylines about the situation and answers [in text, video and comments] to the questions of public at the website. Your work will be led by the public.

We offer:

- A unique learning opportunity and experience, gaining insight in the conservation, development and media world.
- A chance to contribute to an innovative international project during your study.
- An international, creative project team and environment.
- Being part of a transdisciplinary, young and motivated team. Comprising of Living Lands staff, national and international students;
- Staying at the PRESENCE learning village with LL staff and other national and international students (10 people);
- Camera kit – to be discussed (for use of the project)

How to apply for the position?

Research the project to inform yourself about the ins and outs.

John Liu

To learn more about the restoration of ecosystems, have a look at John Liu's films (*Hope in a Changing Climate* and *Lessons of the Loess Plateau*) available at www.whatifwechange.org/#/projects/john-liu or the website of his NGO Environmental Education Media Project (EEMP) <http://eempc.org>. His vision is the backbone of our project.

IUCN (NL)

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is the world's oldest and largest global environmental network - a democratic membership union with more than 1100 government and NGO member organizations as well as 11,000 volunteer scientists in more than 160 countries. IUCN's work is supported by more than 1,000 professional staff in 60 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world.

For 60 years, IUCN helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. IUCN supports scientific research and field projects all over the world and brings governments, NGOs, scientists, companies and local communities together to develop and implement policy, laws and best practice.

IUCN NL, the initiator of this project, is the National Committee of IUCN in the Netherlands.

Our vision is a just world that values and conserves nature. For more information, visit www.iucn.org or www.iucn.nl.

Living Lands (facilitators of the PRESENCE network)

Our main objective as an organisation is to build working collaboration on living landscapes by bringing synergies and added value to the landscape through

- a. Promoting living landscapes (various land uses working in synergy);
- b. Mobilizing civil society around restoration and conservation (dialogue);
- c. Enabling and facilitating social learning/social change processes as an innovative approach to challenges and opportunities at a landscape level;
- d. Creating collective awareness, understanding, intelligence and action;

e. Mutually beneficial partnerships and participatory networks.

PRESENCE, South Africa

<http://www.earthcollective.net/presence-featured-in-new-film/> and

<http://www.earthcollective.net/alluvial-fan-restoration-round-1-finals/>

PRESENCE (Participatory Restoration of Ecosystem Services & Natural Capital in the Eastern Cape) aims to be an adaptive learning community which serves as a dynamic platform to support and mainstream existing - and catalyze new - programmes for restoring 'living landscapes' (ecosystem services and social & natural capital)

Part of PRESENCE in the Baviaanskloof are:

- **Water for Food & Ecosystems' (Dutch Government (LNV) in partnership with WUR)**
- **Working for Water (DEA/ GIB)**

This world-renowned programme linking poverty and conservation offers a potential win-win scenario for both people and the environment. Previously disadvantaged people are employed to clear alien invasive plants from priority catchments areas to improve long-term water security, biodiversity conservation and social upliftment.

- **Working for Woodlands (DWAFF / GIB)**

In the same spirit and mould as Working for Water, this innovative poverty relief programme strives to use the same principles to revegetate degraded woodlands areas/ecosystems. The Subtropical Thicket Restoration Programme is the key project active within the Eastern Cape.

- **Working for Wetlands (SANBI / GIB)**

Using the same model as above, Working for Wetlands focuses primarily on wetlands and riparian areas: the Kouga Riparian Rehabilitation Project and Kromme River restoration are showcase examples within the Eastern Cape.

What if we change

Check our website www.whatifwechange.org and check out the video reports of our other reporters (under projects)

You can also find us on Facebook / Twitter: <http://www.facebook.com/Whatifwechange> & <http://www.twitter.com/whatifwechange>

Next Steps

For your application, we wish to receive a brief proposal (max 3 pages) and some show reel portfolio [digital or @ YouTube if possible], including:

- 1/ Your personal motivation and availability
- 2/ A description of the work you imagine to do in and for the project
Including a short technical plan [e.g. equipment you will need (or already have) for this job]
- 3/ Your Social Media Skills / network / ideas

Contact

For more information and applications (including proposal, video work and social media profiles), please contact (and/or send to) Imke Gilsing, Project Coordinator *What if we change* at IUCN NL through imke.gilsing@iucn.nl or (+31) 020-3018230 (skype: imke.gilsing) and Dieter van den Broeck, PRESENCE network facilitator and process enabler through broeck@earthcollective.net (or +27 (0) 0780705361, skype: dieter790221).