Arnhold Environmental Graduate Fellowship: 
Impact Investing in the Blue Economy

Winter 2024

Project Background
The University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) and Conservation International (CI) host the Arnhold UC Santa Barbara-Conservation International Climate Solutions Collaborative to unify their demonstrated expertise and networks to conduct cutting-edge applied research to yield tangible, progressive solutions, and propel the careers of emerging environmental professionals. Through this partnership, the Environmental Markets Lab (emLab) at UCSB and CI have launched several applied collaborative research projects pushing the boundaries on resilient ocean and land conservation, natural climate solutions, and the frontier of impact investing in the blue economy. The Collaborative has also created the Arnhold Environmental Fellows program - a powerful opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to engage in collaborative research projects and receive mentorship from experts in the fields of environmental and ecological science.

The blue economy contributes an estimated US $1.5 trillion to the global economy and is predicted to grow at double the rate of the rest of the economy by 2030. This growth is expected to create new and expanded investment opportunities in sectors such as tourism, fisheries, aquaculture, marine renewable energy, and biotechnology. Even as investors increasingly seek opportunities to align investments with sustainable development objectives, a key question remains whether investment in these sectors can occur in a manner that maximizes economic, environmental and social benefits with limited environmental and social costs. For many sectors of the ocean economy, the answers are still unclear. Particularly in the case of emerging sectors, the timing, magnitude, spillovers, and synergies of ocean impacts are typically quite speculative, and have historically relied on tenuous assumptions about how results from small pilots will scale up. The Environmental Markets Lab (emLab) is seeking two motivated part-time graduate students to support the testing and development of a tool for investors to assess their potential conversation impact of an investment as well as the potential “leakage” or unintended consequences of the investment. These students will work closely with emLab and Conservation International.

Responsibilities
We estimate approximately 10 hours of work per week for one month to help test a framework and tool that has been developed to assess conservation impact and leakage of investments in the blue economy. The students will be expected to test the framework on approximately 200 blue economy start up companies and provide feedback on the ease and applicability of the tool. Students will be provided with a guide on how to use the tool and will meet regularly with the project team for feedback. A second phase of analysis is possible which would look for trends across investments.
Qualifications
● Enrolled in a Masters program at UCSB
● Strong experience identifying and synthesizing data, literature, and information from many sources;
● Proven interest, experience, or expertise related to impact investing, blue economy, ESG standards, marine conservation;
● Excellent writing skills, and experience communicating scientific information to a general audience;
● Excellent organizational skills and proficiency using Zotero, Box, and Google Drive for collaborative work.

Fellow Selection Criteria
Students will be selected as Arnhold Environmental Fellows based on the following criteria:
● Excellence in environmental and ecological science and research
● Interest, skills, and experience related to the project responsibilities described above
● Registered UCSB graduate student in good academic standing

emLab is committed to sustaining an equitable and inclusive workplace and to the goal of reflecting the rich diversity of our campus community within our staff. We encourage applications from students of all backgrounds and majors and special consideration will be given to candidates who enhance diversity in the environmental sciences.

How to apply
To apply, please send Heather Lahr (hjlahr@ucsb.edu) a CV and an email describing your interest in this position and outlining your relevant expertise. In the subject line please put “Blue Economy Fellowship”. Feel free to reach out to her with any questions about the opportunity.

The research assistant will be paid $22/hour and will work 4 weeks, starting in early/mid February.

**Application Deadline: Jan 19, 2024**