



SDG Youth Programme

Do you often think about how your actions can drive systemic? Have you ever wondered how international NGOs and social enterprises work to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? Each year, the [SDG Youth Programme](#) offers five one-year trainee positions, each in a different organisation, partly in Switzerland and partly abroad.

Agroforestry & Reforestation Trainee

Duty station: Toamasina, Madagascar and Neuchâtel, Switzerland

About the SDG Youth Programme

The SDG Youth Programme was designed by the Mercator Foundation Switzerland, together with cinfo. It aims to offer students and young professionals the opportunity to gain initial exposure and work experience with an NGO or social enterprise active in international cooperation (IC).

Selected candidates are given the opportunity to work on new topics and innovative projects for one year, both in Switzerland and in an office abroad (or with a partner organisation of the host organisation). During this time, the young professionals can explore their motivation to follow a career path that allows them to contribute to the SDGs. At the same time, they can transfer the knowledge and skills they have acquired to the Swiss labour market. The career development of the successful candidates is at the heart of the programme.

About CEAS

CEAS is a Swiss-based NGO active in the field of development cooperation since 1980. CEAS encourages the emergence of participatory innovations that enhance local resources, promote human development and respect the environment. In Sub-Saharan Africa, CEAS projects are based on innovative applied research carried out together with the local population. Through its network of partners, CEAS contributes to food self-sufficiency, sustainable development and adaptation to climate change. CEAS generates technological innovation and know-how that is transferred to craftsmen, farmers and agricultural processors, as well as to local authorities and communities throughout the African continent, enabling them to generate their own income. Find out more about the philosophy and history of CEAS at www.ceas.ch or watch our [video](#) (2 mins).

Job description

The objective of this one-year paid traineeship with CEAS is to support the project teams in the implementation and further development of biomass supply plans. These supply plans are driven by the need to provide fuel to agro-processing units in Mandialaza and Ampasimbe Onibe communes. These plans are currently being developed and will focus on reforestation and community involvement. Ideally, these plans will also include an agroforestry component and promote indigenous species. As an Agroforestry & Reforestation Trainee, you will

- support the local project teams in the implementation of these plans to make them as ecologically and socially sound as possible.
- have frequent field visits to work directly with local communities and colleagues.



This traineeship is a unique opportunity to:

- Immerse yourself in the rural world of Madagascar and the challenges of fighting deforestation and poverty.
- Get involved in reforestation and ecological restoration activities.
- Learn about the functioning of an NGO, its challenges and opportunities.

Your role as Agroforestry & Reforestation Trainee:

You will work closely with the local project teams by:

- Assisting in the definition of wood-energy supply plans for agro-processing units using biomass based on the models developed.
- Supporting and monitoring of the implementation of biomass supply plans in two different projects and locations in Madagascar.
- Contributing to the development of agroforestry models integrating the wood-energy production dimension.
- Analysing the carbon sequestration potential of reforestation and ecological restoration activities (including biomass supply plans).

The trainee will spend the first month in the office in Neuchâtel in order to understand the functioning and the basics of CEAS. The next ten months will be spent in Madagascar, based in Toamasina with frequent visits to the rural communes of Mandialaza and Ampasimbe Onibe. The last month of the traineeship will be spent in Switzerland to debrief and finalise the work in progress.

Skills required

For the SDG Youth Programme:

- Swiss nationality or C permit;
- Max. 28 years old at the start of the assignment in September 2023;
- Less than 12 months of relevant professional experience;
- Bachelor's degree (University or FH/HES), or an Advanced Federal Diploma of Higher Education, or a Federal Diploma of Higher Education;
- Strong interest and intrinsic motivation to contribute to the SDGs;
- Good knowledge of at least one Swiss national language and English.

For this position:

- Bachelor's degree (University or FH/HES), or an Advanced Federal Diploma of Higher Education, or a Federal Diploma of Higher Education in forestry, agroforestry or a related field;
- Relevant work or academic experience in forestry or agroforestry in tropical climates and carbon sequestration or Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) schemes.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English and French.

Required competencies:

- Deep understanding of reforestation and agroforestry
- Excellent analytical and communication skills
- Strong team player with the confidence to make suggestions and the ability to take feedback

Demonstrated interest in:

- Ecological restoration and/or climate change mitigation measures
- Community-led development programmes
- Intercultural communication



How to apply?

You can apply directly for specific positions on our platform [cinfoPoste](#).

You can apply for up to 3 positions. After the screening of the applications, you could be invited for up to 2 interviews.

Important details regarding your application:

Make sure your profile on [cinfoPoste](#) is complete and up to date:

- Motivation letter in English (not more than 3500 characters, to be inserted in the pop-up window when you click on "apply")
- CV in English, including an average % of your employments;
- Work certificates, diplomas and university credentials (as PDF) uploaded under the section 'documents'.

Application deadline:	07 May 2023
First round of interviews:	22 to 26 May 2023 (online)
Second round of interviews:	June 2023 at the host organisation's office
Start date:	1 September 2023

Any questions? Contact Roman Twerenbold and Sandrina Simoes, cinfo's Recruitment Specialists, recruitment@cinfo.ch.