

Earthwatch in major new freshwater research push

Written by Matt

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Leading environmental research organisation Earthwatch has announced a new five-year learning and research partnership with global financial services provider HSBC.

Part of the HSBC Water Programme, the partnership will see up to HSBC 100,000 employees worldwide engaged in online learning, 'hands-on' research days, and ongoing self-directed data collection.

Working with local conservation partners, Earthwatch will develop research projects in more than 20 of the world's biggest cities, located near to major HSBC employment hubs.

HSBC employees will participate directly in these projects, learning about, and collecting data on, their own local communities' freshwater quality, quantity and biodiversity. The data collected will help to support, inform and transform policymakers' water resource management plans.

Research subjects will vary, depending on the location and the local issues, but will focus on:

- The links between climate change and freshwater quality and quantity
- The effects of changes in water supply on urban, and near-urban, freshwater ecosystems
- Identifying the types of intervention that can best protect ecosystems downstream from major conurbations.

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Professor David Macdonald CBE

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