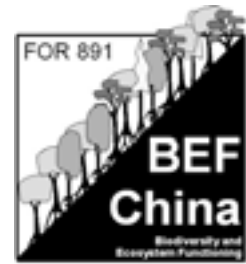


Position for a forest scientist in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning Research



The multidisciplinary Chinese-European DFG Research Unit **BEF China (FOR 891)**: “**The role of tree and shrub diversity for production, erosion control, element cycling, and species conservation in Chinese subtropical forest ecosystems**” seeks to set up a new forest Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning (BEF) experiment in subtropical forests in China. The objective of this experiment is to analyze the influence of tree and shrub species diversity on ecosystem functioning and services in one of the most prominent diversity hotspots in the northern hemisphere. Using a species pool of about 100 native tree and shrub species we will plant experimental forest stands, varying in both tree and shrub species richness, on a total area of about 100 ha. A range of biodiversity and ecosystem variables will be measured to assess community dynamics and its relation to primary productivity, carbon and nitrogen storage, nutrient cycling, and prevention of soil erosion. In addition, the experimental approach will be combined with comparative studies in existing forests.

The project will be carried out in a close collaboration between Chinese and European researchers with complementary interests and skills. The joint research will help to resolve one of the most central issues in ecology and global change biology: how plant diversity may be used to establish forests that stabilize the environment and maintain vital ecosystem services in the face of multiple stresses. For further information see <http://www.botanik.uni-halle.de/bef-china>.

The open position is with the

Central project (Z 1), Position for a forest scientist

(Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Institute of Biology / Geobotany and Botanical Garden)

Specific tasks of the position

The responsibility of the forest scientist will be to supervise all steps of establishing the experimental forests. These comprise the following tasks:

- organizing and supervising seed collections,
- advising and controlling the process of raising more than 500 000 seedlings a commercial nursery. Establishment of documentation and quality control processes in the nursery for the purpose of raising the plants,
- advising on details of site selection and rental,
- keeping contact to local stakeholders and local authorities,
- supervision of site preparation activities, such as clearing of secondary growth, establishment of access paths and plot boundaries,
- organisation of tree and shrub planting and implementation of the experimental and planting design,
- supervision stand management such as weeding after planting.

This work will be carried out in close cooperation with the Chinese partners. Further aspects of the work will include the coordination of scientific activities on the experimental sites, supervision of Chinese and German technicians, organization of accommodation and transport as well as preparation of workshops. The scientific responsibilities will comprise supervision

of undergraduate and graduate students, who will be working on the experimental sites, and the collection of data (e.g. recording of growth, collection of plant and soil data) and participation in the final synthesis of results.

Requirements:

The candidate should hold a degree in forestry and should have profound practical experience in afforestation projects in the tropics or subtropics. A Ph.D. Degree in Forestry or Ecology, Biology, Botany, Biodiversity Studies or a similar discipline is desirable. The successful candidate should further have profound taxonomic knowledge of tree species, solid skills in statistics and experimental design, excellent communication and organizational skills and fluency in English; knowledge of Chinese and German language is desirable but no prerequisite. The person must be very mobile and willing to spend extended periods of time in the field in China.

Place of employment will be the Institute of Biology / Geobotany and Botanical Garden in Halle / Saale. Payment will be according to the German standard tariff for public services (TvöD 13-O). Start date will be the 1st of July, 2008. The position is for three years. Women are explicitly encouraged to apply to increase their share in science and research.

Application:

Candidates should send their application to Prof. Dr. Helge Bruelheide (Institute of Biology / Geobotany and Botanical Garden, Martin Luther University Halle Wittenberg, Am Kirchtor 1, 06108 Halle; Germany; helge.bruehlheide@botanik.uni-halle.de; Tel. ++49-345-55-26222) by May, 8th, 2008.

Applicants should send their CV, a statement on motivation for biodiversity research (short summary of research interests, experiences, key skills, qualifications for the position), copies of certificates, list of publications, name and address (including email) of at least two referees.