



Bundesforschungs- und Ausbildungszentrum für Wald, Naturgefahren und Landschaft

Austrian Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape | <http://bfw.ac.at>

PhD Position in Conservation Genetics of forest trees

Part-time (30h/w) – Limited for 3 years – Schönbrunn (Vienna), Austria

in the **Unit of Ecological Genetics at the Department for Forest Biodiversity and Nature Conservation** of the Austrian Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape (BFW), Vienna.

We are seeking a PhD candidate in the field of ecological genetics research to join our growing team of scientists and practitioners. This is a unique opportunity to work in a collaborative environment with a dynamic team engaged in the conservation genetics of forest tree species.

Project description

The PhD research will take part in the Project WILDOBST, assessing genetic diversity, population structure and gene flow among scattered populations of fruit bearing forest tree species. In particular the project will study the patterns of genetic variation in *Sorbus torminalis*, *Sorbus domestica* and *Pyrus pyraster* in Austria. All three tree species share scattered distributions, valuable wood properties, high importance for biodiversity and a projected increase in the suitable growing area in Central Europe in the wake of climate change. The project aims are to study the species' genetic diversity in Austria, develop a strategy to connect the population fragments by stepping stones, identify adequate sources of forest reproductive material, and model the future distribution and site suitability for Austria.

The PhD research will especially focus on:

- Describing the population structure and genetic diversity of the three study species by using nuclear microsatellite markers (SSRs)
- Estimating gene flow among population fragments (landscape genetics) and developing a strategy to connect scattered populations
- Study the relationship between genetic diversity of the source population and seed set and seed germination in all three species

Your responsibilities

The PhD research will be carried out at the Austrian Research Centre for Forests (BFW) in collaboration with the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (Priv.-Doz. Mag. Dr. Karin Tremetsberger, Institute of Botany). The PhD candidate is expected to disseminate research findings in peer-reviewed journals and through public engagements and other scientific platforms.



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Your profile

- M.Sc. degree or equivalent in forestry, ecology, conservation genetics, or a field related to biodiversity with strong knowledge in biological sciences and genetics
- Experience in molecular lab work and population genetic data analysis
- Experience with basic research principles and methods, applied statistics, data acquisition, and publishing of results. Knowledge of conservation genetics of forest tree species, nature conservation issues, and biodiversity in general
- A strong interest in species distribution modelling is also favorable

Others

Located close to Schönbrunn Palace in the city of Vienna, our scientists and staff are committed to creating a workplace culture that respects and celebrates diversity and values the well-being of all employees. This is a 30 hour, 3-years term position beginning 1st of September or until the position is filled. The gross monthly salary is at least EUR 2,115.30 based on salary scale for federal employees in evaluation group v1/1.

Reference is made to § 43 in conjunction with § 11b and § 11c of the Federal Equal Treatment Act, according to which women who are equally qualified as male applicants will be given preference when the position is entrusted.

If we have raised your interest, please send **your application including a cover letter detailing your motivation, your CV and contact information for three references by July 31, 2021** to the

Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape, 1130 Vienna, Seckendorff-Gudent-Weg 8 via e-mail to: heino.konrad@bfw.gv.at

For further information, please contact Dr. Heino Konrad (heino.konrad@bfw.gv.at)

Web: <https://bfw.gv.at>