



Bundesforschungs- und Ausbildungszentrum für Wald, Naturgefahren und Landschaft

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

Job offer: PhD Position within ConnectForBio Project

In the subdivision forest biodiversity 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 biodiversity 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 biodiversity informatics, research, and conservation.

Project description

The PhD research will be part of the Project ConnectForBio - Protection, connectivity and monitoring of biodiversity in forest biotopes. The project aims at establishing “stepping stone” sites to increase connectivity and conserve forest biodiversity. “Stepping stones” represent a link between single tree protection measures and protected areas (national parks, biosphere reserves, natural forest reserves). They are an important link in the nature conservation network allowing and improving ecological processes such as gene flow, migration, and adaptation to climate change. Site selection is based on habitat network analyses and remote sensing methods. Accompanying terrestrial surveys include a) structural parameters and b) species occurrence and abundance. Here, we focus on 4 different species groups: mammals, insects, birds and fungi, and select indicator species.

The PhD research will especially focus on:

- (i) Linking connectivity analysis methods and conservation applications
- (ii) Selecting indicator species and defining habitat preferences
- (iii) Analyzing species occurrence and abundance at different spatial scales

Your responsibilities

The PhD research will be carried out at the Austrian Research Centre for Forests (BFW) in collaboration with a scientific board. The PhD candidate is expected to disseminate research findings in peer-reviewed journals and through public engagements and other scientific platforms.

Minimum Qualifications: M.Sc. degree or equivalent experience in forestry, ecology, nature conservation or a field related to biodiversity with strong knowledge in biological sciences. Experience in developing scripts and codes to analyze and visualize data. Experience with basic research principles and methods, applied statistics, data acquisition, sampling methods and publishing of results. Knowledge of forest ecological systems, nature conservation issues, and biodiversity.



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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, 3.5-years term position beginning as soon as possible. The gross monthly salary is at least EUR 2,115.30 based on salary scale for federal employees in evaluation group v1/1 for 30 hour per week.

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 two references by 07.02.2021** to the

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

For further information, please contact Dr. Katharina Lapin (katharina.lapin@bfw.gv.at) or Janine Oettel (janine.oettel@bfw.gv.at).