

PhD position (UNIVERSITÄT FRANKFURT)

Bewerbungsfrist: 03.08.2010

At the *Institute for Ecology, Evolution und Diversity* at Goethe-University Frankfurt we offer a PhD position for 3 years (TV G-U 13, 50%) in the frame of the EU funded project UNDESERT „Understanding and combating desertification to mitigate its impact on ecosystem services“.

UNDESERT is an interdisciplinary research project of partners from several European and West African countries aiming at an improved understanding of the effects of desertification and degradation processes in West Africa on a local and regional scale. On this basis decision support tools will be developed and introduced to natural resource managers. Also, practical actions for mitigation (e.g. restoration) will be taken.

The PhD position will focus on the value and sustainable use of the ecosystem service non-timber forest products in Burkina Faso and Benin. The candidate will assess the socio-economic value of most important useful plants by interviews and market studies. The effects and sustainability of harvesting practices will be evaluated by assessing harvesting activities, species population structures and densities as well as species productivity parameters in areas under different human impact. In close cooperation with scientists from UNDESERT results will be transformed into tools for decision and policy makers and to take practical actions.

The applicant should hold a Diploma/MSc degree in biology (botany), geoecology, ethnobotany or related fields. Experience with environmental and resource economics would be an additional advantage. The applicant should be competent in written and spoken English and have good knowledge in spoken French. The successful candidate should enjoy working in an international and interdisciplinary team and have excellent personnel communication skills. Experience in field work in Africa or in the tropics would be desired.

The Goethe-University advocates gender equality. Women are therefore strongly encouraged to apply. Equally qualified severely handicapped applicants will be given preference. The contract shall start as soon as possible. The duty station will be Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

Please apply by sending your application by mail or e-mail, including a cover letter, outlining your suitability for the post, a detailed CV, copy of certificates, and contact details of 2 potential referees until 03.08.2010 to Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Wittig / Dr. Karen Hahn-Hadjali, Ökologie und Geobotanik, Institut für Ökologie, Evolution und Diversität, J.W. Goethe-Universität, Siesmayerstraße 70, D-60323 Frankfurt am Main. For further enquiries please contact Dr. Karen Hahn-Hadjali, e-mail: hahn-hadjali@bio.uni-frankfurt.de, phone: ++49 +69 79824753