

UNIVERSITY OF HAMBURG

School: Mathematics, Informatics, and Natural Sciences

Department: BIOLOGY

Seminar/Institute: Biocenter Klein Flottbek and Botanical Garden

The international research unit Biodiversity, Evolution and Ecology of Plants at the University of Hamburg has a position open for a **research associate / PhD candidate** (wissenschaftliche/r Mitarbeiter/in in einem 50%-Arbeitsverhältnis) working in the field of biodiversity patterns and vegetation ecology in western Zambia.

Project background:

The research activity is part of the Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (www.SASSCAL.org). The research portfolios of SASSCAL aim to support service provision towards adaptive land management in the region. Within this international consortium, a team of Angolan, German, Namibian and Zambian researchers will extend the existing network of standardised biodiversity observatories in Namibia and South Africa (see also www.BIOTA-AFRICA.org) into Angola and Zambia, to support the long-term monitoring of biodiversity changes.

Tasks and areas of responsibilities:

Duties include the academic services for the above project; these comprise

- to implement a standardised biodiversity assessment and monitoring design, adjusted to the environmental conditions in western Zambia
- to collect benchmark phytodiversity data on 2-3 standardised Biodiversity Observatories to be established in western Zambia for future monitoring
- to conduct comparative analyses of the Zambian data with comparable data sets from northern Namibia and southern Angola as well as time-series datasets from northern Namibia (compare www.BIOTA-AFRICA.org, www.future-okavango.org).
- to assess and analyse abiotic and biotic drivers of vegetation and phytodiversity patterns at different spatial scales.

Research associates are strongly encouraged to pursue further academic qualification, in particular own data obtained within the framework of the project may be used for a doctoral dissertation.

Requirements:

- MSc or equal degree in botany, ecology, landscape ecology or related fields (adequacy of the final degree for the enrolment of a PhD programme at the Department of Biology of the University of Hamburg is required)
- Experience and skills in geobotanical data sampling in species-rich habitats
- Statistical skills for biodiversity and vegetation ecological data
- Preparedness to spend at least 3 months per year in Zambia for field work under arduous conditions
- Good command of English language
- Category B of driving license is essential.
- Experiences with fieldwork overseas (preferably tropical Africa) are of advantage
- Experiences in writing of scientific articles are of advantage

The position calls for 19.5 hours per week and is remunerated at the 13 TV-L salary level. The short-term contract will start 1st of August 2013 and terminates on the 31 October 2016 (the short-term nature of this contract is based upon § 2 of the Academic Short-term Contract Act / Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz*).

The university aims to increase the number of women in research and teaching and explicitly encourages women to apply. Equally qualified female applicants will receive preference in accordance Hamburg's Higher Education Act HmbHG.

Severely disabled applicants will receive preference over equally qualified non-disabled applicants.

Application dossiers (letter of motivation, curriculum vitae, degree certificate(s), etc.) are to be submitted in electronic format (one file, .pdf format, maximum 6 MB) to **Prof. Dr. Norbert Juergens** (email: norbert.juergens@t-online.de and Ute.Schmiedel@uni-hamburg.de) by **26th May 2013**.

For more information please contact Dr. Ute Schmiedel [phone: +49-(0)40-42816-548] or check the following website: <http://www.sasscal.org>.

* § 15 Absatz 1 Nummer 4 Buchstabe a HmbHG