



BES Tropical Ecology Group

BESTEG exists to promote and facilitate communication and interaction between tropical ecology researchers

Upcoming Events!

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BESTEG News

BES Annual Symposium: Forests & Global Change

An international conference of temperate and tropical forest ecologists, providing an opportunity to integrate perspectives on the changing nature of forests across biomes. The conference will address emerging themes in forest ecology based on new data from spatially dispersed permanent plot networks, fully mapped stands and satellite imagery. As well as plenary sessions featuring keynote speakers there will be opportunities for contributed talks and posters. **Abstract submission is now OPEN.** (See link to the left).

Sessions will cover:

- Forest dynamics, functional traits and species coexistence mechanisms - integrating new data-sets to develop a global perspective
- Community assembly and biogeography - the evolutionary history of forests across biomes
- Ecosystem services and forest conservation - the future of forests in a changing world

BES Annual Symposium: TEG Event

TEG and the Forest Ecology Group will be hosting a social event on Tuesday 29th March at Caius College. All TEG, FEG and conference delegates are welcome. More details to come!

BESTEG Early Career Researcher Meeting, Newcastle 2011: Update

We have approval from the BES Meetings Committee to run the meeting.

Professor Georgina Mace has kindly agreed to be a keynote speaker. She is currently Professor of Conservation Science and Director of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) Centre for Population Biology, Imperial College London. She was instrumental in developing the criteria for listing species in the IUCN Red List and was actively involved in the biodiversity sections of the 'Millennium Ecosystem Assessment'.

3-Year Tupper Postdoctoral Fellowship

The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) located in the Republic of Panama is a division of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC and maintains research facilities in different marine and terrestrial locations on the Isthmus of Panama. STRI invites applications for the Earl S. Tupper three-year postdoctoral fellowship in the areas represented by its scientific staff. Disciplines include ecology, anthropology, paleontology, paleoecology, evolutionary biology, molecular phylogenetics, biogeography, animal behavior, neurobiology, soils sciences, and physiology of tropical plants and animals. Research should be based at one of the STRI facilities; proposals that include comparative research in other tropical countries will be considered. One fellowship is awarded annually.

In order to apply send a detailed research proposal with 1 page abstract and budget (less than 10 pages), a curriculum vitae, 2 letters of reference, names and telephone numbers of 3 additional professional references and reprints of most important papers. We suggest applicants consult with the STRI scientific staff member who will serve as their host/advisor before submitting final application. Candidates must designate the most appropriate staff member to serve as STRI host/advisor and two additional co-advisors that can review the proposal. Staff and research interests are listed at <http://www.stri.org><<http://www.stri.org/>>. Annual stipend is \$45,000 with yearly travel and research allotments. Deadline for submission: January 15, 2011. Starting date: After October 1, 2011.

Applications consist of one (1) printed copy, plus one (1) electronic copy of all requested materials. The electronic copy should be submitted on a CD or by e-mail, as a SINGLE file in Word or preferably PDF, including proposal with budget and CV. Reference letters may also be submitted electronically.

Send hard copy of the application to STRI/Office of Academic Programs, Unit 0948, APO AA 34002-0948 from the US/Europe or Apartado 0843-03092, Balboa, Panama from Latin America. Electronic version should be sent to fellows@si.edu<<mailto:fellows@si.edu>>.

Awards are based upon merit, without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, citizenship, age or condition of handicap of the applicant.

Kleinhans Fellowship for NTFP research

2011-2012 Kleinhans Fellowship, Rainforest Alliance Research in Tropical Non-Timber Forest Products

Applications due by December 31, 2010

The Kleinhans Fellowship provides \$16,000 per year for 2 years to one individual conducting research to better understand and improve the impacts of non-timber forest product (NTFP) harvest and marketing on rural livelihoods and tropical forest ecosystems. The fellowship area is restricted to Latin America. Applicants should have at least a master's degree in forestry, ecology, botany, environmental science or an appropriate related field.

For more information about the fellowship including application guidelines, please consult our webpage: <http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/programs/kleinhans/index.html>.

Fellowship proposals should be submitted to kleinhans@ra.org by December 31, 2010.

Research Assistants - Primate Community Research, Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea, West Africa

Opportunity location: Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea, Africa

Closing date: December 10th, 2010

Start date: January 2011; 6 mo commitment.

I am seeking volunteers to assist with data collection on wildlife, including 7 diurnal primates, in la Gran Caldera-Southern Highlands Scientific Reserve, Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea. Bioko Biodiversity Protection Program (BBPP) monitors the populations of these primates, along with other mammalian megafauna in the forests of Bioko. Field assistants will be specifically assisting in the collection of this data. The project will be looking at how ecological and human factors define species composition gradients in multiple areas of a protected reserve. The commitment will be for a period of 6 months, beginning in January, and ending in mid-June. Field assistants work under the supervision of Drew Cronin (BBPP Ph.D. Candidate) and Dr. Honarvar (BBPP Research Coordinator). Assistants will be living primarily in the field, working out of tents, within or along established BBPP transects. Assistants are expected to devote a minimum of 40 hrs/week to the project, but due to the nature of the project and living conditions, the hours will likely be considerably more.

This is an unpaid (volunteer) position. However, BBPP will provide housing (tents), food and local transportation. You are expected to provide international transportation to and from Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, medical and medical evacuation insurance, and appropriate immunizations (yellow fever) and medications (anti-malarial medications).

Qualifications: Field assistants are expected to be at least 21 years old. Other desirable qualifications include:

- Spanish language ability: Spanish is the national

language of Equatorial Guinea, although many local people also speak some French, but less English.

- Experience in remote locations in developing countries and experience camping and hiking in wilderness areas.
- Physical fitness and a positive attitude towards physically exhausting work in a sometimes hot and humid climate. All assistants should be prepared for very demanding and time consuming work.

If interested, please email a brief cover letter and your CV to Drew Cronin, dtc33@drexel.edu

For more information, please visit our website: www.bioko.org

Post-doc: Tropical Insect Community Ecology

The Lohman Laboratory at The City College of New York (CUNY) is seeking a motivated and productive postdoctoral researcher in tropical insect community ecology.

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES :: The successful applicant will assist primarily with statistical analyses of long-term datasets documenting spatial and temporal patterns of insect abundance and lepidopteran herbivory in the Khao Chong CTFS plot in southern Thailand (<http://www.ctfs.si.edu/site/Khao+Chong>). In addition, s/he will be able to develop an independent project, travel for research, and attend scientific meetings. The City College of New York has a steadily growing number of faculty and students in ecology/evolution who interact with the larger community of biologists in New York at the American Museum of Natural History, the New York Botanical Garden, and other universities.

ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES ::

- Contribute to the design of further studies investigating latitudinal patterns of plant-insect-parasitoid-microbe interactions that incorporate phylogenetic information
- Help apply for further grant support
- Assist mentoring graduate and undergraduate students

QUALIFICATIONS ::

- Ph.D. in ecology, evolutionary biology, population biology or related field
- Fluency in written and spoken English
- Statistical proficiency with reasonable command of R

- Ability to meet deadlines, work in a team, and gather data in challenging field conditions

OTHER DESIRABLE SKILLS ::

- Laboratory experience with PCR, DNA sequencing, and sequence editing
- Knowledge of phylogenetic methods, particularly as they pertain to community ecology
- Proficiency in a suitable Asian field language for tropical ecology, such as Bahasa Malay, Thai, or Mandarin Chinese would be useful but is not required

SALARY :: The salary will be commensurate with experience; generous benefits are included. The appointment is initially for one year, with an additional year possible given satisfactory progress.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE :: To apply, please email your CV, names of three references, and a cover letter to David Lohman at dlohman@ccny.cuny.edu.

The cover letter should describe your previous work, your unique qualifications for the position, and how the postdoctoral position will further your long-term research/career aspirations.

APPLICATION DEADLINE :: Review of applications will begin December 1st and will continue until the position has been filled. The successful applicant may begin as early as January 1st, and should ideally begin within the first quarter of 2011.

Any questions should be addressed to David Lohman at dlohman@ccny.cuny.edu.

<http://www.sci.ccny.cuny.edu/lohman/>

Post-doc: NIMBioS

Call for Postdoctoral Fellowship Applications

The National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS), located at the Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville, is currently accepting applications for postdoctoral scholarship at the interface between mathematics and biology. Highest priority will be given to those with explicit plans to develop their ability to effectively carry on research across these fields. We are particularly interested in requests to support research that integrates diverse fields, requires synthesis at multiple scales, and/or makes use of or requires development of new mathematical/computational approaches. NIMBioS Postdoctoral Fellows are chosen based upon indications that the applicant's research plans are consistent with the mission of NIMBioS, the applicant has the demonstrated ability to carry out the proposed research, and

the opportunities provided through NIMBioS will enhance the capacity for the research to be completed in an efficient and timely manner. For additional information on NIMBioS, visit www.nimbios.org. Support: annual stipend of \$51,000, full University of Tennessee employee fringe benefits, and an annual travel allowance of \$2,000. Requests for Support: Submit a brief project description, references, and CV following the guidelines available at <http://www.nimbios.org/postdocs/> <<http://www.nimbios.org/postdocs/postdoc.html>> to Dr. Chris Welsh at cwelsh@utk.edu. *Deadline:* NIMBioS postdoctoral requests for support are reviewed three times per year, and the selected researchers are offered positions at NIMBioS where they conduct research that is mostly self-directed. The deadline for activities beginning June 1, 2011, is *December 17, 2010.* All letters of recommendation should be submitted *before the request deadline*.

Post-doc: ETH, Zurich

Postdoctoral position in Tropical Ecology and Conservation Short-term opportunity with possibility for two year extension

The Professorship of Ecosystem Management, ETH Zurich, seeks a good postdoctoral researcher to conduct research on tropical ecology and/or conservation. The postdoctoral scientist would be free to develop their own ideas in the context of work relevant to that conducted at the Professorship of Ecosystem Management. Six months of funding is available initially, during which time the postdoc would be expected to develop a research proposal for an ETH Zurich Research Fellowship (see www.vpf.ethz.ch/services/ETH_Fellows).

Such a proposal would be developed collaboratively with other members of the group, principally Prof. Jaboury Ghazoul, Dr Lian Pin Koh and/or Dr Chris Kettle, and should build upon and further develop one or more aspects of the existing tropical research of the group: see www.ecology.ethz.ch/research/index for more information on current research activities. As stated above, there is considerable freedom for the postdoctoral candidate to develop their own ideas within this context. ETH Zurich Research Fellowships provide generous funding for two years, including an excellent salary and funds for travel and consumables. Fellowships are very prestigious, and evidence of research excellence is essential. There are three main criteria that should be met:

- Completed a PhD within the last 18 months.
- Published at least three papers in good journals.
- Applicants from ETH Zurich or the University of Zurich are NOT eligible.

See <http://www.ecology.ethz.ch/> for more information on the Ecosystem Management group at ETH Zurich.

Any interested candidate should send a full CV and cover letter, including an outline of research ambitions and objectives, to Jaboury Ghazoul at Jaboury.Ghazoul@env.ethz.ch. Applications must be received by 30 November 2010. Expected start date is January 2011.

L'Oreal USA Fellowships for Women in Science

L'ORÉAL USA ANNOUNCES CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR 2011 FELLOWSHIPS FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE PROGRAM

FELLOWSHIP GRANTS HELP WOMEN SHAPE THE FUTURE OF SCIENCE

NEW YORK, NY, November 1, 2010 - L'Oréal USA announced today the start of the application period for its esteemed L'Oréal USA Fellowships For Women in Science program. Now entering its eighth year, this national program annually recognizes, rewards and provides support to five women postdoctoral researchers in the U.S. who are pursuing careers in the life and physical/material sciences, as well as mathematics, engineering and computer science. As part of L'Oréal's commitment to further help women scientists achieve their goals, L'Oréal USA awards each recipient up to \$60,000 to apply toward their postdoctoral research.

Since its inception in 2003, the L'Oréal USA Fellowships For Women in Science program has awarded 35 fellowships to women scientists across the U.S. Each year, the program attracts a number of talented applicants from diverse scientific fields, representing some of the nation's leading academic institutions and laboratories. A distinguished jury of nine eminent scientists reviews the applications and selects the L'Oréal USA Fellowships For Women in Science recipients.

The five beneficiaries of the 2011 L'Oréal USA Fellowships For Women in Science program will be invited to attend a week of events that include an awards ceremony, professional development workshops, media training and networking opportunities. In 2011, these workshops, which are facilitated by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), will encompass job search techniques, interviewing skills, budget development for grant requests and strategies for peer-reviewed publication.

The L'Oréal USA Fellowships For Women in Science program is open to women postdoctoral researchers only. Candidates interested in applying may visit the L'Oréal USA Fellowships For Women in Science website at <http://www.lorealusa.com/forwomeninscience> to obtain more information about program eligibility and re-

quirements. Applications must be submitted online by December 13, 2010 and transcripts must be postmarked no later than December 15, 2010.

The L'Oréal USA Fellowships For Women in Science program complements the international L'ORÉAL-UNESCO For Women in Science program which annually awards \$100,000 to each of five leading women career scientists; one from Europe, Asia, North America, South America and Africa. In addition, the UNESCO-L'ORÉAL International Fellowships annually grants, over a two year period, up to \$40,000 each to 15 promising young women scientists from around the world, at the doctoral or post-doctoral levels.

US - Africa Advanced Study Institute on Conservation Biology for US and African Graduate Students

Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute, Naivasha, Kenya, January 10 - 15, 2011

<http://dimacs.rutgers.edu/Workshops/ASICBII/>

What is Conservation Biology? In a broad sense, conservation biology is concerned with the problems of conserving genes, populations, and biological communities. Among the key issues involved in the subject are biological invasions, habitat destruction, species persistence, emerging plant and animal disease, and climate change. As the subject has grown, so too have its links with epidemiology, economics, and the management sciences. The biological systems of concern to conservation biology are complex, and improved understanding has required increasingly quantitative approaches, leading to an urgent demand for better and more appropriate mathematical tools. At the heart of conservation biology is the problem of the optimal allocation under rigid economic,

sociological, and ecological constraints of scarce parcels of land, wetland, and marine environments needed to preserve extant biological communities and to provide areas for the restoration of ecosystems and reintroduction of locally extinct species.

The Advanced Study Institute There will be a 5-day Advanced Study Institute (ASI) on Conservation Biology (January 10 - 15, 2011) which will prepare participants to interact with interdisciplinary researchers from around the world.

The ASI will bring together US and African graduate students and introduce them to basic theoretical concepts in population demography and genetics; models of plant and animal disease spread; global change and the impacts of climate change; the use of GIS in models and for conservation, and case studies from the African environment. Various modeling paradigms will be discussed, as well as introductory lectures on related topics.

The ultimate goal will be group projects that incorporate the material covered to address cutting-edge research problems. Participants are expected to either continue the research project they begin during the institute or begin work on a new project when they return to their home institution, under the supervision of a mentor.

For questions, more information, or to submit an application to attend and receive financial support, see the website or contact Eugene Fiorini, Associate Director of DIMACS and Program Coordinator (usai@dimacs.rutgers.edu).

The Institute and Workshop are organized by the Center for Discrete Mathematics and Theoretical Computer Science (DIMACS) and the Mathematical Biosciences Institute (MBI), with funding provided by the US National Science Foundation.