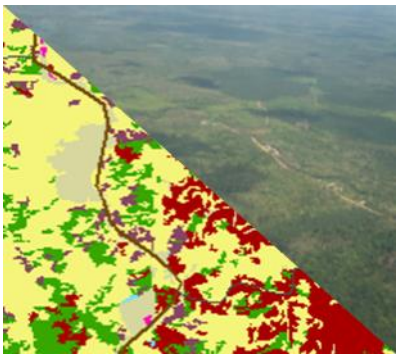
Georg-August-Universität Göttingen
Stiftung Öffentlichen Rechts

Master thesis

Impacts of land use on native pollinator diversity and survival in a tropical lowland forest transformation landscape of Sumatra, Indonesia


In Sumatra, Indonesia, recent demographic changes and government policies have led to the **transformation of tropical lowland forest** to a landscape dominated by shrubby fallow land and rubber and oil palm plantations. **Native insect pollinators**, which provide important ecosystem functions and services, may depend on the **higher resource diversity of diminishing forests** to flourish. Understanding how land use and landscape composition affects the diversity and health of local pollinators would provide important insights into the **impacts of land use and transformation on biodiversity and ecosystem services**.

We are looking for a Master's student to conduct a research project investigating the role of land use and landscape composition on insect pollinator diversity and survival in Sumatra, Indonesia. A series of **landscape sites** has already been established in Jambi Province, representing four prominent land use types in the region (oil palm, rubber, shrub, and forest), covering a **gradient of varying forest composition** within a 500m radius. The student will monitor **pollinator insect traps**, **climate stations**, and **native stingless bee hive colonies** (*Tetragonula laeviceps*) that will be established for this project. This project is part of the Collaborative Research Center 990: Ecological and Socioeconomic Functions of Tropical Lowland Rainforest Transformation Systems (CRC 990 EFForTS), a multi-disciplinary research collaboration between the University of Göttingen and the Indonesian universities Bogor Agricultural University, the University of Jambi, and Tadulako University.

Fieldwork will take place from **July–October 2018** in a rural area of eastern Jambi Province of **Sumatra, Indonesia**. You will work in an area of smallholder oil palm and rubber farms, monitoring approximately 40 sites throughout the region. **Leadership and logistical skills** would be beneficial, as you will need to coordinate and supervise local assistants to accomplish the work. Experience **working in the tropics** and an **interest in beekeeping** are also advantageous.

If you are interested, please submit a letter of interest and CV to us by 16 March 2018:

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