



VACANCY FOR MASTER THESIS

Changes in forest structure along an environmental gradient in Cameroon

The study of environmental gradients in the tropics offer the opportunity to uncover mechanisms behind the diversity and assembly of plant and animal communities and use this information to predict how these communities will respond to global environmental change. One of the aims of the doctoral project is to understand how forest structure influence bird diversity along a regional rainfall gradient in Cameroon. The use of modern technologies such as laser scanning offers a powerful way to measure forest structure with high precision.

We are looking for very motivated master students to study forest structure using laser scanning. We expect from the students to have a background in ecology and conservation biology, basic training in plant systematics, previous experience in plant ecology surveys and knowledge in r program. We will measure forest structure in pristine tropical rainforest locations of the Congo basin and sudano-savanna biome in three national parks in Cameroon (Mbam et Djerem, Lobéké and Campo Ma'an). Fieldwork will offer a unique opportunity to get skills and training in tropical ecology such as measuring forest structure, using laser scanning, data manipulation and analysis and in establishing vegetation plots. It will also offer a wide range of opportunities to feel the tropical forest and observe a quite diverse flora and wildlife. It will also enable to share with Cameroonians students and staff from the NGOS allowing a very gratifying cultural exchange and mutual learning.

Planned fieldwork will be in October-November 2022 and January-March 2023. Fieldwork time ranges between two and four weeks depending on the location. We want to notice that fieldwork will be in remote forest locations without amenities, limited facilities and camping in the forest. Local transportation and accommodation are partly funded. Students from Biology, Forestry and Agriculture are welcome. This project is part of a collaboration between the Department of Conservation Biology (Blumenbach Institute of Zoology and Anthropology) and the group of Biodiversity, Macroecology and Biogeography (Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology). Hence, students will have the chance to learn from both groups. Interested students must send a CV to the provided email before **16 June**. If you are interested and want more information, feel free to contact us: **Contact:** Andres Angulo-Rubiano: andresangulorubiano@gmail.com

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