Postdoctoral Position Vacancy
"Landscape heterogeneity and functional biodiversity"

Rationale

Population dynamics, community composition and biotic interactions are driven by processes acting on spatial scales that are larger than those of the local habitat. Within the framework of the Biodiversity Exploratories (www.biodiversity-exploratories.de/) this DFG funded synthesis project will focus on the poorly known effects of functional landscape heterogeneity and connectivity on species diversity and ecosystem functions.

Maps representing functional landscape heterogeneity will be developed, which reflect the functional importance of different land cover types for a broad range of species and functional groups (e.g. for foraging or nesting). Functional groups will be defined as groups of species that share common traits which correspond to certain ecosystem functions and processes.

The main objective of the project is to test the hypothesis that functional heterogeneity is a better predictor for biodiversity and ecosystem functions than structural heterogeneity. General patterns of the effects of landscape heterogeneity and connectivity on species and functional diversity shall be identified. They can be used to adopt conservation management schemes to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions. This synthesis project will be conducted in close cooperation with other projects of the research platform Biodiversity Exploratories.

Requirements

- PhD in biology, agriculture or related disciplines
- Excellent knowledge of ecology and biodiversity science
- Experience with statistical modeling and GIS skills
- Interest in handling, compiling and analyzing large species, traits and GIS datasets

Salary and conditions

Full position, salary is based on TV-L E13. Start date: as soon as possible. The position is for 18 months.

For further information, please contact

Dr. Catrin Westphal, Agroecology, Georg-August University, Göttingen, Germany; see www.agroecology.uni-goettingen.de

Applications

Applicants should send their CV, including a short summary of their research interests, and the names (with email address) of two references in one single pdf-file to Catrin Westphal, cwestph@gwdg.de (latest September 23, 2012).