

Call for applications

Background

This research project aims to develop a research partnership between the Department of Geography at Queen's University and the Plant Biology Department at the University of Yaounde I.

The contribution of forest ecosystems, particularly tropical forests in mitigating climate change as REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) was widely discussed in the framework of international agreements (example, the Kyoto Protocol, the UN-REDD, PRREDD, etc.). Although Central Africa, including Cameroon has the second largest rainforest in the world after the Amazon, models to estimate carbon stocks and fluxes of these forests are still insignificant. The project PREREDD of COMIFAC with support from GEF funds and World Bank support the six forest countries of the Congo Basin (Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, CAR, DRC), for the development of allometric equations. This research aims to contribute to this regional effort by developing tools that minimize the destruction of trees for biomass studies for the development of allometric equations and to develop new models easy to use with remote sensing.

Position: Technical Assistant for data analysis

Main responsibilities

As a member of the team, the technical assistant for data analysis will participate in the data collection in the field, collect samples and bring them to the laboratory, perform data analysis, and support the research team in all phases of activity. In this role the technical assistant will:

- Contribute to the collection of samples and transportation to the laboratory for analysis;
- If necessary, make biomass measurements in accordance with the data collection protocol;
- Carry out measurements of samples, weight, volume, density, extrapolation of results;
- Write the daily report of data analysis;
- Walk long distances in the forest.

Required skills and abilities

- Excellent knowledge of MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access and Outlook
- Excellent communication (oral and written) and interpersonal skills
- Strong organizational skills
- Analytical and problem solving
- Ability to work in a team and independently

A MSc. or Engineer diploma is preferred on management of forest ecosystems with skills and experience on biomass data analysis in the laboratory

Project duration: 2 exact month

Start date: beginning January 2015

Learning objectives

This project is a multidisciplinary research project that brings together top researchers working at Queen's University in Canada and the University of Yaounde I. The successful candidate will have the opportunity not only to participate in this project, but also to benefit from the guidance and supervision of these researchers as part of his or her thesis work. This project will provide an opportunity to develop special skills that will be helpful for his or her education and professional career. The successful candidate will also receive training in the following area:

- Data collection and data analysis;
- Measurement of key variables of the environment, including moisture and soil temperature;
- Use of various measuring instruments for laboratory and biomass collection;
- Biomass data collection and data analysis for the development of allometric equations;
- Data analysis and report writing.

Remuneration

The compensation is 80,000 FCFA per month. A premium of 10,000 FCFA will be allocated based on the achievement of results and good performance.

Required documents

The application will consist of the following:

- Transcript of BSc. or MSc.;
- CV of the candidate;
- a motivation letter indicating the subject of your thesis and the link with this project;
- Names of two referees.

The candidate should clearly indicate the position for which he applies.

Submission of applications

Application must be sent no later than December 20, 2014 at 12 o'clock (time in Cameroon) to the following two email addresses: djomoa@queensu.ca, lzapfack@yahoo.fr

A list of three best candidates will be made and they will be interviewed by a panel constituted for this purpose.

Additional Information

Further information can be requested by email to the following:

Dr. Adrien DJOMO, Queens University Canada (djomoa@queensu.ca)

Prof. Louis Zapfack, University of Yaoundé I (lzapfack@yahoo.fr)