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by Ester Maria Loi

REF. N. 03_18

Job Description:

Job title: 1 PostDoc position in BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Name of Organisation: Dept. of Biological Sciences - University of Bergen

Country: Norway

City: Bergen

Main research fields: Biology

Sub research fields: Climate change impacts on alpine plants

Application deadline: 11/04/2018 23:00 - Europe/Brussels

Required Education:

Level: PhD or equivalent

Fields: Biological sciences

Language skills:

Required languages: English

Level: Excellent

Required research experiences:

Applicants must hold a Norwegian PhD or an equivalent degree within Plant ecology or a related field, and must have submitted his/her doctoral thesis for assessment prior to the application deadline. It is a condition of employment that the PhD has been awarded.

The successful candidate should have a background that gives a good understanding of plant ecology, functional ecology, alpine ecology, climate change and species interaction impacts.

You must have experience in ecological field studies, a relevant statistical and/or programming background, and critical thinking and writing skills. Experience in metaanalysis, vegetation monitoring, and plant trait analyses is an advantage.

Research is a team effort, and all project members must be prepared to contribute to common aspects of fieldwork, metaanalyses, and analytical work, and assist others with their projects in addition to working on their own research program.

Application details:

Job description: The position is associated with the projects “Indirect climate change impacts on alpine plant communities (INCLINE) and “The role of Functional group interactions in mediating climate change impacts on the Carbon dynamics and Biodiversity of alpine ecosystems” (FunCab), funded by the Norwegian Research Council.

Work tasks:

Climate warming is already causing significant alterations in plant communities, including range shifts to higher elevation and latitude and changes in biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. It is unclear, however, to what extent these responses represent direct effects of altered climate, or indirect effects mediated by changing interactions among species. INCLINE focuses on these indirect effects of climate change, and particularly the impact of novel species colonizing upland

plant communities. The project combines innovative experimental approaches that investigate and disentangle impacts of novel species interactions under climate warming within an ecologically realistic field setting with meta-analysis of climate change experiments from around the world, and mechanistic species' distribution models to incorporate impacts of changing species interactions on predictions for range dynamics under climate change. The postdoc will be working on experiments and metaanalysis and will:

- Initiate and maintain field experiments to assess impacts of climate change and novel interactions in collaboration with other team members;
- Measure functional trait responses in these experiments;
- Collate data from a global network transplant experiments for metaanalysis , in close collaboration with project partners at the University of Lausanne;
- Develop his/her own research questions and hypotheses related to these experiments and metaanalysis;
- Analyse data, and write and publish research papers.

Duration of job: fixed term of 2 years

Status: Full time

Benefits:

- A good and professionally challenging working environment;
- Enrolment in the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund;
- A position in an inclusive workplace (IW);
- Good welfare benefits.

Salary: Salary at pay grade 57 (code 1352 / pay range 24, alternative 1) according to the state salary scale upon appointment. This constitutes a gross annual salary of NOK 490 900. Further promotions are made according to length of service.

Additional requirements:

- Drivers licence;
- Ability to conduct field work in remote areas;
- You should have good outdoor skills and appreciate of field work in alpine areas;
- You must be able to work independently, but also have good collaborative skills as the postdoc will be part of a highly integrated project.