

**1 PhD Position in Functional Plant Ecology –  
focus on African savanna ecosystems (TV-L E13, 65%)**

The research group Biodiversity Research/ Systematic Botany offers a third-party funded PhD position within the framework of the interdisciplinary research project 'Future Carbon Storage', which is embedded within the collaborative research center 'Future Rural Africa' funded by the German Science Foundation, DFG. The project focuses on two conflicting visions for rural Africa (wildlife conservation and agricultural intensification) and how they affect the biodiversity-ecosystem service relationship. It considers carbon storage as an ecosystem service that is relevant in a global context, and explores synergies and trade-offs with vegetation-mediated ecosystem services that are relevant for rural livelihoods. As vegetation ecologists, we also team up with soil scientists, agronomists, and historians to unravel the past, current, and future circumstances faced by farmers in rural Africa. We strive to understand how the natural resource base and other factors guide management and future-making decisions.

We offer:

- An interesting and relevant thesis topic
- A challenging and diverse function that comprises the use of advanced concepts and research methods in functional plant ecology, fieldwork in southern Africa, and interdisciplinary work with researchers from the natural and social sciences
- The opportunity to partake in innovative and current research set in an outstanding international research environment
- A multifaceted and stimulating work environment
- Support to achieve a compatibility of family and career
- Subsidized ticket for regional public transportation

You have:

- M.Sc. or equivalent degree in Plant Ecology, Agricultural Sciences, or related fields
- Excellent theoretical and practical knowledge of functional plant ecology and ecosystem ecology; very good knowledge in biostatistics (preferably with R)
- Excellent command of written and spoken English
- Ability and willingness to travel independently for extended periods of time (fieldwork in Namibia and Zambia)
- Valid driver's license
- Fieldwork experience in the Global South and experience with working in an interdisciplinary team is desirable

You are:

- Flexible, team-oriented and interested in continuing your professional development
- Self-organized, self-reliant, communicative, and friendly
- Willing to supervise MSc students during fieldwork

Your application:

The position is offered according to the German pay scale TV-L E13 (65%) for three years and nine months, with a start date in April 2022. If you need further information, please feel free to directly contact Prof. Anja Linstädter ([linstaedter@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:linstaedter@uni-potsdam.de)). Please submit your documents (CV, copies of certificates, motivation letter, contact data of at least two referees) as one pdf document to Ms Jennifer Kaminski ([biodiversity@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:biodiversity@uni-potsdam.de)). Application deadline is January 30<sup>th</sup> 2021, or until the position is filled.