

ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

On behalf of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) the University of Goettingen is organizing the

International DAAD Alumni Seminar 2020

International Forest Assessment and Sustainable Forest Management –

International research networks and their relevance
for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

March 16th - 23rd, 2020 in Goettingen and Leipzig, Germany

followed by the participation in the

European Conference of Tropical Ecology 2020

The interdisciplinary platform for discussing major challenges and
future opportunities in tropical ecology

March 24th - 27th, 2020 in Leipzig, Germany

Seminar aims

Forests contribute to the human well-being worldwide. They play a fundamental role in fighting rural poverty, ensuring food security and providing adequate livelihoods. They offer promising green growth opportunities and important long-term ecosystem services such as clean air and water, protection of biodiversity and mitigation of climate change. But they have also changed through their use in a dynamic and diverse way.

More and more detailed information on national forest resources can be provided and global forest trends become visible. The rate of forest loss is declining and indicators for sustainable forest management are showing positive progress. At the same time, laws and regulations are not always associated with effective incentives or enforcement. Unsustainable forest practices and forest transformation continue, despite increased efforts.

Forest research can provide evidence and solutions to support policies. But due to the diverse functions of forests, the success of research initiatives is strongly dependent on cooperation between natural, economic and social science disciplines, as well as intensive cooperation with local interest groups and decision-makers. It therefore remains the task of research networks to strengthen the transfer of knowledge through the appreciation of forests and biological diversity in society.

In 2020, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will adopt a new strategic framework. The discussions are very relevant for forest ecosystems. Therefore, forest researchers and networks should be strongly involved.

The alumni seminar aims at training in three selected topics (1) **forest assessment**, (2) **forest use and protection**, (3) **post-2020 framework on global biodiversity**, especially with regard to the worldwide networking possibilities at the interface of research and policy. In three practical workshops and project presentations it will present and work on current methods and thus fit in thematically with the conference title "The Future of Tropical Ecosystems - New Insights and Innovative Methods".

The seminar and conference visit are offered by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in the framework of the program Alumni Special Projects (www.daad.de/alumni-special-projects). The International DAAD Alumni Seminar is organized and hosted by the University of Goettingen. The costs will be mainly covered by funds from the DAAD provided by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The seminar is scheduled in the run-up to the European Conference of Tropical Ecology 2020 (<https://www.soctropecol-conference.eu/>), jointly organized by the University of Leipzig and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research.

Program

The seminar program in Goettingen will include:

- Sessions and workshops on forest assessment, concepts of educational forest and sustainable forest management, and current discussion of post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
- Presentations from the participating alumni
- Group work activities and professional networking opportunities with scientists and the applied sector
- Excursions and cultural events

The final program in Goettingen will be published once all applications have been reviewed.

Eligibility criteria for participation

This seminar targets Alumni of German universities

- from countries listed on the DAC list of 'developing' countries,
- who carried out research or studied in Germany for at least 3 months and
- who are currently living and working in their home countries.

You should have

- (1) a **proven background in academic fields relevant to the topics** of forest/agroforest monitoring, assessment techniques, sustainable forest management, social studies related to forests/forest communities, political activities related to forests in the field of forestry, natural resource management, human ecology, environmental studies, and ethnology/anthropology related to humans living in and with forests.
- (2) **professional experience and personal interest in one of the following areas**: research, education, NGOs, government agencies, policy making, project development, local communities, and related stakeholders
- (3) the **requirements to act as a potential multiplier** who will present the seminar results in your home country and thus disseminate the acquired knowledge as well as develop ideas and projects for regional implementation
- (4) **adequate language proficiency** which is essential to actively participate in the workshops and discussions as the seminar will be held **in English**

Cost coverage

- International return ticket from and to airport in Germany (lowest possible economy class airfare)
- Train tickets (2nd class): Airport to Goettingen – preferably Rail & Fly
- Transport on excursions
- Accommodation and meals during the stay in Goettingen and Leipzig during the seminar
- Travel health insurance (max. 30 Euro) and visa costs
- Transport from Goettingen to Leipzig
- Transport from the hotel in Leipzig to the departure airport
- Entrance fees at the Conference in Leipzig
- Accommodation and partial living expenses during the conference stay in Leipzig

Please note: All other costs, such as transport costs from participants' home town to their home airport or travel costs for visa application in the home country have to be borne by the participants. Please keep in mind that living expenses are only covered partly during your stay in Leipzig.

Travel dates:

16th March 2020: Arrival at the venue in Goettingen

28th March 2020: Departure from Leipzig

Application procedure

Your application should emphasize your motivation and personal/professional benefit for your participation. You should illustrate how you are planning to imply the gained knowledge and what possible stakeholders for collaboration you may identify for your professional career.

Please conduct your **online application** via our **application portal** on

<http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/613519.html>

latest by 26th October 2019. The portal will close at midnight!

In addition to the **online application form**, please send a **single PDF** to spfeiff@gwdg.de:

Short CV with photograph and relevant documentation of alumni status

The PDF-document should be named 'Last name_First name_country' (e.g. Pfeiffer_Simone_Germany).

Please mention in your application form **if you have already registered for the European Conference of Tropical Ecology 2020** – however, this **does not affect your eligibility as participant** of the alumni seminar. In general, the DAAD is responsible for the registration for the conference.

Please note: Completeness of personal data mentioned in the online application form will affect your eligibility as a participant.

After the review by the local organizing committee and DAAD, the invited participants will be notified in mid-November.

For further questions, please contact Simone Pfeiffer (spfeiff@gwdg.de, +49 551 39 23909)

Goettingen, September 2019