



Postdoctoral position in the research area of “Green Landscapes – Designing Sustainable Landscapes in an African Context” at the Department of Forest and Wood Science, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa

The Department of Forest and Wood Science was recently awarded a South African National Research Foundation Grant under the banner of Global Change, Society and Sustainability theme for a three year programme on Green Landscapes – Designing Sustainable Landscapes in an African Context.

The aim of this research programme is to develop applicable Decision Support Systems (DSS's) with which to identify management pathways and subsequently develop spatially optimised land-uses in the broader African landscape. The practice of combining spatial eco-system models with DSS's is currently being applied at the frontiers of scientific research worldwide. However there are currently no applicable or similar systems available for specific sub-Saharan African conditions. Ultimately the scientific challenge is not multi-criteria decision making itself but rather the models' necessary to produce the input for decision making. These models, which rely heavily on the spatial arrangement of land-use forms, must establish the ecological, production oriented and socio-economic variables used to fuel the decision making process. Thus the development of specific DSS's, based on the Multiple Path Theory and system based models are seen as the main output of the programme. They will in turn aggregate information in such a way that it can be used by all stakeholders involved in land-use and land-use management.

The Department of Forest and Wood Science is looking to appoint a Postdoctoral candidate on a three year contract to coordinate and manage the Green Landscapes research programme. The potential Postdoc candidate should have the following qualifications, expertise and attributes

- 1) A postdoc within five year of attaining a PhD in the forest sciences or comparable field with skills and experience in RS/GIS and preferably spatial decision support systems.
- 2) Experience relating to the ecology and management of natural forests and woodlands and plantation forestry, the ecological processes of disturbance and recovery and integrated management of timber and non-timber forest products.
- 3) Experience in land-use modelling.
- 4) Be able to supervise MSc and PhD students specializing in the Green Landscape research concept.
- 5) Practical experience in working with different stakeholders at different levels of financial and technological capacity internationally and in Africa.
- 6) A proven record of successful innovations relating to integrated resource use, rehabilitation and small business development and combining small business at rural level with the rehabilitation practices.
- 7) Be able to work well within a multi-disciplinary team and have good research and project management skills, including financial management and reporting skills.

The University of Stellenbosch will in turn offer a competitive remuneration package, challenging research and pleasing working conditions

For further information please contact Prof Thomas Seifert at +27 21 808 3295 or at Seifert@sun.ac.za.

www.sun.ac.za/forestry