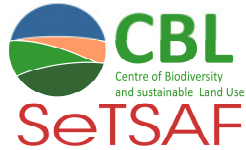




GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT
GÖTTINGEN



Deutsches Primatenzentrum
Leibniz-Institut für Primatenforschung

ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Tropical diversity, ecology and land use

International DAAD Alumni Seminar

17 – 22 February 2016, Göttingen



European Conference of Tropical Ecology

23 – 26 February 2016, Göttingen

The seminar is scheduled in the run-up to the European Conference of Tropical Ecology with the annual meeting of the Society for Tropical Ecology 2016.

Seminar goals and concept

The "European Conference of Tropical Ecology" (<http://gtoe-2016.de>) of the Society for Tropical Ecology is hosted by the Georg-August-University of Göttingen and the German Primate Center. The title "Tropical diversity, ecology and land use" covers everything from the most biodiverse ecosystems on earth, their ecological functions and processes, land use changes, and threats and destruction of tropical ecosystems due to human overuse.

The conference title reflects the spectrum of research and teaching activities within the key research area "Sustainable Land Use Systems" of the Göttingen Campus. A large number of working groups in the Faculties of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology, Agricultural Sciences, Biology and Psychology, Geosciences and Geography, and also Economic and Social Sciences, study the complex abiotic and biotic interactions in diverse social-ecological systems in the Tropics. The Centre of Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Use (CBL) joins the work in interdisciplinary projects, teaching and event organization.

Due to the complexity of ecological, social and economic components in land-use systems in the tropics, the knowledge transfer of modern assessment, analysis and synthesis methods in tropical ecology is crucial. Especially in biological hot spots in developing countries, the scientific survey is also

for economic and political decision-making necessary (e.g. IPBES; REDD+) and there are still huge knowledge gaps.

The alumni seminar intends to elaborate and reflect your expertise in socio-ecological systems. It will facilitate networking between the participants and with scientists and international students of the University of Göttingen. By means of oral and poster presentations and discussion fora, visits of research facilities, a fair-trade enterprise and a nature reserve you will get in touch with institutions and organizations involved in tropical ecology and sustainable land use management. You will furthermore have the opportunity to develop and exchange ideas with renowned experts during the seminar and at the conference.

The seminar is organized and hosted by the Centre of Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Use (CBL), Section of Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Forestry (SeTSAF), University of Göttingen. The seminar is offered by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in the framework of the program **Alumni Special Projects** (www.daad.de/alumni-special-projects). The costs will be mainly covered by funds from the DAAD provided by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Program

The **seminar program** in Göttingen will include:

- Sessions and workshops with keynotes on biodiversity and sustainable land use
- Poster presentations from the participating alumni
- Group work activities and professional networking opportunities with European tropical ecologists
- Excursions
- Cultural events

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

European Conference of Tropical Ecology

The Society of Tropical Ecology (<http://www.soctropecol.eu/>) promotes and communicates new and emerging knowledge among tropical ecologists to advance the understanding of tropical ecosystems and their protection. It is currently Europe's largest scientific association in this field of research with about 500 members. Annual international conferences invite international plenary speakers and present a platform for about 300 senior and junior scientists.

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** natural resource management, environment, agriculture, forestry, rural development
- (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, up to 950,00 €)
- Train tickets (2nd class): Airport to venue – preferably Rail & Fly
- Transport to and from the excursion venue, entrance fees
- Accommodation and meals during the stay in Göttingen
- Travel health insurance (max. 30 Euro) and visa costs

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.

Travel dates:

17th February 2016: Arrival at the venue in Göttingen

27th February 2016: Departure from Göttingen

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

<https://s-lotus.gwdg.de/uni/uzbl/Alumni-Seminar-2016.nsf/Application>

latest by 8th November 2015. The portal will close at midnight of 8th November 2015!

In addition to the **online application form**, your **application in English** should include the following documents as **a single PDF** which can be uploaded:

- 1) **Short CV** with photograph (max. 3 pages)
- 2) **Motivation letter** (max. 1 page) addressing and answering the following three questions:
 - What do you expect to learn during the Alumni seminar and the conference and how will you personally and professionally benefit from the participation?
 - What are your present work and duties, and what topics related to the seminar are especially important to you?
 - How are you planning to imply the results of our discussions into your present and upcoming projects and what stakeholders are you planning to work with in the future?
- 3) **Poster abstract** for a presentation during the conference (max. 1 page)

The PDF-document with a total of max. 5 pages has to 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 conference** – however, this **does not affect your eligibility as participant** of the alumni seminar.

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 the end of November.

For further questions, please contact

Dr. Simone Pfeiffer (spfeiff@gwdg.de, ++49 551 39 33909) or

Antje Henkelmann (ahenkel2@gwdg.de, ++49 551 39 9751)

Göttingen, October 2015