

## Job posting – ref. #08-17004

The Senckenberg Nature Research Society (SGN) is an institution of the Leibniz Association with almost 800 employees in total. It operates six internationally leading research institutes located in seven federal states with its main headquarters in Frankfurt am Main. The SGN also administers the UNESCO World Heritage Site "Grube Messel".

For the BMBF project „MediAN - Mechanisms of ecosystem services in hardwood floodplain forests“, the Senckenberg Nature Research Society is inviting applications to its institute in **Görlitz “Museum of Natural History” (SMNG)** in the **Department of Soil Zoology** for the position of a

### **Postdoctoral Researcher (m/f) / PhD Position (Soil Biodiversity and Function)**

Within the framework of the research programme „Research for the National Biodiversity Strategy“, the cooperative project „MediAN - Mechanisms of ecosystem services in hardwood floodplain forests“ will be funded for another 5 years. Aims of this project are a better understanding of the mechanisms underlying the ecosystem services of hardwood floodplain forests and their spatio-temporal variability. A main task is the establishment of hardwood forests in the Middle Elbe River, highlighting biodiversity conservation, floodwater protection and carbon sequestration. The lead partner is the University of Hamburg; project partners include the Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research Leipzig, the Senckenberg Nature Research Society, the Technical University Berlin, the B.U.N.D. Centre for Floodplain Ecology Lenzen Castle, and the Loki Schmidt Foundation. The role of the SGN in this project is the study and assessment of soil biodiversity (Collembola and Lumbricidae) and soil-biological decomposition activities in a forest-age and hydrological gradient.

#### **Your tasks:**

- Fieldwork (soil-zoological sampling, decomposition tests)
- Species determination (Collembola, Lumbricidae)
- Data analysis and assessment (biodiversity, gradient analysis)
- Preparation of project reports; representation and presentation of the project, i.e. at conferences etc.
- Writing high-quality publications on the project content

#### **Your profile:**

- PhD in soil ecology with a thorough knowledge of soil fauna (in particular Collembola, Lumbricidae)  
*Alternatively:* a Master degree with a similar background; the position would then be a PhD position, limited for 3 years
- Extensive experience in soil-zoological fieldwork, species determination, and data analysis
- Willingness to travel (fieldwork, project meetings), driver's license, physical resilience
- Familiarity with interdisciplinary research environments
- Explicit publication experience, excellent written and oral presentation skills
- Outstanding command of spoken and written German and English
- Ability to work in an interdisciplinary team, willingness and ability to assume responsibility

Salary and benefits are according to the German public service position (TV-L E13, 62,5%). The position will start on **January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 and be limited to June<sup>30<sup>th</sup></sup>, 2022**, with a possible extension. The employer is the Senckenberg Nature Research Society; the place of employment is Görlitz, Germany. Senckenberg supports equal opportunity of men and women and therefore strongly invites women to apply. Equally qualified handicapped applicants will be given preference.

**Are you interested?** Please send your application **before October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (application deadline)** by e-mail (attachment in a single PDF file), mentioning the reference of this position (**ref. #08-17004**) and including a letter outlining your suitability, a detailed CV, educational transcripts, contact details of two references and a list of publications to:

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