

Plant functional traits - responses to environmental factors and effects on ecosystem functions in coastal ecosystems

The Landscape Ecology Group at the Carl-von-Ossietzky University of Oldenburg in Germany invites applications for

3 PhD positions (0.5 E13 TVL)

to study responses of plants to environmental conditions as well as effects of plants on ecosystem properties based on their functional traits.

The **project** "Plant functional traits - Responses to environmental factors and effects on ecosystem functions in coastal ecosystems" is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research as part of the collaborative research unit "Sustainable COastal Land Management: Trade-offs in EcoSystem Services".

The **research objective** is to understand the response of ecophysiological and regenerative traits of plant species and communities to changes in fresh water availability, salt water intrusion and land use as well as effects of plant traits on ecosystem functions such as nutrient and water cycling, wave attenuation, land-atmosphere gas exchange or plant – animal interactions. Traits will be classified into response and effect traits depending on whether they respond to the environment and/or affect ecosystem properties. The three PhD-positions will cover different aspects of this programme. The field work will take place at three different sites in The Netherlands, Northwest Germany and Denmark, together with our partners at the Centre for Estuarine and Marine Ecology, Netherlands Institute of Ecology and at the University of Aarhus. Data analysis and paper writing will be done at the University of Oldenburg.

The project is expected to start in April 2011 and will be funded for 3 years.

Successful candidates are required to have a master or diploma degree in the field of vegetation science / landscape ecology / plant biology, to be able to work independently, and to be fluent in English language.

Oldenburg University is an equal opportunity employer. Women or disabled persons are given priority over legally unprivileged applicants with an equal suitability, qualification and specialised knowledge.

Oldenburg is a city with about 150000 inhabitants in Northwest Germany, close to the North Sea. The university with more than 10000 students covers nearly all fields of science and arts. The PhD-students are expected to take part in the PhD program 'Environmental Sciences' of the Oldenburg Graduate School 'Science and Technology'.

Closing date: 15 February 2011.

Please send your application to: Prof. Dr. Michael Kleyer, Landscape Ecology Group, Institute of Biology and Environmental Sciences, University of Oldenburg, P.O. Box 2503, D-26111 Oldenburg, Germany. E-mail: michael.kleyer@uni-oldenburg.de.