

# 2-yr postdoc on “Global climate-driven vegetation shifts – a macroecological-remote-sensing approach”

The Department of Biology, Aarhus University, invites applications for a 2-year postdoc position on global climate-driven vegetation shifts – a macroecological-remote-sensing approach.

This postdoc project is part of the big VILLUM Investigator project “Biodiversity Dynamics in a Changing World” (BIOCHANGE), funded by VILLUM FONDEN. BIOCHANGE aims to address one of the key challenges facing humanity – how to conserve the diversity of life on a planet heading towards 11 billion inhabitants and facing strong climate change in order to safeguard our natural and cultural heritage, quality of life, the numerous ecosystem services on which society depends, and even the basic functioning of the biosphere. Ecological science is key to overcoming this challenge, and BIOCHANGE will work towards this goal via basic research on fundamental Anthropocene ecological dynamics, climate change impact predictions, scenarios, and mitigation options, Big Data ecological approaches (including remote sensing), and interdisciplinary perspectives on human-nature relations and solutions.

## Starting Date and Period

The position is for 2 years and is available from 1 August 2021.

## Job description

Earth is experiencing major climate shifts, with much stronger shifts expected in the coming decades. While many studies have addressed biodiversity and ecosystem responses, a global overview is lacking. It is the focus of this project to achieve this, with focus on vegetation responses. The approach will be macroecological, combining vegetation information from remote sensing with climate data and data on plant distributions and functional types. The postdoc is expected to contribute ideas and concepts to the project and lead at least two high-quality papers per year in this research area, contribute to the project's public outreach and teaching, as well as collaborate with other team members, including students, sharing skills, and helping solve problems in her/his area of expertise.

## Your profile

Applicants must have PhD degree in ecology or geography (or equivalent), or have submitted their PhD thesis for assessment before the application deadline. Expertise with macroecology and remote sensing is expected, including solid skills in geospatial data management and statistical modelling. Experience with vegetation ecology is an advantage. The successful candidate is expected to have strong collaborative skills, proven abilities to publish at a high international level, and have good skills in English and international applicants who do not have English as their first language must prove strong English language writing skills and fluency.

## Supervisor and collaborators:

Project PI prof. Jens-Christian Svenning will be the supervisor. The postdoc will join Svenning's VILLUM Investigator team within the Center for Biodiversity Dynamics in a Changing World (BIOCHANGE) and the Section for Ecoinformatics & Biodiversity (ECOINF). Key collaborators include assistant professors Robert J. Buitenwerf and Alejandro Ordonez (both also BIOCHANGE/ECOINF) and prof. Brian J. Enquist (University of Arizona). BIOCHANGE is a center of excellence focused on improving our understanding, predictive capacity, and responses to the ongoing and future dynamics in biodiversity under global change. ECOINF harbors strong expertise in macroecology, remote sensing, and megafauna and vegetation ecology, as well as in ecology and biodiversity broadly. Together BIOCHANGE and ECOINF constitute an ambitious, collaborative and highly international research community. Multiple local and international collaborators will be included where relevant. Postdocs and PhD students are encouraged to collaborate within the group, across departments and with other universities. More information about the people and research activities of the group can be found at <http://biochange.au.dk> and <http://bit.ly/ecobioAU>.

## What we offer

The successful candidate is offered:

- *an ambitious, creative and friendly research environment, inviting lively, open and critical discussion within and across different fields of research*
- *a working environment with teamwork, close working relations, network activities among young scientists and social activities*

**Application Deadline:**  
01 April 2021

**Faculty:**  
Faculty of Natural Sciences

**Institute/Faculty:**  
Department of Biology

**Academic contact person:**  
Jens-Christian Svenning  
Professor, Centerleder  
[svenning@bio.au.dk](mailto:svenning@bio.au.dk)  
+4528992304

**Vacant positions:**  
1

**Hours per week:**  
37

**Number of months:**  
24

**Expected date of accession:**  
01/08/2021

- *a workplace characterized by professionalism, equality and a healthy work-life balance*
- *access to a well-developed research infrastructure*
- *office space, shared equipment*

### **Place of Work**

The place of employment and work is Center for Biodiversity Dynamics in a Changing World (BIOCHANGE) and Section of Ecoinformatics & Biodiversity (ECOINF), Department of Biology, Aarhus University, Ny Munkegade 116, DK-8000 Aarhus C, Denmark.

### **Contact Information**

Applicants seeking further information are invited to contact: Professor Jens-Christian Svenning, phone +45 28992304, e-mail: [svenning@bio.au.dk](mailto:svenning@bio.au.dk).

### **Application deadline**

1 April 2021.

### **Application procedure**

Shortlisting is used. This means that after the deadline for applications – and with the assistance from the assessment committee chairman, and the appointment committee if necessary, – the head of department selects the candidates to be evaluated. All applicants will be notified whether or not their applications have been sent to an expert assessment committee for evaluation. The selected applicants will be informed about the composition of the committee, and each applicant is given the opportunity to comment on the part of the assessment that concerns him/her self. Once the recruitment process is completed a final letter of rejection is sent to the deselected applicants.

### **Letter of reference**

If you want a referee to upload a letter of reference on your behalf, please state the referee's contact information when you submit your application. We strongly recommend that you make an agreement with the person in question before you enter the referee's contact information, and that you ensure that the referee has enough time to write the letter of reference before the application deadline. Unfortunately, it is not possible to ensure that letters of reference received after the application deadline will be taken into consideration.

### **Formalities and salary range**

Natural Sciences refers to the [Ministerial Order on the Appointment of Academic Staff at Danish Universities under the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation](#).

### **Application materials:**

The application must be in English and include motivation letter including a 1-page outline of your ideas for the postdoc research project, 2-page CV (including number of citations and H-index from Google Scholar), full list of publications, as well as educational documentation (copies of diplomas for Master and PhD degrees, in English or Danish).

Appointment shall be in accordance with the collective labour agreement between the Danish Ministry of Finance and the Danish Confederation of Professional Associations. Further information on qualification requirements and job content may be found in the [Memorandum on Job Structure for Academic Staff at Danish Universities](#).

Salary depends on seniority as agreed between the Danish Ministry of Finance and the Confederation of Professional Associations.

All interested candidates are encouraged to apply, regardless of their personal background. Research activities will be evaluated in relation to actual research time. Thus, we encourage applicants to specify periods of leave without research activities, in order to be able to subtract these periods from the span of the scientific career during the evaluation of scientific productivity.

Aarhus University offers a broad variety of services for international researchers and accompanying families, including relocation service and career counselling to expat partners. Read more [here](#). Please find more information about entering and working in Denmark [here](#).

Aarhus University also offers a Junior Researcher Development Programme targeted at career development for postdocs at AU. You can read more about it [here](#).

*The application must be submitted via Aarhus University's recruitment system, which can be accessed under the job advertisement on Aarhus University's website.*

**Aarhus University**

*Aarhus University is an academically diverse and research-intensive university with a strong commitment to high-quality research and education and the development of society nationally and globally. The university offers an inspiring research and teaching environment to its 38,000 students (FTEs) and 8,000 employees, and has an annual revenues of EUR 885 million. Learn more at [www.international.au.dk/](http://www.international.au.dk/)*