



THE ROYAL MUSEUM FOR CENTRAL AFRICA

is recruiting

Scientific employee in wood research (m/f/x)

CONTEXT

The Royal Museum for Central Africa is one of ten Federal Scientific Institutions (FSI) that fall under the authority of the State Secretary for Federal Science Policy. It is a scientific institution and a museum.

The RMCA is looking for a scientific collaborator to strengthen the team of the wood biology service.

The DAMOCO project aims to disentangle tropical forest resilience by quantifying short-term and long-term shifts in forest properties following climate change. The project focusses on a most enigmatic ecoregion: the Congo Basin. We will build a multi-temporal dataset consisting of three data types: forest inventory data, tree functional traits, and ancient charcoal. The dataset will be geographically integrated by concentrating data collection on existing permanent forest inventory plots. This will allow quantification of changes in Congo Basin forests at multiple time scales: (i) the repeated plot inventory data itself will reveal decadal-scale changes in the carbon balance and biodiversity, while (ii) radiocarbon dating and identification of fossil charcoal assemblages will reveal century-scale and millennial-scale changes in biodiversity.

The specific focus of this position will be on radiocarbon dating and identification of charcoal assemblages.

FUNCTION

Specific tasks will be:

- to manage the Tervuren ancient charcoal collection, by properly treating all charcoal collections that arrive during the project (preparing and labelling boxes, washing and drying charcoal, storing in the collection);
- to manage the Tervuren ancient charcoal database;
- to visualize charcoal fragments using Reflected Light Microscopy, Scanning Electron Microscopy, and X-ray computed tomography
- to taxonomically identify charcoal;



- to select and send small or large batches of charcoal fragments for 14C dating;
- to analyse identified charcoal assemblages and report in international peer-reviewed scientific journals.

PROFILE

Job-related competencies:

- willingness and (possibly) experience to organize scientific fieldwork;
- communication skills: you are responsible for scientific reporting of the results and for contacts with various scientific and logistical partners;
- data analysis skills: you are familiar with the basic methods of data storage and statistics;

-knowledge of wood anatomy: You have successfully completed a relevant academic course and/or an MSc on the microscopic structure of wood and/or charcoal;

- Autonomy, accuracy and organizational skills;
- Degree required: University degree in bioengineering, biology or ecology; final year students anticipating a diploma in 2023 can also apply;
- Experience Required: No Professional Experience Required

WE OFFER

- A contract of 1 year as a scientific employee (probably renewable).
- The possibility to register as a PhD student at Ghent University and to follow a Doctoral Schools track.
- A wage in accordance with the scales of the federal government (minimum starting salary SW10: EUR 43,738.12 gross indexed annual salary).
- An interesting holiday arrangement.
- Free commuting by public transport or bicycle allowance.
- A pleasant working atmosphere in a dynamic working environment with attention to equal opportunities and diversity.

Discover all the information and benefits about working for the federal government on FedWeb, the federal staff portal.



HOW TO APPLY

Please send your CV with cover letter by e-mail to HR-RH@africamuseum.be with reference **DAMOCO** before **January 30, 2023**.

Only applications that match the profile and that are sent within the foreseen term will be accepted and answered. Interviews will take place on **February 13, 2023**.

For more information about:

- the function: Wannes Hubau, wannes.hubau@africamuseum.be
- the working conditions: An Spegelaere, 02 769 52 90, An.spegelaere@africamuseum.be
- the RMCA: <http://www.africamuseum.be>