

Postdoctoral Research Fellow in tropical coastal ecosystem services

In the Singapore-ETH Centre (SEC), Department of Geography, National University of Singapore (NUS) and Asian School of the Environment, Nanyang Technological University (NTU)

INVITATION TO APPLY

The Singapore-ETH Centre (SEC), Department of Geography at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Asian School of the Environment, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) invite applications for a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in tropical coastal ecosystem services, to begin on 1 January 2018 or soon thereafter. The position will be for a period of 3 years, subject to performance review. The successful applicant will be part of a multi-million dollar project on the topic of 'A Natural Capital Assessment for Singapore'.

ABOUT THE RESEARCH PROJECT

The overall aim of the project is to quantify the economic, social, and cultural value of Singapore's environmental assets (its 'Natural Capital'), and present and model the information in such a way that it can inform future policy and urban development. To protect and enhance natural capital in Singapore and secure the long-term foundational benefits from this capital, we need to understand the current status of Singapore's ecosystems, and develop tools to predict the environmental impacts of future urbanization. This will be achieved by:

1. quantifying the current status of Singapore's terrestrial and coastal-marine ecosystems
2. quantifying the value of Singapore's terrestrial and coastal/marine ecosystems to Society.
3. assessing tradeoffs between urban development (urban assets) and natural capital (natural assets)
4. assessing future policy and development opportunities that integrate natural capital

This project also represents the first national-scale Natural Capital Project to be conducted in the tropics. The key deliverables of the project will be:

1. a report assessing the current status and potential future of Singapore's natural capital
2. a tool for visualizing spatial variation in ecosystem services, trade-offs in ecosystem service provision, and the impacts of future urbanization on ecosystem service provision
3. peer-reviewed publications relating to the Natural Capital Assessment

THE ROLE

The Research Fellow will have expertise in working on coastal ecosystem services, or similar coastal environmental issues at the policy-academic interface. GIS, remote

sensing and modelling skills are preferred. S/he will be responsible for overall coordination of the coastal ecosystems Work Package, including overseeing the implementation of the project work plan. The RF will take a significant lead in research relating to coastal ecosystem services quantification. In addition, the RF will also contribute to the supervision of a PhD student, and work alongside other Research Fellows.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTIONS

The Singapore-ETH Centre was established in 2010 by ETH Zurich and Singapore's National Research Foundation, as part of its CREATE campus. The vibrant hub for research aims to provide practical solutions to some of the most pressing problems through its programmes - Future Cities Laboratory and Future Resilient Systems.

The QS World University rankings place NUS in the top 15 universities in the world and number one in Asia. In the same rankings the Department of Geography is generally ranked among the top 10 Geography programmes globally. Further information on the Department is available at: <http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/geog>

Young and research-intensive, Nanyang Technological University (NTU Singapore) is ranked 11th globally and 1st amongst the world's best young universities. The Asian School of the Environment is home to Environmental Sciences at NTU. Here, our aim is to provide the next generation of Geoscientists, Ecologists and Environmental Sociologists with the training they need to succeed in their chosen career. For more information, please visit: <http://www.ase.ntu.edu.sg>

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

1. The appointment will be tenable for a period of three years
2. The position comes with competitive remuneration
3. Singapore citizens and permanent residents are eligible for provident fund benefits

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applicants must hold a PhD from a reputable university (or awaiting conferment), have research experience in a related field of natural sciences, and a record of (or potential to deliver) impactful research publications.

Interested scholars should submit the following via email to Dr. Dan Friess (dan.friess@nus.edu.sg) by 31st October 2017:

- Letter of application
- Curriculum vitae, with complete list of publications
- At least one sample of their published work
- A write-up, of no more than 800 words, explaining the candidate's past research experience and aptitude in relation to the research project
- Please arrange for TWO referees (one of which should be the PhD supervisor) to submit a confidential report on their academic standing and research directly to dan.friess@nus.edu.sg. The referee reports should also reach us by 31st October 2017.

Applicants will be asked to appear for interview (including over SKYPE). For further information on the project contact the Lead PIs Dr. Dan Friess (dan.friess@nus.edu.sg) and Dr. Natasha Bhatia (nbhatia@ntu.edu.sg)