

70% Postdoctoral Position

Mountain Biodiversity and Sustainable Development

The Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA) is as a platform for international and cross-disciplinary collaboration on the assessment, conservation, and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity.

GMBA is coordinating the four-year project *Mountain Biodiversity and the Sustainable Development Goals: Knowledge for Synergistic Action*, an interdisciplinary and international effort towards a better understanding of the specific challenges associated with the sustainable management and conservation of mountain biodiversity (SDG 15.4) in the context of competing development goals, limited resources, and complex governance structures.

For this comparative assessment of the relationship between nature and people in mountains and of the trade-offs and synergies between Sustainable Development Goals and Targets, GMBA is hiring a postdoctoral fellow. The position bridges the natural and social sciences and the candidate will be part of an international team of students and senior scientists.

Main activities include

- Refining and implementing the study design
- Data collection (global and regional surveys using social-ecological questionnaires, collation from databases)
- Analysis of comprehensive datasets using both spatially explicit and statistical methods
- Literature assessment
- Coordinating partners and PhD students working in the project partner countries (Bolivia, Nepal, and Tanzania)

Requirements

- PhD in a field relevant to social-ecological research (e.g., environmental sciences, ecology, human geography). The PhD thesis must have been submitted before the start of the new appointment
- Strong skills in quantitative and/or qualitative empirical methods (e.g. survey design, semi-structured interviews, statistical data analysis)
- A good knowledge of R and/or Geographic Information Systems (e.g., ArcInfo, QGIS)
- High motivation for interdisciplinary research in mountain biodiversity and sustainability
- Knowledge on social-ecological mountain systems as well as on biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Very good English (oral and written)
- Research experience in interdisciplinary working environments is an advantage
- Knowledge of an additional language (Spanish, Nepali, or Swahili) is an advantage
- Knowledge in network theory and/or probabilistic methods is an advantage

We offer

- A position at the Institute of Plant Sciences of the University of Bern, Switzerland with travels to partner countries
- A key role in the scientific analysis of mountain biodiversity and social-ecological systems

This is a four-year part time position (70%) starting on 1 January 2019 or upon mutual agreement. Applications will be reviewed until the position is filled. Applications should consist of a motivation letter (including a statement of research interests), a curriculum vitae, relevant certificates, a list of publications, and the names and contacts of three referees. Please send your application as a single pdf file by email (subject line: R4D postdoc position) to Prof. Markus Fischer at gmba-projects@ips.unibe.ch

For enquiries about the position, please contact gmba-projects@ips.unibe.ch