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Postdoc-position Hydrology & Geo-Environmental Sciences

In Regional carbon cycle modeling and analysis of Russia and Europe f/m

For 1,0 fte

Vacancy number 1.2011.00254

The sub-department Hydrology & Geo-Environmental Sciences of the Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences, VU University Amsterdam (The Netherlands) seeks a well-qualified postdoc for modelling and analysis of regional carbon balances with a focus on Europe and Russia.

Description of the project

The project aims to investigate the carbon balance of at the scale of large continents, by integrating data and models from both top down and bottom up perspectives, i.e., apply the multiple constraint method. Of particular interest is the development of protocols with well thought out uncertainty and error analyses that can be applied globally. The regions that are the focus of this project are Russia and Europe. They have different climate and land use histories, and are, in particular, different regarding the role of human management on carbon emission and sequestration. The work will rely on Dynamic Vegetation Models (DGVM) to study the natural and human induced variability in GHG emissions from land. This project is funded through two EU FP7 projects: 1) GHG-Europe, that aims to determine the carbon balance of Europe, and 2) GEOCARBON, that aims to use existing carbon observations to determine the global carbon and regional carbon budgets of ocean and land. In both projects extensive use is made of carbon cycle models or DGVMs. Both projects involve several highly ranked institutions and offer exposure to a large scientific network. A major focus of the work will be on integrating existing models and observational results to provide carbon budgets of Russia and will look into the role of spatial variability of the carbon balance of Europe in more detail using DGVMs.

The project aims to start as soon as possible.

Tasks

- Conducting scientific research on regional carbon budgets as detailed in the project description
- dissemination of results through publishing in scientific literature and presentation at conferences;
- collaborating/communicating with team members at partner institutes;
- contributing to internal reporting regarding results within GHG Europe and GEOCARBON;

Required skills and education

- An academic PhD degree in a relevant field (ecology, biogeochemistry or similar);
- extensive knowledge of vegetation carbon modelling is considered important;
- familiarity/affinity/experience with the following are considered assets: terrestrial carbon cycle, DGVM modelling, inverse carbon models, scientific programming, numerical techniques;
- proficiency in both written and spoken English;
- good communication skills and ability to work in a team

Employment details

The appointment will be available for 36 months.. Expected starting date is between December 1st, 2011 and February 1st, 2012. The salary is determined according to the collective rules (CAO) of the Dutch universities. The salary will be in accordance with university regulations for academic personnel, and depending on experience, range from a minimum of €2.977,- gross per month (salary scale 10.5) up to a maximum of €4.374,- gross per month (salary scale 11) based on a fulltime employment. The university's fringe benefits of employment are available at www.workingatvu.nl

Information and applications

Further information can be obtained from the project leaders, Prof. A.J. Dolman and Dr. G. van der Werf (e-mail: han.dolman@vu.nl; g.r.vander.werf@vu.nl).

Applicants are requested to write a letter in which they describe their abilities and motivation, accompanied by a curriculum vitae and name and email address of at least one academic reference. Written applications should be sent to: VU University Amsterdam, Faculty of Earth & Life Sciences, attn. Dr. Y. Kops, Managing Director, De Boelelaan 1085, NL-1081 HV Amsterdam, The Netherlands. It is also possible to apply by e-mail to falw-vacatures@falw.vu.nl. The deadline for application is November 15, 2011, but otherwise open until the position is filled. Please mention the vacancy number in the e-mail header or at the top of your letter and on the envelope.

Any other correspondence in response to this advertisement will not be dealt with.