A postdoctoral scientist position is available in a large Sino-Swiss-German consortium investigating effects of biodiversity in the world’s largest tree biodiversity experiment “BEF-China” (http://www.bef-china.de). The advertised position is jointly hosted by the Institute of Evolutionary Biology and Environmental Studies, University of Zürich, Switzerland (group of P. Niklaus, http://www.ieu.uzh.ch/staff/leaders/niklaus.html) and the Institute of Biologie, Geobotany, University of Freiburg, Germany (group of M. Scherer-Lorenzen, http://www.geobotanik.uni-freiburg.de/Team-Ordner/mscherer).

Our groups do basic research into the mechanisms of biodiversity effects, at spatial scales ranging from microbial systems to landscape structures. A particular focus of our current research is on mechanisms underlying biodiversity effects in highly diverse subtropical forest.

The successful candidate will analyze biodiversity effects on tree growth, allocation, light competition and nutrient cycling, in the framework of optimal allocation theories. The data required for these analyses have been collected over the recent years so that no field work is required. The position will thus offer the exciting possibility to immediately dive into data analyses and to produce publications within short time, in close cooperation with other members of the project team (PhD student, senior scientists).

We expect a background in biodiversity research and a good understanding of plant ecology and nutrient cycling. Applicants must own a PhD degree in biology, ecology, or a comparable discipline, a proven ability in sophisticated statistical data analysis and publishing in competitive international journals. Fluency in English is indispensable. Women are explicitly encouraged to apply to increase their share in science and research.

We offer a stimulating working environment with international colleagues, and a competitive salary. The position is available immediately, for a period of one year. Further research opportunities are possible after the end of this project.

Please send or email your resume and contact information for three references to: Dr. Pascal Niklaus, Institute of Evolutionary Biology and Environmental Studies, University of Zurich, Winterthurerstrasse 190, CH-8057 Zurich, Switzerland. Email: pascal.niklaus@ieu.uzh.ch.