

## Open PhD position in Tropical Agroecology

# Ecological intensification and multifunctionality of cacao agroforestry systems in Peruvian landscapes (ECO-CACAO)

Background: Improving the conservation of biodiversity and associated ecosystem services while increasing sustainable food production requires the development of novel land-use approaches. Tropical cacao agroforestry systems can support biodiversity and benefit from pest control and pollination services depending on local and landscape management factors. However, cacao production in its genetic origin Peru is currently hampered by poor use of native cocoa diversity, frequent pest and disease outbreaks, low resilience to climatic extremes, and lack of biodiversity-friendly ecosystem service management. This project aims to quantify the relative role of local management, cacao genetic diversity and landscape context on multiple ecosystem services (of arthropods, birds and bats) such as pollination, biological pest control and crop productivity. The DFG-funded project builds on international collaborations in Europe and Peru, including Bioversity International, Nationalpark Cordillera Azul and the universities of Göttingen, Vienna, and Würzburg.

Requirements: We are seeking a highly motivated PhD student with strong interest and expertise in animal ecology, tropical ecology and/or agroecology. Applicants should have a MSc or Diploma degree in ecology or related disciplines and skills in several of the following areas: experimental field research (e.g. plant-insect interactions, pollination and/or pest control), practical skills in insect, bird or bat identification, use of GIS and statistical data analysis (in R), and scientific writing in English. A driver license and very good language skills in English and preferably also Spanish are required. The candidates are expected to work both individually and in teams and to be able to integrate into an interdisciplinary and international project with several longer field work periods in Peru. The position will be located in the Department of Animal Ecology and Tropical Biology (<http://www.zoo3.biozentrum.uni-wuerzburg.de/en/>) at University of Würzburg. For further information please contact: [ingolf.steffan@uni-wuerzburg.de](mailto:ingolf.steffan@uni-wuerzburg.de)

Salary and conditions: Salary and benefits are according to public service positions in Germany (TV-L, 65%). Planned starting date: February 2022. The planned duration of the project is three years. The doctoral thesis will be done as a series of English manuscripts. We offer the membership in an international research team, modern facilities and a structured graduate training program. Würzburg University is an equal opportunities employer and places particular emphasis on fostering career opportunities for women. Qualified women are therefore strongly encouraged to apply. Disabled persons with equivalent aptitude will be favored.

Applications: Please send your application as **one single pdf file** per email to [ingolf.steffan@uni-wuerzburg.de](mailto:ingolf.steffan@uni-wuerzburg.de) latest until **31th October 2021**. Applications should include a cover letter, a short summary of research interests (max. 1 page), a CV, complete certificates, and the names (with email addresses) of two potential referees.