Yale CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND GLOBAL CHANGE

Postdoc/Staff Position - Quantitative Ecology and Biodiversity Change

A new 2-3 year postdoc or longer-term staff position is available in association with the Yale Center for Biodiversity and Global Change (BGC Center), Map of Life, and the Jetz Lab. We are seeking a highly quantitative ecologist with strong R programming skills and a background in geospatial analysis, remote sensing, and species distribution modelling. The project is supported by NASA and other sources with the goal of demonstrating the power of novel quantitative approaches and data for addressing central questions in large-scale ecology and conservation. The successful candidate is expected to work with an array of biodiversity data (e.g., survey, citizen science, GPS tracking, and camera trapping) as well as a range of remote sensing products and sources, including hyperspectral data. While there is thematic and taxonomic flexibility, a particular focus of the position will be the collaborative development and use of multi-species models at large spatial scales. We therefore expect a background in Bayesian and/or machine-learning approaches to model species and/or assemblage distributions and changes. Experience in Python, Jupyter Notebooks, Google Earth Engine, SQL, and HPC is a plus.

The preferred candidate will be dedicated to conscientious work in a team and have excellent writing and communication skills. The position is formally supervised by Walter Jetz, and the successful candidate will collaborate closely with an international working group of leading biodiversity modelers associated with Map of Life and the Yale BGC Center. Support for project-related travel and workshops is available. Target start date for the position is spring to summer 2020. Depending on experience and preference, employment as either postdoctoral researcher, research scientist, or longer-term Yale Center staff is possible.

The position will benefit from interacting closely with a growing group of Center-based biodiversity scientists, modelers, coordinators, and informaticians. The Yale BGC Center connects biodiversity scientists from across campus and hosts a range of speaker and workshop events. It supports research and training around the use of new technologies and data flows for model-based inference and prediction of biodiversity distributions and changes at large spatial and taxonomic scales. Flagship Center projects include Map of Life and associated activities supporting the Half-Earth Map and the development of the GEO BON Species Population Essential Biodiversity Variables. Other initiatives associated with the Center include the integration of phylogenetic information with spatial distributions (e.g., VertLife, ButterflyNet), NASA-supported remote sensing-informed layers and tools for biodiversity modelling (EarthEnv), Movebank, which supports the management and integration of movement data, and the Wildlife Insights initiative for camera trapping data.

We strongly encourage applications from women and minorities. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are core values in our group, and we believe that a diverse team will enable a broader perspective and enhance creativity.

Yale University offers researchers and staff competitive salaries and a generous package of benefits. Yale has a thriving and growing community of young scholars in ecology, evolution and global change science in the EEB Department, the Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies, the Peabody Museum, and the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. New Haven is renowned for its classic Ivy League setting, 75 miles northeast of New York City.

To apply please send, in one pdf, a short motivation (i.e. cover) letter, CV and names and contact information for three referees to anna.schuerkmann@yale.edu, subject "BGC Postdoc – Biodiversity Modelling". Review of applications will begin on 9 December 2019 and continue until the position is filled.