

ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR APPLICATION

On behalf of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
the University of Göttingen is organizing a

DAAD Alumni Special Project 2022

combining an Alumni training seminar on

Multifunctional Forest Management as Active Climate Protection

January 14th - 19th, 2022 in Göttingen, Germany

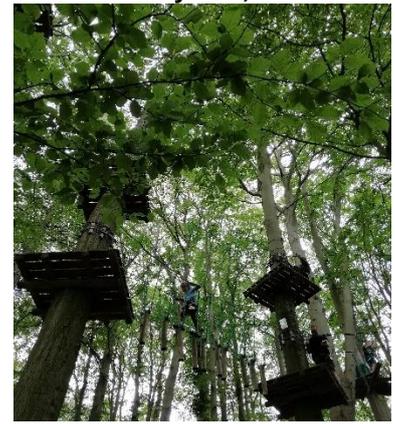
with a subsequent participation in the

**International Green Week Berlin 2022 – the world's largest consumer fair of the
food, agriculture and gardening industries**

January 20st - 25th, 2022 in Berlin, Germany

Arrival date in Germany: January 13th, 2022

Departure date: January 25th, 2022



Seminar aims

Forests contribute to the human well-being worldwide. They play a fundamental role in fighting rural poverty, ensuring food security and providing adequate livelihoods. They offer promising green growth opportunities and important long-term ecosystem services such as clean air and water, protection of biodiversity and mitigation of climate change.

Forests in Germany are managed according to the integrative principle of sustainable, multifunctional forest management. The existing conflicts of use and climatic changes result in challenges for forest owners in trading wood and planning forest conversion schemes.

Customers, businesses and market partners often expect proof of sustainable production when buying wood and for that certification systems like PEFC and FSC are frequently used. For smallholders and communities, particularly in tropical countries, conformity with certification requirements is still a great challenge and involves a large investment compared to the economic benefit that certification can offer.

The related policies to promote sustainable forest management at the national level are also relevant internationally through global climate agreements and global timber trade. In Germany, the Forest Strategy 2050 has been drafted to strengthen the sustainable use of forests to allow for long-term use, but will it be sufficient? We would like to discuss these topics with 20 Alumni in an open and inspiring atmosphere.

The Alumni seminar aims at training in three selected topics (1) **forest assessment**, (2) **certification**, and (3) **forest policy**. It will present current concepts and methods in a combination of expert lectures, discussions, project presentations, and visits to forests and companies, as well as highlighting options for action. The Georg-August University of Göttingen has a forestry faculty, international forestry study programmes, and alumni activities in forestry practice, wood processing, and forest policy.

The seminar and fair visit are offered by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in the framework of the programme Alumni Special Projects (www.daad.de/alumni-special-projects). The international DAAD Alumni training seminar is organized and hosted by the University of Göttingen. The costs will be mainly covered by funds from the DAAD provided by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The seminar is scheduled in the run-up to the International Green Week 2022 (IGW) in Berlin (<https://www.gruenewoche.de/en/visit/>). Since 1926, food producers from all over the world have utilized the IGW to introduce new products, to test market food and establish brand identities. It also features commercial and non-commercial agricultural, forestry, and landscaping exhibitors.

Tentative Programme

The seminar programme in Göttingen will include:

- Sessions and workshops on forest assessment, challenge for certification and sustainable forest management, and current discussion of forest strategies in Germany and their relevance for the Global South
- Group work activities and professional networking opportunities with scientists and practitioners (e.g. German Forest Society, Northwest German Forest Research Institute, and district forestry office)
- Excursions to forest sites and a pulp mill as well as cultural events in Göttingen

The final programme in Göttingen will be published once all applications have been reviewed. **It is necessary to participate in the whole programme: seminar, International Green Week and social programme.**

A Special Note on an alternative programme: Given the world-wide pandemic and the current status of uncertainty of its development, DAAD will decide in due course to replace the event in Germany by an online version. This will imply modifications of the programme which will be announced to the participants. The alternative programme will rely on more and extended active contributions by participants.

Eligibility criteria for participation

This seminar targets Alumni of German universities

- from countries listed on the DAC list of the Global South ('developing') countries,
- who carried out research or studied in Germany for at least 3 months, and
- who are currently living and working in their home countries.

You should have

- (1) a **proven background in academic fields relevant to the topics** of forest monitoring, assessment techniques, sustainable forest management, certification, forest policies, social studies related to forests / forest communities, natural resource management, human ecology, environmental studies, and ethnology / anthropology related to humans living in and with forests.

- (2) **professional experience and personal interest in one of the following areas:** research, education, NGOs, government agencies, policy making, project development, local communities, and related stakeholders.
- (3) the **requirements to act as a potential multiplier** who will present the seminar results in your home country and thus disseminate the acquired knowledge as well as develop ideas and projects for regional implementation.
- (4) **adequate language proficiency** which is essential to actively participate in the workshops and discussions as the seminar will be held **in English**.

Eligibility for repeated attendances at Alumni Special Projects:

Participations in Alumni Special Projects are limited to a maximum of two participations within four years. The year of participation, not the year of application, is decisive for the calculation. (This rule does not apply for attendance in a digital Alumni Special Project).

Cost coverage

- International return ticket from and to an airport in Germany (lowest possible economy class airfare with the option to cancel or rebook)
- Local airport transit
- Travel health insurance (max. 30 Euro) and visa costs
- Accommodation and meals during the seminar stay in Göttingen
- Transport on excursions
- Transfer and Entrance fees to the International Green Week Berlin
- Accommodation and partial living expenses during the trade fair stay in Berlin

Please note: All other costs, such as transport costs from participants' home town to their home airport or travel costs for visa application in the home country have to be borne by the participants. Please keep in mind that living expenses are only covered partly during your stay in Berlin.

Extensions of stays before the seminar / after the trade fair are only possible up to 5 working days and upon submission of a comparison of flight ticket prices before you start your travel. You will have to pay any difference between the flight ticket prices for the official arrival / return date (see below) and your actual date of travel before / after your extension. You must also cover by yourself any additional travel costs, subsistence costs and other additional costs of your extension.

Extensions beyond 5 days must be of an official nature, which you need to justify, e.g. through visits to universities, organizations, institutions, companies etc. and with details about contact persons and a day-to-day programme of activities. These extensions must be approved by DAAD before you start your travel. Decisions by DAAD are made on an individual nature based upon your justification, your programme etc.

For any extension, you need to organize your accommodation by yourself, and, very importantly, you have to make sure to have a valid health insurance for the extension days.

Travel dates:

January 13th, 2022: Arrival at the venue in Göttingen

January 20th, 2022: Transfer from Göttingen to Berlin

January 25th, 2022: Departure from Berlin

It is essential that you participate from the first day of the seminar in Göttingen to the last day of International Green Week in Berlin.

Application procedure

Your application (in English language) should emphasize your motivation and personal / professional benefit for your participation. You should illustrate how you are planning to imply the gained knowledge and what possible stakeholders for collaboration you may identify for your professional career.

Please conduct your **online application** via our **application portal** on

<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/647050.html>

which includes:

- **a short abstract on your cooperation / research interest and underlying motivation / expectations** to attend the DAAD Alumni Special Project
- **a concise description of your present duties / position held** and your personal professional goals, indicating your envisaged field of activities
- **an overview on DAAD sponsored seminars**, workshops or conferences visited in Germany after finishing your studies in Germany.

latest by August 31st 2021. The portal will close at midnight!

In addition to the **online application form**, please send the following documents **combined into one single .pdf file** to spfeiff@gwdg.de:

- **a synoptic CV with a photograph** and
- **relevant documentation of the Alumni status**

The PDF-document should be named '**Last name_First name_country**'
(e.g. Pfeiffer_Simone_Germany)

Please note: The completeness of your application and the personal data mentioned in the application form will affect your eligibility as a participant.

After the review by the local organizing committee and DAAD, the invited participants will be notified end of September 2021.

For further questions, please contact Simone Pfeiffer (spfeiff@gwdg.de, +49 551 39 23909)

Göttingen, July 2021

