

## University of Guyana Student Research Opportunity

**Project Title:** Vulnerability of forest carbon stocks to climate change feedbacks in the Guiana Shield Ecoregion.

**Project Description:** The forests of the Guiana Shield ecoregion are unique because they are carbon-dense, historically been very stable, yet exist on nutrient-poor soils. This largely intact block of forests is critical for maintenance of precipitation and temperature regimes throughout larger Amazonia. Yet we know little of how anthropogenic forest disturbances will exacerbate deleterious climate change impacts on these nutrient-poor forests.

Collaborators from the University of Oxford, Boise State University, the University of Guyana (Centre for the Study of Biological Diversity), and the Iwokrama International Centre will be undertaking a project to forecast the vulnerability of forest carbon stocks to climate change feedbacks. To answer these questions the project will start intensive forest carbon cycle measurements to contribute to the Global Ecosystem Monitoring Network (<http://gem.tropicalforests.ox.ac.uk/>). We will execute standardized measurements of litter fall collection, soil respiration, and fine root production in permanent sample plots located in the Iwokrama Forest. UAVs will be also be flown to monitor forest phenology.

**Student Profile:** The research team is looking for a motivated undergraduate, masters, or PhD student that can integrate part of the project goals into their thesis research. The student will need to be available to participate in the initial training and project set-up between March 24<sup>th</sup> – April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Additionally, the student will be given the opportunity to participate in a geospatial course that will be conducted at the University of Guyana between March 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.

The student will be responsible for coordinating data collection with the Iwokrama field team, and principle investigators and will be required to visit the field sites every 3 months, for a two-week period at the Iwokrama field station to assist in data collection over a period of 1-year. The principal investigators from the University of Oxford and Boise State University will provide mentorship to the student that will include data management, analysis, and scientific writing to aide their successful completion of their degree program.

All costs associated with the project activities that includes transportation to the Iwokrama field station, accommodation and meals whilst in the field will be covered by the research grant. Additionally, there will be a modest student stipend.

**Deadline:** February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**Application Instructions:** Please contact Anand Roopsind ([aroopsind@gmail.com](mailto:aroopsind@gmail.com)) and Sami Rifai ([srifai.rifai@ouce.ox.ac.uk](mailto:srifai.rifai@ouce.ox.ac.uk)) to arrange an interview. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have and look forward to building a successful research team.

