

## **Postdoc UCLA- Ecology and Sustainability of West African Ebony**

**University of California, Los Angeles, Center for Tropical Research, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability and Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology**

We seek a highly qualified and enthusiastic individual with a background in the ecology of tropical rainforest trees or their dispersers/pollinators and an interest in the conservation and sustainability of African hardwoods to join our team. The goal of the project is to develop sustainable approaches for the production of ebony that contributes to the economic well being of local communities in Central Africa. The successful candidate will focus his/her work on 1) the ecology and life history of ebony, such as the identification of pollinators and dispersers and information important to its natural reproduction and dispersal and 2) ways to leverage this information to test alternative restoration approaches to determine the most successful methods of cultivating ebony to support local communities.

The candidate will split his/her time between UCLA (25%) and the Congo Basin Institute's Yaoundé campus in Cameroon (75%) as well as the principal field site for ecological studies in the Dja Biosphere Reserve where CTR has conducted long-term research (see <http://www.environment.ucla.edu/ctr/research/djabiosphere.html>).

The successful candidate will collaborate with scientists from UCLA, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), the International Bilingual Academy/Higher Institute of Environmental Sciences (IBAY SUP) and help mentor Cameroonian PhD and MS students working on other elements of the project. These include: 1) creating a scalable program for the sustainable production and stewardship of ebony seedlings in rural areas 2) generation of GIS/remote sensing models of West African ebony distributions to identify suitable harvesting and planting areas and 3) testing alternative production approaches, including vegetative propagation from juvenile cuttings and tissue culture laboratory experiments to identify efficient processes and optimal conditions for cultivating ebony.

We seek a candidate with an outstanding academic background, fluency or basic knowledge of French and a passion for conservation and for finding win-win opportunities for people and biodiversity.

The postdoc will work under the supervision of Thomas B. Smith, [tbsmith@ucla.edu](mailto:tbsmith@ucla.edu), (<http://www.environment.ucla.edu/ctr>) at UCLA, but will be expected to collaborate closely with other members of the team. The postdoc will also be encouraged to develop her/his own research focus on some aspect(s) of the project.

Application: Please send a single PDF containing a CV, a statement of research interests, and contact information for three references to Christa Gomez, [cgomez@lifesci.ucla.edu](mailto:cgomez@lifesci.ucla.edu); with the subject line Ebony Postdoc. Review of applications will begin **August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016**. The postdoc is for two years with the possibility that the project maybe renewed. Salary will be determined based on experience level.