



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute
April 30th, 2024

NOTICE OF OPENING

Applications for a **Post-doctoral Research Scientist** will be accepted effective immediately.

The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI www.stri.si.edu) seeks a tropical forest restoration ecologist/forester as a post-doctoral scientist to join the Agua Salud research team in support of the creation of a Smart Reforestation Technical Unit. Tropical forest restoration and associated research on planted forests is one of the pillars of the Agua Salud project. The project maintains a series of actively managed long-term reforestation/restoration treatments in the Panama Canal Watershed, including a native tree species plantation, and enrichment planting experiments where native tree species have been planted into an underperforming teak plantation and naturally regenerating secondary forest. In addition, Agua Salud scientists have established a long-term forest restoration project in the district of Ñurum in the Ngäbe-Buglé Comarca. The tropical forest restoration postdoctoral fellow will be expected to work with these and other datasets in advancing the science of tropical forest restoration and also help establish a forest extension program. To this end the postdoctoral fellow will help develop and deliver extension services to different stakeholders in Panama. Extension products may include publicly available and searchable databases that allow for refined species selection to meet reforestation objectives, extension fact sheets, and short courses delivered to university students or other groups.

The Agua Salud project and team is multidisciplinary with collaborators ranging from hydrologists, forest ecologists with broad interests and areas of expertise, soil scientists, molecular biologists, animal behavior scientists, social scientists and economists. The successful candidate has experience with or willingness to work on multidisciplinary teams and has ideas for collaboration with these colleagues. He/she/they will have demonstrated competence in working with large and complex datasets and have a passion for use-inspired and applied research. The candidate should have demonstrated interest in working with stakeholders to manage or improve land management. He/she/they should have strong speaking skills and be conversational in Spanish, with fluency preferred.

Candidates should have strong field, analytical, and writing skills, a record of successful publication. The project provides two years of funding, with additional years dependent on performance and successful fund raising by project leadership. The candidate will be expected to lead publications and will maintain ownership of future research directions that they lead. There are funds to support travel to international meetings. The location is at STRI in Panama. STRI fosters a lively, collaborative research community, with 26 resident Staff Scientists, a similar number of post-doctoral fellows, and over 1,200 international scientists visiting annually. Ability to work with a wide range of people in a multicultural environment will be considered.

Applications will be evaluated as they are received. The successful applicant will begin by October 2024; however, the position will be held open for the right applicant.

To Apply: Interested candidates should submit a single PDF file including cover letter, curriculum vitae, statement of research accomplishments and interests, significant publications, and the names and contact information of three references to Jefferson Hall at hallje@si.edu. The position is open until filled; review of applications will begin on 12 August 2024.

At STRI, we value and embrace diversity in all its forms. We are committed to creating an inclusive environment that welcomes and celebrates individuals from various backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. We believe that diversity fosters innovation, creativity, and collaboration, which are essential to our success.

We encourage individuals of all races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, ages, abilities, and backgrounds to apply for Postdoctoral Research Fellow at STRI. We provide equal opportunities and maintaining a fair and respectful recruitment process for all candidates. If you require accommodations during any phase of the application or interview process, please let us know, and we will be happy to assist.

STRI is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or protected veteran status. PSIONewHireDocs@si.edu