



Implementing Agency of the
Government of Mongolia
NATIONAL FOREST AGENCY



Outreach Notice

Post-Doctoral Position in Forest Health Management National University of Mongolia Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

The National Forest Agency of Mongolia and the International Conservation Caucus Foundation is recruiting to fill a Post-Doctoral Fellow position at the National University of Mongolia in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. This notification is being circulated to inform prospective applicants of this upcoming opportunity.

1. Background:

Recognizing the importance of concerted efforts in addressing climate change adversities, the National Forest Agency of Mongolia (NFA), Rio Tinto and the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF Group) raised the importance of protecting the existing forest and mitigating forest degradation, particularly caused by forest infestation, which is one of the main direct drivers of deforestation in Mongolia. In this context, the relevant authorities have recently launched the “Healthy Forest” project.

Mongolian boreal forests are considered to be of high ecological value and importance not only at the national level but also at the global level; however, according to the latest research conducted by the NFA in 2022, more than 700,000 ha of forest land has been infected by forest pests and diseases and needs defoliation at certain areas in the country. The research concludes that a lack of proper treatment for infested areas will result in the direct loss of 1.1 billion trees within just a year, while large-scale tree planting will be undertaken within a decade. In response to this emergency situation, the “Healthy Forest” project aims to treat forest infestation in 300 thousand ha forest areas within 2 years, capability development, integration of AI technologies and pest management programs, which will generate co-benefits for all parties including the corporate, central government, and local communities, and enhances biodiversity conservation at the same time.

This position is a term appointment for approximately one year with the National University of Mongolia located in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Applicants should have practical experience in Forest Entomology, Forestry or Forest Pathology. The project is seeking well-qualified individuals who can significantly contribute to the development of a Forest Health Program within Mongolia. There is a wide range of activities that are appropriate within this program, but there is a focus on experimentation and analysis of forest health issues, as well as teaching and mentoring graduate and undergraduate students at the National University of Mongolia. Commitment to the practices and principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a primary requirement. This is an academic appointment with the National University of Mongolia, but field experience, particularly in the arena of forest pest management, is a prerequisite. Successful applicants will conduct experiments and analysis in the forests of Mongolia, and interact with Mongolian forestry professionals associated with the Ministry of the Environment and Tourism, National Forest Agency and the National University of Mongolia.

This is an inter-disciplinary project with very flexible work arrangements and an opportunity to determine areas of emphasis within the broader scope of the project. Success relies upon knowledge of forest pests and related organisms; the roles that they play in ecological, economic and social systems; and the application of such knowledge to developing economically and environmentally sound solutions for practical problems. The field of study includes emerging pest issues impacted by climate change. Basic research skills needed include knowledge of experimental design, data management, and statistics. Knowledge of forestry, forest biology and IPM practices are required. Ability to cope with a foreign culture is essential.

This project is administered by the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF) - The ICCF advances leadership in international conservation through public and private partnerships, and by raising conservation awareness among policymakers. In addition to their role as facilitators of building political will among nations to address critical environmental issues, the organization provides on-the-ground solutions by linking conservation professionals with field personnel throughout the world.

2. Minimum Qualifications:

- PhD in entomology, forestry, pathology or related field completed;
- Strong communication, problem-solving, organization, and teamwork skills, including communicating technical information to non-technical personnel;
- Able to work well both independently and as part of a collaborative team;
- Practical experience in Forest Health activities;
- Commitment to practices consistent with Integrated Pest Management;
- Detail-oriented and has a demonstrated ability to provide technical support to meet University and resource manager needs;
- Fluent in English.

3. Responsibilities:

- The candidate will work in close cooperation with the National Forest Agency and the National University of Mongolia to establish a forest health program;
- The candidate will mentor graduate and undergraduate students in the lab and field in a collaborative manner across multiple projects;
- The candidate will support the Forestry Program in Mongolia by providing technical assistance associated with the National Forest Agency's forest health objectives;
- The candidate will be expected to communicate and present technical data clearly in various platforms;
- Travel to remote locations will be necessary to accommodate National University of Mongolia and the Forestry Program's goals and objectives.

4. Job Description:

The successful candidate will be involved in the design of experiments, their execution, assisting with the analysis of data, and the interpretation of findings guiding the research of graduate students to address multiple forest insect related research issues. The candidate will assist in developing a forest health program within the University which may include:

- Assisting the University with developing a curriculum for a forest health program;
- Identifying outside Universities that will collaborate on offering classes associated with a forest health professional position;

- Identifying students that meet undergraduate natural resource requirements that qualify for pursuing an advance degree in entomology/pathology;
- Teaching the curriculum for the undergraduate/ graduate students.

5. Duty Station:

The position will reside in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia and expected to travel to project areas. The Post-Doctoral Fellow shall provide intermittent progress report outlining the current results of the assignment when it's required by the Agency or the University. Field trip plan and reports should be written in the agreed format consulted with the project cooperators and submitted to the Agency for approval vial relevant project manager.

Ulanbaatar - Ulaanbaatar is significantly larger than all other cities in the country: with a population of 1.35 million as of January 2016, approximately 44% of the country lives here. It is located just east of the center of the country in the forest-steppe region close to the birthplace of Chinggis Khaan. Ulaanbaatar is a city where authentic Mongol culture thrives in an urban setting, which has made it a destination in its own right.

Ulaanbaatar has a city center that is modern and developed, with skyscrapers, hotels, and malls showcasing local and international brands. The central parts of the city are walkable and have many attractions for both visitors and locals. The city is known for its impressive museums, old monasteries, high quality restaurants, cinemas, theaters, and proximity to scenic natural spots such as Bogd Khan Mountain which is frequented by hikers.

6. Cost of Living:

<https://www.expatistan.com/cost-of-living/country/mongolia?currency=USD>

7. How to Apply:

Indicate your interest in this position by completing the attached Interest Form. You will be contacted by project cooperators and asked to submit the following documents:

- 1) Cover letter summarizing your research goals and interests;
- 2) Comprehensive CV;
- 3) Copies of university transcripts;
- 4) Contact information for 3 professional references (References will not be contacted without prior notification of candidates.)

8. Others:

- **Stipendium:** \$56,000, commensurate with experience.
- **Benefits:** Full medical coverage for period of employment including evacuation to home country in case of serious need. Benefits include one trip to country of origin for 2 weeks while employed.
- **Housing:** An apartment will be provided on the National University of Mongolia campus. Expenses while at remote field locations will be provided as reimbursement to individual. Housing costs are provided at a minimal rate by the University and subtracted from salary.
- **Language:** Differences in language represents one of the greatest challenges to this work. However, interpreters are available to assist in the field and some University personnel have a working knowledge of English.

Please see and submit attached Interest Form by 31 March 2023.