

# VACANCY FOR MASTER or BACHELOR THESIS FOR ECOLOGICAL DATA COLLECTION IN RWANDA

## How Sustainable are Sustainability Standards?

Voluntary sustainability standards – such as Organic, Rainforest Alliance, Fairtrade– are getting more and more relevant for cash crops, such as coffee and cacao, in developing countries. These standards aim to improve the livelihood of smallholder farmers and protect the environment, but little is known about how effective they really are in achieving both of these goals. With continuous increases in deforestation rates due to agriculture in tropical Africa, it is urgent to evaluate whether implementation of standards favors farmers and biodiversity. Our project studies the effects of the Rainforest Alliance certification on various socioeconomic and ecological indicators of coffee agroforestry systems in Rwanda.



We are looking for highly motivated MSc or BSc students to perform their thesis within the project, collecting data on shade tree and arthropod diversity, and related ecosystem services in coffee agroforestry systems in Rwanda. The project will offer the opportunity to learn multiple methodologies for fast biodiversity assessments, using novel and well-established technologies such as sound recorders and dummy caterpillars. Students must be flexible and work independently within an international and interdisciplinary research team.



Field work is planned for a period of two to three months between September 2024 till December 2024/January 2025. For applications, please send a short motivation letter (max. 1 page), your CV and a transcript of your grades all compiled in one pdf to:

[marlene.waetzold@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:marlene.waetzold@uni-goettingen.de)

Please write “Application data collection Rwanda” in the subject

Application Deadline: Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> of June, 2024

Feel free to email us for any doubts about the positions, and find more information at: [How sustainable are sustainability standards?](#)

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