



Opportunity for a Bachelor's Thesis

Impact of climate change-induced disturbances on vegetation in beech forests

During the drought period from 2018 to 2022, the vulnerability of Lower Saxony's forests to the escalating impacts of climate change became increasingly evident. In the climate future lab DIVERSA (<https://zkfn.de/en/diversa/>), we aim to deepen our understanding of the causes and consequences of forest disturbances, as well as their implications for forest adaptability. Disturbance-induced changes in forest structure alter resource availability and can thus be reflected in other plant communities. These, in turn, influence higher trophic levels, which we are also investigating in this project (moths and ecosystem functions).

Project details: The relevant study areas are located in north-eastern Lower Saxony. Vegetation surveys will mainly take place in June/July. For logistical reasons, it will be necessary to spend several days away from Göttingen.

We are seeking students with a keen interest in field research on vegetation ecology and, ideally, with relevant experience. As the study areas can only be easily reached by car, a driving licence and a willingness to drive would be important.

If you are interested and/or have any questions, please get in touch with Daniel Ochterbeck (daniel.ochterbeck@uni-goettingen.de) and Dr. Bernd Gehlken (bgehlke@gwdg.de) at the Forest Nature Conservation group (<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/588022.html>) We are looking forward to hearing from you!

DIVERSA

Forest disturbances under climate change in Lower Saxony:
Understanding drivers and impacts to enhance forest adaptability

