Water has been identified as the major environmental issue of the 21st century. Many parts of the world will experience increasing fresh water shortage, while other parts will have a higher incidence of flooding. Poor water quality is a threat for human society as well as for natural ecosystems. The research focus of the Institute for Water and Wetland Research (IWWR) is the natural environment, in particular aquatic ecosystems and wetlands. Many of these environments have been substantially altered by human impact. The changes have resulted in stress responses of all living biota and impose major challenges to individuals, populations and the ecosystem as a whole. The IWWR studies the mechanisms of adaptation to these changes of microorganisms, plants and animals at the level of the molecule, the cell, the organism and the ecosystem. The tight coupling of fundamental scientific research to application, distinguishes the IWWR from other national and international institutes on water research. The novel applications for current water problems are developed from innovative fundamental insights in molecular, physiological and ecological processes.

The research of the IWWR is carried out by complementary and closely interacting research groups, which study the mechanism of adaptation of cells, organisms and ecosystems to stress. The IWWR has a vacancy for a Full professor in Ecogenomics to establish a strong link between ecosystems and the genomic level, with the focus on species, communities and populations. (Eco)genomic tools have revolutionized ecology in the last ten years, providing unprecedented insight in for example (microbial) community composition and functioning, and evolutionary and ecological history of species and populations. Together with other research groups of the IWWR, the new chair is expected to develop and apply the latest genomic techniques to unravel the inherent genetic constraints and opportunities of ecosystems, in particular in its responses to changes in water quantity and quality. In this way an important link is established between molecular and cellular adaptation mechanisms and responses at the level of the ecosystem.

The IWWR provides ample opportunity for scientific cooperation, in particular with Microbiology, Plant Sciences, Plant Ecology and Animal Ecology, establishing an important link between individual adaptation processes and the ecosystem. While the emphasis is on fundamental research, the professor in Ecogenomics is expected to link his/her work to practical applications for nature and water management. The new chair is expected to contribute to the molecular aspects of ecology and evolution biology part of the education program of the Biology curriculum and to participate in existing national and international networks on ecogenomics (http://www.ecogenomics.eu).

Expected qualifications of the full professor in:

- PhD thesis in relevant topic
- Several years of foreign experience as postdoc or assistant/associate professor
- Knowledge and experience in different forms of (under)graduate education and excellent educational skills
- Experience with up to date and state of the art ecogenomics methods
- Scientific creativity and productivity exemplified by a high number of publications and citations
- Extensive (inter)national network on ecogenomics
- Successful acquisition portfolio of external grants
- Managerial skills to lead a research group
- Academic leadership
- Excellent communication skills
- Team player

The salary will be between EURO 4,803 and 6,995 gross per month on a full-time basis, depending on qualifications and experience.

Applications should include a cover letter, a research statement, a teaching statement, a curriculum vitae, a list of publications and the names of at least two references.

The application can be sent to the following address until November 30th 2008:
Radboud University, Personnel Department, Vacancy number: 62.74.08
PO Box 9010, 6500 GL Nijmegen, The Netherlands

More information:
For more information on the vacancy you can contact:
Prof. dr. Hans de Kroon, Tel: +31 24 3653380, e-mail: h.dekroon@science.ru.nl