PhD student needed

Assessing ecosystem services flows along rural-urban gradients: applicability to social-ecological landscape planning

Contract Duration: 4 years
Contract type: FPI
Reference project: CGL2014-53782-P

The PhD student will analyze and assess ecosystem services flows (ES) along two rural-urban gradients characteristic of mediterranean mountains associated to big cities in Spain: the Sierra Nevada-Granada city gradient, and the Sierra de Guadarrama-Madrid city gradient. The ultimate goal of the thesis will be to analyze the supply-demand of ES, assessing the level of coherence or mismatch between ecological and socioeconomic elements along rural-urban gradients, as a consequence of existing landscape planning schemes.

Responsibilities: S/he will be responsible for collecting data for the project and preparing it for analysis. The main duty of the student will be to perform an integrated assessment and mapping of ES flows that will allow us to detect trade-offs and synergies in the supply-demand of ES, as well as incoherences in current landscape planning schemes. The PhD thesis will be co-directed by two full-time professors of the Social-ecological Systems Lab at UAM (www.uam.es/socioecosistemas).
The selected student should register in the PhD program of Ecology at Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (http://www.uam.es/ss/Satellite/es/1234895363737/1242678405697/doctorado/doctorado/Programa_de_Doctorado_en_Ecologia.htm).

Profile: Candidates should have an official master's degree (or the equivalent number of academic credits in degree studies) and a strong background in the use of GIS tools, including courses in statistics and research methods, and be fluent in Spanish and English. Previous experience in transdisciplinary fieldwork will be wellcome, as the methodological framework is clearly transdiciplinar, comprising different tasks rooted in the fields of biology, ecology, landscape ecology, socioeconomy and human and regional geography.

Contract terms: Applicants should meet the requirements for "*contratos predoctorales*" (http://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2015/06/12/pdfs/BOE-A-2015-6508.pdf). Applicants will find contract terms in the same web page.

To apply: Interested students should contact José A. González (jose.gonzalez@uam.es) by June 23, 2015 to receive full consideration. The application should include a letter of interest and a current CV of the applicant (including academic record). An internal selection will take place in the Social-ecological Systems Lab at UAM, and the selected student should be ready to apply on-line before June 29th.