

## PhD Position in Sand Mining and Landscape Changes at McGill University

We are seeking a fully funded PhD-student for a research project linking sand mining activities in Low-Income Countries to human development and environmental impacts, starting January 2023.

The project will combine a multitude of information resources to outline the interactions between local mining activities, landscape geography and urban development, with a specific focus on sub-saharan Africa. The project will also evaluate the global distribution of sand mining threats and pressures to biodiversity, how such threats are distributed across gradients in land use history and explore how protected areas mitigate sand mining impacts.

The project is flexible and could take on a methodological or applied focus depending on the interests of the student. The candidate will be supervised by Professor Iversen and Professor Bendixen and the conducted research will link to ongoing work in the labs, focusing on understanding how global sand resources are distributed and impacted by humans and how they intersect with the environment. The candidate is expected to have strong quantitative analytical skills, or a motivation to develop such, and an interest in transdisciplinary research questions spanning from ecology and landcover changes to urbanisation and natural resource usage. The ideal candidate will demonstrate a working proficiency in one or more of the programming languages commonly used in data science (e.g. Python or R) and experience in spatial hierarchical modelling (e.g. structural equation models or occupancy models).

**To apply**, please send a cover letter describing your research background, research interests, and qualifications; a copy of your most recent transcript as well as a complete curriculum vitae and contact information for at least two references to [mette.bendixen@mcgill.ca](mailto:mette.bendixen@mcgill.ca) and [lars.iversen@mcgill.ca](mailto:lars.iversen@mcgill.ca)

Further information about the Department of Biology can be found at [www.mcgill.ca/biology/](http://www.mcgill.ca/biology/) and the Department of Geography at [www.mcgill.ca/geography/](http://www.mcgill.ca/geography/). Detailed information on the research conducted in the Iversen lab can be found at [www.lifeinmud.com](http://www.lifeinmud.com) and the Bendixen lab at [www.mettebendixen.com](http://www.mettebendixen.com)

We are seeking a candidate that can start January 2023 and are strongly encouraging people from under-represented groups to apply to become part of our diverse and inclusive research groups.

**Application deadline:** May 27th, 2022. Interviews will be held medio June 2022.