

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP IN TROPICAL FOREST MANAGEMENT AND ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS, COSTA RICA .

**APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED UNTIL FEB 15<sup>TH</sup> 2010**- The Department of Environmental Studies at the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) is looking for a highly motivated Graduate (Master) student beginning May 2010 to conduct research on the relations existing between remote sensing derived data on forest structural trends, current biodiversity present in managed and natural tropical forest areas, and management practices in Costa Rica. The student will work on the avian biodiversity component of the project. She/he will spend two summers in Costa Rica conducting field work in the Sarapiquí region. Biodiversity surveys will include vegetation structure, dung beetles, butterflies, small mammals and birds.

The successful applicant should have previous experience with point count and/or transect bird monitoring of songbirds. Experience with songbirds from the region, Geographic Information Systems and knowledge of Spanish is highly desired.

This is a joint project with the Geographic Information Science Center of Excellence (GIScCE) of South Dakota State University. Funding from NASA extends until 2012. Other partner institutions include The Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Cordillera Volcánica Central (FUNDECOR) and The Tropical Agronomic Research and Higher Education center (CATIE). The position includes a graduate stipend of ~\$13,000 per year plus a tuition/fee-waiver and all expenses during the field season (transportation to Costa Rica included).

Interested individuals should fill an online application for the fall semester of 2010 before February 15<sup>th</sup> 2010 specifying they are applying to this position (see <https://app.applyyourself.com/?id=UNCW-GRAD>).

For more information about the Department and our non-thesis MA program, visit the website <http://www.uncw.edu/evs>.

Minimal requirements for consideration for unconditional admittance into the program include: successful completion of a bachelor's degree from an accredited university or college, or its equivalent; strong academic performance in an undergraduate curriculum indicated by a minimum of a GPA of 3.0 or higher, or its equivalent; indication of graduate academic potential reflected by satisfactory performance on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE); three letters of reference from professionally-relevant individuals; concurrency of personal goals with the focus of the graduate curriculum in environmental studies. Preference will be given to applicants who have a record of previous research or field experience and a strong interest in environmental management. GIS and or Remote sensing experience will also be considered a strength.