

**Postdoc position: Freshwater shells as archives of riverine geochemistry and discharge in African river basins.**

Funding is available for a joint postdoc position in the Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences at KU Leuven (Belgium, <http://ees.kuleuven.be>) and Union College Geology Department (Schenectady, NY, <http://minerva.union.edu/gillikid/>), focusing on the use of stable isotope and elemental proxies in freshwater bivalve shells as tracers for river discharge and biogeochemistry in different African river basins. This project includes both the further development and calibration of proxies (using data from various sites where aquatic proxies have been or are being monitored), and its application to both recent and archived museum shells to document changes in catchment conditions. This is a collaborative project between the two labs; the position will be based in KU Leuven with regular stays in Gillikin's lab in NY. There are excellent facilities in both labs to support this work, including laser ablation ICP-MS, micromilling, and IRMS equipment with various peripherals.

We seek a highly motivated and creative candidate with experience in the application of elemental and isotopic tracers in carbonate archives (corals, bivalves, otoliths, ..). He/she is expected to mentor a PhD student and possible MSc students working on the same project. While certain datasets (see <http://ees.kuleuven.be/project/afrival/> for ongoing work) and shell material are available, further sample collection will be required, so candidates should be able and willing to perform fieldwork in Africa to collect shells and set up or follow up existing monitoring stations. Funding is available for 2 years, with a possible extension.

Interested candidates can obtain more information by e-mailing Steven Bouillon ([steven.bouillon@ees.kuleuven.be](mailto:steven.bouillon@ees.kuleuven.be)) and David Gillikin ([gillikid@union.edu](mailto:gillikid@union.edu)).

To apply, send a motivation letter and CV (in pdf) by e-mail to both of us. We will start reviewing applications after May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 – but the position will remain open until a suitable candidate has been found. Starting date for this position would be flexible, so candidates currently still finalizing a PhD are also welcome to apply.