**THE ROYAL MUSEUM FOR CENTRAL AFRICA**

**recruits**

Scientific Employee (m/f/x)

For a fixed term contract (maximum 2 year)

**CONTEXT**

The RMCA houses a large collection of ethnographic objects, of which more than 40,000 are wooden objects (www.africamuseum.be). The collection management service is responsible for the preservation, management and exhibition of these collections. The wood biology department of the Royal Museum for Central Africa studies the anatomical structure of wood and manages the most important collection of African wood species in the world.

Proper identification of the type of wood from which objects are made is critical to sending ethnographic objects on loan or as part of traveling exhibitions. In addition, identification of wood species is an essential part of provenance research and knowledge acquisition about the geographical production areas of the objects, the possible trade routes of the objects and the preferential use of specific wood species within the different cultural groups in Congo. Knowledge of the wood used for ethnographic objects provides curators with essential information about the specific characteristics of the wood and its aging properties. Identification of a wood species by means of anatomical examination is done by sampling the wood. Ethnographic objects are unique objects and cannot be subjected to such destructive anatomical research.

Within the framework of the BRAIN research project TOCOWO (Tomography of Congolese Wooden Objects), in collaboration with UGent-Woodlab (www.woodlab.be) and UGCT (www.ugct.ugent.be), we will investigate the possibilities of advanced non-destructive imaging to identify the wood of Central African ethnographic objects. We are looking for an employee for the TOCOWO project who, as an interdisciplinary researcher in an international environment, can combine diverse and challenging tasks, including research into ethnographic wooden objects and wood samples from the African wood collection using various techniques, including micron and submicron X-ray computed tomography.

**POSITION**

As a research assistant you will carry out the following assignments:

- Creating a reference database of wood species used to make African ethnographic objects
• The analysis of a selection of wood samples and wooden ethnographic objects by means of advanced (sub) micron X-ray CT scanning
• Archival research and research into the origin of the selected wooden objects
• Publication of at least one report and a peer-reviewed article

PROFILE

• You have a Master in Wood Restoration option Wood or an MSc in Bioscience Engineering or Biology. Students who graduate in June can also apply if they can provide proof of graduation at the start of the contract.
• You have experience with wood anatomy and preferably a knowledge of wood restoration
• You can operate advanced equipment
• You have a good knowledge of English and preferably also a knowledge of Dutch and French.
• You have experience in the management and critical analysis of scientific data
• You are proactive and problem solving
• You are a team player and can consult with actors from different research fields
• You are willing to work in different locations

WE OFFER

• A full-time fixed-term contract for 24 months.
• A salary in accordance with the scales of the federal government (minimum starting salary SW10: EUR 38093,08 gross indexed annual salary).
• Attractive holiday regulations.
• Free commuting by public transport or bicycle allowance.
• A pleasant working environment in a dynamic working environment.

Discover all the information and benefits about working for the federal government on FedWeb, the federal personnel portal.

CANDIDATURE
Please send your CV with cover letter by e-mail to HR-RH@africamuseum.be with reference S/TOCOWO by June 15th-2020 at the latest.

Only applications that match the profile and that are sent within the foreseen period will be accepted and answered. Interviews are likely to take place in late June 2020

For more information about:
• the position: Siska.genbrugge@africamuseum.be or Hans.beeckman@africamuseum.be
• terms of employment: Anic Flahou, tel. 02 769 52.88
• the RMCA: www.africamuseum.be