# Master's Thesis Project description

**Title**
Interactions of climate change and landuse on functionality of forest understory plants

**Background, study question(s)/Hypotheses (max 200 words)**
Climate change alters forest ecosystems and their functionality and hereby put many important ecosystem services at risk. Forest understory plants are key to many of these services, and strongly affected by both climate change and landuse. In this project we study how these two global change drivers affect foundation plant species in forests with special focus on their interactions. We do this by a space-for-time substitution, studying plants along climatic gradients and by moving plants from colder to warmer climates, in combination with varying forest structure, density and species composition. We study how functional traits (e.g. leaf traits) of these plants respond to these gradients, as well as how the plants respond phenologically.

**Topic available from/to**
From October 2022

**Supervisor(s)**
Per-Ola Hedwall per-ola.hedwall@slu.se

Others involved:
Annika Felton
Joan Diaz Calafat
Laura Juvany Canovas

**Special conditions/requirements**
A genuine interest in forest ecology

**Other information**
In this project we offer 1-3 master theses at 30 or 60 credits. Can include work with already collected data/samples and/or own field work during summer 2023. Specific topic will be decided together with the student(s).