

## Letter of support for André Große-Stoltenberg

### To whom it may concern

André is a very talented young scientist, currently finishing his PhD on the application of field spectroscopy, hyperspectral imagery and airborne discrete return LIDAR data for invasive shrub detection and impact assessment in dune ecosystems. This workshop would give him an important opportunity to further advance in his research on state-of-the-art methods retrieving essential biodiversity variables in forest ecosystems. With his expert knowledge on airborne remote sensing, invasive species ecology, ecophysiology and vegetation structure, he will surely contribute to the success of this advanced training course especially during data acquisition and analysis.

André did already gain a EUFAR grant in 2011, which successfully initiated two projects (QUEEN funded by DFG and INSPECTED.NET funded by EU FP7). Based on the EUFAR flight data, we were able to link our field-based studies on invasive, ecosystem transforming shrub species with remote sensing. Further, André started a very productive cooperation with Dr. Jens Oldeland, University of Hamburg who joint the team, resulting so far in 5 peer-reviewed publications related to hyperspectral analysis of vegetation data with focus on classification and regression analysis. Further 3 studies including LiDAR data are in review or to be submitted.

Thus, the EUFAR summer school 2010 and the grant 2011 opened the door for his PhD project and the development of our new line of research. Accordingly, the RS4forestEBV workshop in 2017 could be similarly important to initiate André's post doc phase by expanding his network, and by adding new skills to his portfolio. Our DFG project highlighted how research on ecophysiology and impact of species on ecosystem functions, can be advanced by joining methods such thermal imagery, terrestrial and FW LiDAR, and further approaches to retrieve leaf biochemical properties such as radiative transfer models. Another important topic were data processing chains. As leading experts of the respective line of research will teach these

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methods during the training course, the RS4forestEBV workshop is a great opportunity for André to foster his scientific carrier.

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Therefore, I would be delighted if such a promising young researcher could be given the opportunity to participate in this workshop.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Werner". The "C" is capitalized and has a small dot above it. The "Werner" part is written in a cursive script.

Prof. Dr. Christiane Werner