

**Reference file number
9/2019**

Leipzig, 11 January 2018

The German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig is a National Research Centre funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Its central mission is to promote theory-driven synthesis and data-driven theory in this emerging field. The concept of iDiv encompasses the detection of biodiversity, understanding its emergence, exploring its consequences for ecosystem functions and services, and developing strategies to safeguard biodiversity under global change. It is located in the city of Leipzig and it's a central institution of the Leipzig University, jointly hosted by the Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, the Friedrich Schiller University Jena and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ). Furthermore, it gains support by the Max Planck Society, the Leibniz Association and the Free State of Saxony. More Information about iDiv: www.idiv.de.

Leipzig University offers the following position in Leipzig as soon as possible:

Doctoral Researcher

“GRAZELIFE: Grazing for wildfire prevention, ecosystem service provision, nature conservation and landscape management”

(limited until 31 December 2021, 50 % of a full-time employment)

Salary: Entgeltgruppe 13 TV-L

Background:

- Herbivory is one of the key processes operating in European natural landscapes and regulating their biodiversity. In prehistoric times, European landscapes were grazed by wild herbivores, but over the centuries, these were replaced by livestock. Currently, some of the main forms of ongoing land-use changes in the EU relate to the conversion and intensification of traditional grazing management, the continued loss of natural grazers (but also their return in some areas), and on the other hand, land abandonment in other areas.
- With the **EU-funded, international GRAZELIFE project** we want to understand the consequences of various forms of grazing management (or ‘grazing models’) for biodiversity and key ecosystem services. We further aim to quantify the cost-effectiveness of the different grazing models, and formulate policy recommendations to improve the support of beneficial grazing models.
- The successful PhD candidate will play a key role in conducting the required research to meet these objectives, and will do so by conducting a literature review, as well as collaborating with members in eight case studies from field sites with different grazing models in Portugal, Spain, Croatia, Bulgaria, Romania/Ukraine, Germany/Poland, Netherlands/Belgium and Lithuania.
- The PhD project is supervised by Dr. Guy Pe’er and Dr. Alfons van der Plas, supported by Prof. Dr. Christian Wirth as official supervisor. The PhD student will also collaborate with Dr. Francisco Moreira (CiBio/Inbio, Portugal) and Dr. Liesbeth Bakker (NIOO, Netherlands), as well as members of the NGO Rewilding Europe being the project leaders.

Job description:

- investigation of the effects of different grazing models on the biodiversity, climate change mitigation, wildfire prevention and other ecosystem services in European grasslands
- investigation of trade-offs between different grazing management objectives and to which extent different grazing models are facilitated or hampered by current agricultural policies
- reviewing/synthesizing of the existing literature, collecting inputs provided by the eight case studies across Europe
- conducting statistical analyses and performing some own field observations
- developing of policy recommendations, in close collaboration with the wider GRAZELIFE team

Requirements:

- M.Sc. in a related research discipline (e.g. ecology, environmental resource management, geography, environmental governance and policy)

- interest in and basic knowledge of relevant European policies, particularly the Common Agricultural Policy and the Habitat Directive
- strong communication skills and a high proficiency in English (both written and verbal) are essential
- experience in working within an interdisciplinary context, including the handling and understanding of both ecological and socioeconomic concepts and data, would be highly beneficial
- strong statistical skills and experience with statistical programming languages (e.g. R) would be beneficial
- work and think independently, develop and implement own ideas and persistence in completing tasks
- ability to work with various people and stakeholder groups, from various EU member states
- willingness to travel to case study areas and project meetings

We are aware that not all expertise enlisted above can be met fully. We therefore invite interested candidates to contact us for further information.

Applications are accepted until **1 February 2019**

Applications should include:

- cover letter describing motivation for the project, research interests & relevant experience (max. one page)
- short curriculum vitae listing relevant skills and qualifications, and (if available) a list of publications (max. two pages)
- digital copy of B.A. and M.Sc. certificates
- list of three referees

Applications with reference file number **9/2019** are accepted via our application portal under apply.idiv.de. We prefer applications via our application portal, hard copy applications can be sent to

**German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research – iDiv
Dr. Guy Pe'er
Deutscher Platz 5e, 04103 Leipzig.**

For queries on the application process, please contact our HR Department (hr@idiv.de); for research project questions, contact Dr. Guy Pe'er (guy.peer@ufz.de) and Dr. Alfons van der Plas (alfons.van_der_plas@uni-leipzig.de).

Applying via email is questionable under data protection law. The sender assumes full responsibility.

Severely disabled persons are encouraged to apply and will be given preference in the case of equal suitability.

Data Protection

Your personal data which is included in your application documents or obtained during the interview shall be processed exclusively for the purposes of the selection process for the advertised position. The legal basis for data processing is Article 11 Paragraph 1 of the Saxon Data Protection Implementation Act (Sächsisches Datenschutzdurchführungsgesetz) in conjunction with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The person responsible for the application process is the addressee of the application provided below in this advertisement. As part of the application process your personal data will be passed on to the following persons or departments within Leipzig University

- members of the selection committee, - the HR office,
- the Commissioner for Equal Opportunities,
- the Representative Body for Severely Disabled Employees and
- if necessary, the Staff Council

as part of their organisational or statutory responsibilities.

Your personal data will be deleted at the latest six months following completion of the selection process. In accordance with the GDPR you have the following rights vis-à-vis the addressee of the application if the relevant statutory requirements exist: right of access (Art. 15 of the GDPR), right of rectification of incorrect personal data (Art. 16 of the GDPR); data deletion (Art. 17 of the GDPR), restriction of processing (Art. 18 of the GDPR) and objection to processing (Art. 21 of the GDPR). If you have any questions, please contact the data protection officer at Leipzig University, Mr Thomas Braatz, Augustusplatz 10, 04109 Leipzig. You also have the right to lodge a complaint with the Saxon data protection commissioner.