



Reference number 82/2019

**DOCTORAL RESEARCHER (F/M/D)**  
**“VALIDATION, UNCERTAINTY ANALYSIS, AND LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENT  
OF GLOBAL LAND-USE DATA”**

Fixed term of three years, pending final approval of funding

65% FTE

Planned remuneration: salary group (*Entgeltgruppe*) 13 TV-L

The German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig seeks to fill the above position in Leipzig at the earliest opportunity (preferably in summer 2019).

**Background**

Detailed information on global land-use patterns and dynamics is crucial for biodiversity, climate, food security, and many other research fields. While the integration of new data sources and computing tools enables mapping land-use patterns and dynamics globally, the resulting gridded land-use datasets inherit tremendous uncertainties that challenge their downstream application. To advance the validation and continuous improvement of land-use datasets using cutting-edge methodologies in a highly interdisciplinary and collaborative environment, we offer an exciting three-year doctoral researcher position at the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv). The project is supervised by Dr Carsten Meyer (head of iDiv's [Macroecology & Society group](#)) in collaboration with Professor Lars Bernhard (TU Dresden's [Geoinformatics group](#)), Professor Ralf Seppelt ([Computational Landscape Ecology department](#), Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research), Professor Steffen Fritz (International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis) and others. **The German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig** is a National Research Centre funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Located in Leipzig, it is a Central Institution of Leipzig University. More information about iDiv: [www.iDiv.de](http://www.iDiv.de).

**Tasks**

- carrying out research on quantifying and reducing uncertainties in global land-use information, focusing on newly developed annual time series of multiple variables related to cropping, grazing, and forestry systems
- leading the assembly of ground-truthing information from existing databases and through a data validation campaign in the *Geo-WIKI* citizen-science platform
- contributing to the development of standardised vocabularies and best practices for land-use data and data-quality assurance
- leading the dissemination of project results via high-quality journal publications and conference presentations
- contributing to the further development of open-science, collaborative IT solutions as part of longer-lasting tools for global land-use analysis
- contributing to the management of the collaborative project (co-organisation of project meetings, etc.).

**Requirements**

- MSc or equivalent degree in a project-related field (e.g. geography, geoinformatics, geostatistics, agricultural/forestry sciences, environmental sciences, ecology)
- high motivation to develop efficient solutions for large data processing tasks
- prior experience in working with environmental/land-cover/land-use information would be advantageous
- prior experience in command line-based data analysis, open-source programming languages (e.g. Julia, Python, C++, R) and version control (Git) would be advantageous, but is not a prerequisite
- excellent English communication skills (spoken and written)
- proactive, results-oriented, with attention to detail and strong organisational skills.

**We offer**

- a three-year doctoral researcher position in a highly dynamic, collaborative and interdisciplinary working environment; note that benefits like health insurance, parental leave, and pension plans are standard parts of university jobs in Germany
- excellent networking opportunities and regular close interaction with an international network of land-use mapping experts
- access to powerful computing resources and support from iDiv's informatics units and collaborators

- The working language at iDiv is English. iDiv is a highly international centre with employees from over 30 countries and various forms of support for foreign-language employees (Welcome Centre, German classes, etc.). Leipzig is an attractive city with a rich cultural scene and beautiful surroundings, and international visitors usually find it easy to settle in.

Please apply, quoting reference number 82/2019, via our application portal at <https://apply.idiv.de> by 20/05/2019. We envisage a project start in summer 2019. Although we prefer applications via the application portal, hard-copy applications can also be sent to:

**German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research – iDiv**  
**Dr Carsten Meyer**  
**Deutscher Platz 5e, 04103 Leipzig**

**Applications should include:**

- cover letter describing your motivation, research interests and relevant experience
- CV, including a detailed account of relevant technical skills/prior experience
- access to one of your recent projects relevant for this position (e.g. paper, GitHub repository)
- PDF of your best first-authored journal publication or conference paper (if you have one) or your MSc thesis
- one letter of recommendation from a past professor/supervisor as well as contact details of two scientific referees
- digital copy of your master’s certificate (or equivalent; otherwise expected date of graduation – before start of this position – with an explanation of the current status).

Queries concerning the application process should be directed to our HR Department ([hr@idiv.de](mailto:hr@idiv.de)); for research project questions, please contact Dr Carsten Meyer ([carsten.meyer@idiv.de](mailto:carsten.meyer@idiv.de)). Severely disabled persons are encouraged to apply and will be given preference in the case of equal suitability. Please note that applying via email is not entirely secure under data protection law. The sender assumes full responsibility.

iDiv is committed to establishing and maintaining a diverse and inclusive community that collectively supports and implements our mission to do great science. We welcome, recruit, develop, and advance talented staff of all genders and backgrounds.

**Privacy information**

*The personal data contained within your application documents or obtained during the interview will be processed exclusively for the purposes of the selection process for the position advertised. The legal basis for such data processing is Section 11(1) of the Saxon Data Protection Implementation Act (Sächs DSDG) in conjunction with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The controller for the application process within the meaning of the GDPR is the addressee of the application, as specified in the respective advertisement. When processing your application, your personal data will be passed on within Leipzig University to*

- *members of the selection committee*
- *the human resources management teams*
- *the Commissioner for Equal Opportunities*
- *the Disability Officers and*
- *if necessary, the Staff Council*

*as part of their organisational or statutory responsibilities.*

*Your personal data will be erased no later than six months after completion of the selection process. In accordance with the GDPR, subject to the relevant statutory requirements you have the following rights vis-à-vis the addressee of the application with regard to your personal data: right of access (Art. 15 GDPR); right to rectification of inaccurate personal data (Art. 16 GDPR); right to erasure (Art. 17 GDPR); right to restriction of processing (Art. 18 GDPR); and right to object to processing (Art. 21 GDPR). If you have any questions, please contact the Data Protection Officer at Leipzig University (office: Augustusplatz 10, 04109 Leipzig). You also have the right to lodge a complaint with the Saxon Commissioner for Data Protection.*