



Reference number 386/2020

## **POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER (M/F/D) IN BIODIVERSITY ECONOMICS: “NATURAL CAPITAL VALUATION”**

Initially limited until 30 September 2021, extension until 30 September 2024 is planned (pending final approval of funding)

### **Job details**

75% of a full-time position

Planned remuneration: salary group 13 TV-L

Place of work: Leipzig

Leipzig University seeks to fill the above position at the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig at the earliest opportunity.

### **Background**

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. Located in the city of Leipzig, it is a central institution of Leipzig University and jointly hosted by the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, the Friedrich Schiller University Jena and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ). More Information about iDiv: [www.idiv.de](http://www.idiv.de).

The **Biodiversity Economics** research group aims at improving the scientific basis for sustainability in human-nature relationships, studying the sustainable use of renewable natural resources (e.g. marine fisheries, rangelands, forests) and conservation of biodiversity from regional to global. We study how economic incentives shape behaviour towards nature, what sustainability – understood as justice in human-nature relationships – means, and how economic policy instruments could contribute to that end. Our methodical expertise comprises quantitative ecological-economic modelling, dynamic optimization, statistics, economic experiments, conceptual modelling, game theory and capital theory. Our research group is internationally well connected. Former doctoral researchers of Martin Quaas' group now hold professorships at leading universities in North America and Europe, work for the government, or in the private sector. The research group on Biodiversity Economics was established in late 2018 at iDiv and the Faculty of Economics and Management Science at Leipzig University.

We are seeking a specialist with expertise in environmental and resource economics or ecological economics, documented by publications in leading international journals. The successful candidate will contribute to the research within the project ValuGaps (“Towards a comprehensive valuation of natural capital in Germany: Methods and approaches to deal with limited information and uncertainty”), funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) under the Research Initiative for the Conservation of Biodiversity (<https://www.feda.bio/de/>). In ValuGaps, which is coordinated by the Biodiversity Economics group, economists and ecologists from leading German Universities (Hamburg, Freiburg, FU Berlin, Leipzig) and from German governmental agencies ([Federal Agency for Nature Conservation](#); [Federal Environment Agency](#)) cooperate to develop the scientific basis for comprehensively taking into account natural capital values in policy making, accounting and planning.

Biodiversity and natural capital contribute fundamentally to human well-being. So far, societal decision-making only partly takes these values into account. One major reason are large information gaps and uncertainties. The postdoctoral project will contribute to an improved scientific basis for filling those gaps. Combining capital theory and empirical valuation, the research will contribute answers to important questions such as: where do societal decision-makers and stakeholders face the largest information gaps and uncertainties with respect to different values of biodiversity and natural capital? What are the key parameters required to value natural capital in a scalable and transferable way, and how can their values be quantified or constrained? How do uncertainties propagate when scaling, transferring or bridging values? How can societal decision-makers make best use of valuation, and how do and how should they deal with uncertainties?

The position comes without teaching obligations, but contributions to teaching on the Economics master's programme at Leipzig University are welcome. Postdoctoral researchers at iDiv benefit from the iDiv Postdoc Career Support Programme (includes courses, coaching, mentoring and networking events).

### **Tasks**

- Interdisciplinary research on major questions of biodiversity economics, especially natural capital valuation
- Writing and publishing scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals
- Presenting results at national and international conferences

- Contributions to the organization of a national and an international workshop on natural capital accounting with leading scientists and policy makers
- **Requirements**
- Excellent PhD in environmental and resource economics, ecological economics, or a closely related field of research
- Research expertise documented by publications in peer reviewed journals
- Interest and ability in interdisciplinary collaboration with economists and ecologists
- Interest and ability in transdisciplinary collaboration with federal government agencies
- Interest in policy-oriented research, governmental guidelines for natural capital accounting on both national and UN level as well as challenges to practitioners of natural capital valuation
- Research profile and plans fitting to the Biodiversity Economics group
- Excellent English communication skills (spoken and written)
- Innovative, able to work on one's own initiative
- Team-oriented and strong organizational skills

Kindly send your application, quoting reference number 386/2020, via our application portal at <https://apply.idiv.de>. While we prefer applications via this portal, hard-copy applications may also be sent to:

**German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research – iDiv**  
**Professor Martin Quaas**  
**Puschstraße 4**  
**04103 Leipzig, Germany**

**The deadline for submissions is 17 January 2021.**

**Applications should include:**

- Cover letter (in English or German) describing the applicant's motivation for the project, research interests and relevant experience
- Complete curriculum vitae including names and contact details of at least two scientific references
- Digital copy of PhD and master's certificate
- PDF of up to three publications

For queries on the application process, please contact the iDiv HR Department ([hr@idiv.de](mailto:hr@idiv.de)); for project-related questions, kindly contact Professor Martin Quaas ([martin.quaas@idiv.de](mailto:martin.quaas@idiv.de)). Severely disabled persons are encouraged to apply and will be given preference in the case of equal suitability. Please note that applying by email is not entirely secure and may pose a privacy risk. 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 will welcome, recruit, develop, and advance talented staff from diverse 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 (SächsDSDG) 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*



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*(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.*