



Reference number 290/2021

Postdoctoral Researcher (m/f/d)

“Mapping global impacts of wood harvesting dynamics on vertebrate biodiversity”

Founded in 1409, Leipzig University is one of Germany’s largest universities and a leader in research and medical training. With around 30,000 students and more than 5000 members of staff across 14 faculties, it is at the heart of the vibrant and outward-looking city of Leipzig. Leipzig University offers an innovative and international working environment as well as an exciting range of career opportunities in research, teaching, knowledge and technology transfer, infrastructure and administration.

The **German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig** seeks to fill the above position from **15 January 2022** or 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). Located in the city of Leipzig, it is a central institution of Leipzig University. More information about iDiv: www.idiv.de.

The emergence of global, high-resolution remote-sensing information spanning several decades has recently enabled major advances in mapping where and how humans exploit the world’s forest resources. Parallel advances in integrating remotely sensed information with databases on the distributions, habitat preferences, and other characteristics of thousands of animal species now offer exciting opportunities for better understanding how global wood harvesting affects biodiversity. We are offering this position to model and analyse recent global wood harvesting dynamics and their effects on biodiversity in a highly interdisciplinary and collaborative environment. The project is supervised by Dr Carsten Meyer (head of iDiv’s [Macroecology & Society](#) group) and will also involve collaborations with Dr Cornelius Senf (Technical University of Munich’s [Ecosystem Dynamics & Forest Management](#) group), other scientists at iDiv and other research institutions. The project contributes to a larger, externally funded collaborative project on monitoring the German bioeconomy.

About the position

- Fixed term, duration subject to formal approval of the external funding (expected duration: 26 months for a full-time position / 33 months for the 80 % part-time position)
- 100 % of a full-time position, part-time employment with 80 % of a full-time position possible
- Planned remuneration: salary group 13 TV-L

Duties

- Research on the global influence of wood harvesting on vertebrate biodiversity, including:
 - Mapping of global time series of forest disturbances related to wood harvesting, integrating different data types (remote sensing, forestry statistics, *in situ* data)
 - Quantification of the impacts of these forest disturbances on vertebrate species groups
 - Contributing to collaborative research on attributing wood harvesting-related changes in vertebrate biodiversity to wood-consuming sectors of the bioeconomy
- Dissemination of project results via journal publications and conference talks
- Contributing to the further development of open science, collaborative IT solutions as part of longer-lasting tools for continuous global land-use and biodiversity-change analysis
- Contributing to the management of the collaborative project (co-organisation of project meetings, annual reporting to funders, etc.).

Requirements

- PhD in a related field and interest in developing a career in science
- High motivation to work on this interdisciplinary research topic at the interface of animal ecology, forestry, and geoinformatics, ideally with pertinent prior experience
- High motivation and skills to develop efficient solutions for large processing tasks for gridded environmental information, with prior experience in command-line based geo-computation
- Good command of an open-source programming language (e.g. R, Julia, Python), and experience in / willingness to adopt version control (Git) and FAIR/reproducible data and code

- Expertise in statistical modelling in the context of ecological or environmental change questions; ideally, experience in project-relevant techniques such as meta-analysis, spatiotemporal modelling, predictive modelling, and/or hierarchical Bayesian modelling
- Prior experience in analysing land changes with remotely sensed time series data would be beneficial
- Track record of publishing in international journals (or promising PhD chapters yet to be published)
- Excellent English communication skills (spoken and written)
- Proactive/independent, results-oriented with attention to detail, and excellent team skills.

What we offer

- A highly dynamic, collaborative and interdisciplinary working environment; note that postdoctoral salaries are generous relative to the cost of living in Leipzig, and benefits like health insurance, parental leave, and pension plans are standard
- Career-building support (e.g. in proposal writing, teaching opportunities, networking at iDiv and beyond), including regular interaction with a network of biodiversity and land-use change experts and voluntary participation in our iDiv postdoc career support programme
- Access to extensive infrastructure of biodiversity, environmental, and land use databases pertinent to this project (such as integrated biodiversity change databases, species habitat models) linked to powerful computational resources and associated expertise
- 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 employees from outside of Germany (Welcome Centre, German classes, etc.)
- Leipzig is an attractive city with a rich culture and beautiful surroundings, and international visitors usually find it easy to settle in.

Please send your application, quoting **reference number 290/2021** via our application portal under <https://apply.idiv.de> by 6 December 2021. While we prefer applications via this portal, hard-copy applications may also be sent to: German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv), HR Department, Puschstraße 4, 04103 Leipzig. We kindly request that you submit copies only, as we are unable to return application documents. Interview expenses will not be reimbursed.

Leipzig University aims to increase the proportion of women in positions of responsibility and therefore expressly invites qualified women to apply. Severely disabled persons – or persons deemed legally equal to them under Book IX of the German Social Code – are encouraged to apply and will be given preference in the case of equal suitability.

Applications should include:

- Cover letter describing motivation, research interests and relevant experience
- A detailed account of relevant technical skills/prior experience
- Digital copy of PhD and master certificate (or expected date of graduation – before start of position – with explanation on current status of PhD)
- Access to one of your recent statistics/modelling projects relevant for this position (e.g. paper, GitHub repository)
- PDF of what you consider your best / most relevant first-authored journal publication (final-year PhD researchers may alternatively send copies of two first-authored manuscripts that are ‘in the pipeline’ and indicate the target journals)
- Contact details of two scientific references (e.g. past supervisors).

Queries concerning the application process should be directed to the iDiv HR Department (hr@idiv.de). For research project questions, contact Dr Carsten Meyer (carsten.meyer@idiv.de).

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 from diverse genders and backgrounds.

Privacy information

If you choose to apply and send us your documents, you do so voluntarily. Any personal data contained within your application documents, or obtained during an interview, will be processed by Leipzig University – as the advertiser of the position – exclusively for the purposes of the selection process for the position advertised. It will not be passed on to third parties without your consent in the individual case. The legal basis for such data processing is Sect. 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, specified in the advertisement. Your personal data will be stored for six months after the end of the recruitment process and then erased or destroyed in accordance with data protection regulations. You may refuse or withdraw your consent with effect for the future without giving reasons. In these cases, Leipzig University will not or no longer be able to process and consider your application. Under 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.