



Reference Number 387/2020

**POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER (M/F/D)  
IN BIODIVERSITY ECONOMICS: “ECONOMIC POTENTIAL AND RISKS OF MESOPELAGIC  
FISHERIES”**

Limited until 31 December 2023

100% 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 possible 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. 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). 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 behavior 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 modeling, dynamic optimization, statistics, economic experiments, conceptual modeling, game theory and capital theory. Our research group is internationally well connected. Former doctoral researchers of Martin Quaas' group have now 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 searching for a specialist with expertise in Natural Resource Economics documented by publications in leading international journals. The successful candidate shall contribute to the research within the project on assessing the economic potential and risks of mesopelagic fisheries, funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). Against the background of increasing food demand the potential use of new marine fishery resources is gaining more and more interest. Biologists have estimated that the global biomass of mesopelagic fishes, living in a depth range between 200 – 1000 m, may be similar order of magnitude as the other globally most important fishery resources. Whether mesopelagic fisheries might play a role in future food supply depends not only on ecological availability of the resource, but also on the economic attractiveness of harvesting.

The aim of the postdoc project is to study what are suitable management and regulation approaches for such a renewable resource with highly uncertain reproduction rate, potentially rapidly increasing demand under uncertain technological progress in food production technology and demand, and uncertain ecological side effects of resource use. The research will benefit from collaboration possibilities with natural resource economists and ecological modelers in the group and partners in the collaborative project. The position comes without teaching obligations, but contributions to teaching in the Economics Master program 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 ecological-economic and bio-economic modeling of marine fisheries
- Writing and publishing of scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals
- Presenting results at national and international conferences

## 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 ecologists
- Research profile and plans fitting to the Biodiversity Economics group
- Excellent English communication skills (spoken and written)
- Innovative, able to work on his or her own initiative
- Team-oriented and strong organizational skills

Kindly send your application, quoting reference number 387/2020, 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 Dr. Martin Quaas**  
**Puschstraße 4, 04103 Leipzig, Germany**

**The deadline for submissions is 20 January 2021.**

## Applications should include:

- cover letter (in English or German) describing motivation for the project, research interests & 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 Dr. 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 (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.*