



Reference number: 244/2021

Postdoctoral Researcher (m/f/d) in Biodiversity Economics: “Natural Capital Valuation”

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 at the earliest opportunity.

About the position

- Fixed term of 3 years (depending on final approval of funding)
- 100% of a full-time position
- Planned remuneration: salary group E13 TV-L

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

The **Biodiversity Economics 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. The research group studies 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. Its methodical expertise comprises quantitative ecological-economic modelling, dynamic optimization, statistics, economic experiments, conceptual modelling, game theory and capital theory. The 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 in 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 federal governmental agencies (Federal Agency for Nature Conservation; German Environment Agency) cooperate to develop the scientific basis for comprehensively taking into account natural capital values in policy making, accounting and planning.

The candidate will contribute to improving the scientific basis for comprehensive natural capital valuation in Germany as part of the ValuGaps project. 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 non-market 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? How can societal decision-makers make best use of valuation, and how do and how should they deal with limited information?

Duties

- Independent research on natural capital valuation as part of the work package “scaling, transferring and bridging natural capital values” within the ValuGaps project
- Research contributions to improve methods for natural capital and biodiversity valuation in interdisciplinary cooperation with the other ValuGaps work packages.
- Transdisciplinary cooperation with stakeholders for national capital valuation in Germany, including government agencies, NGOs and the private sector
- Ambitious research leading to peer-reviewed publications and presentations on international conferences.

Requirements

- PhD in economics or a related field
- Experience in ecological, environmental and resource economics or a quantitative sustainability science
- Good skills in modelling or in statistical data analysis or in survey design and field experiments
- Ability for interdisciplinary collaboration (specifically with biologists and social science)
- Ability for transdisciplinary collaboration with federal government agencies and stakeholders of natural capital valuation
- Excellent English language skills (speaking and writing)
- Proactive/independent, results-oriented with attention to detail, and with excellent team skills
- Advantageous: experience in non-market valuation
- High motivation to improve the practice of natural capital valuation.

What we offer

- A highly dynamic, collaborative and interdisciplinary working environment
- Goal-oriented staff development throughout your working life, with opportunities for continuing professional development
- 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)
- Flexible working hours, mobile working and work-life balance
- Pension plan and discounted local public transport ticket (MDV-Job-Ticket)
- 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.).

Please send your application, quoting **reference number 244/2021** via our application portal under <https://apply.idiv.de> by 8 October 2021. 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. 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 (in English or German) describing the applicant’s motivation for the project, research interests and relevant experience
- 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); for questions related to the ValuGaps project and duties of the position kindly contact Jasper Meya (jasper.meya@idiv.de); for questions related to the Biodiversity Economics Group kindly contact Martin Quaas (martin.quaas@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 will 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.