Modern, interconnected, conscious of tradition: Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU) is the oldest and largest university in the State of Saxony-Anhalt with a history dating back more than 500 years. Today more than 20,000 students are enrolled at the university. MLU’s core research areas are in the nanosciences and biosciences, the Enlightenment, as well as in social and cultural research. The university is also home to a range of small disciplines, some of which can be found nowhere else in Germany. The university has excellent national and international ties, and works closely together with leading research institutes, industry, and more than 250 universities around the world.

The Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, in cooperation with the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig, offers the following position in Leipzig, starting as soon as possible (preferably 1 February 2023) and for 36 months:

**PhD Researcher for NaturaConnect (m/f/d)**
as part-time employment (65%).

The salary will be up to Entgeltgruppe 13 TV-L, if the personal requirements and tasks are fulfilled. The workplace will be in Leipzig in the Biodiversity Conservation research group.

**The project and research group:**
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 integrative biodiversity research. It is located in the city of Leipzig and it is a central institution of the Leipzig University, jointly hosted by the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU), the Friedrich Schiller University Jena and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ). More information about iDiv: [www.idiv.de](http://www.idiv.de).

This position is affiliated with the Biodiversity Conservation Professorship of Prof. Henrique Pereira. The Biodiversity Conservation group investigates patterns and processes of global biodiversity change, with the goal of informing environmental policy and management of ecosystems. For more information, please visit our lab website: [www.idiv.de/research/idiv_core_groups/biodiversity_conservation.html](http://www.idiv.de/research/idiv_core_groups/biodiversity_conservation.html).

This position is funded by the Horizon Europe research project “NaturaConnect: Designing a resilient and coherent Trans-European Network for Nature and People“. NaturaConnect aims to support the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, through an integration of interdisciplinary research and stakeholder engagement across scales, to develop spatial planning policy supporting tools. The research will be done in collaboration with a consortium of 20 partner institutions including scientific institutes across Europe and some of the major European NGOs. It will involve a co-design process involving key stakeholders at multiple levels, from the European commission to National authorities and protected area managers.

The successful candidate will develop a PhD research project aimed at developing scientific support tools for the implementation of a Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N). She or he will contribute to demonstrate, assess, and enhance the workflows for protected area and corridor planning at the European scale, investigating applications in the six case studies of NaturaConnect.
Tasks:
- Develop a biodiversity monitoring system for TEN-N
- Apply the nature futures framework to assess the resilience of TEN-N under future scenarios and by modelling species-based ecosystem services
- Contribute to the research on European-scale connectivity planning
- Contribute to the research on the implementation of TEN-N with EU policy makers and in the 6 case studies
- Participate in project meetings and activities with stakeholders
- Write scientific papers of the research
- Contribute to writing the project deliverables

Requirements:
- A scientific University degree (Diploma/ M.Sc.) in biology, environmental science, or a related field
- Good statistical and spatial analysis skills
- Good knowledge of GIS software and statistical programming: R, ArcGIS, QuantumGIS
- Ecological modelling skills
- Strong communication skills in English

The Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg gives priority to applications from severely disabled candidates with equivalent qualifications. Women are particularly encouraged to apply. Applicants with a degree that was not obtained at a German higher education institution must submit a Statement of Comparability for Foreign Higher Education Qualifications from the Central Office for Foreign Education (Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen) to prove equivalence. This Statement can also be submitted after successful completion of the hiring process.

Queries concerning the application process should be directed to hr@idiv.de. For queries about the research project please contact Prof. Henrique M. Pereira (hpereira@idiv.de).

Please submit your full application dossier in English with registration number 4-12551/22-D until 01.12.2022. Applications should be submitted via our iDiv application portal at https://apply.idiv.de. Applications should include a motivation letter tailored to the research project, a curriculum vitae, a digital copy of Master's degree/Diploma, a publication record and names of two senior scientists who could serve as possible references. Application portfolios will not be returned, application costs will not be reimbursed.

This announcement is subject to possible budgetary restrictions.

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.