Reference number 353/2023

**Doctoral researcher (m/f/d) on the project “The Jena Experiment Subproject 7: Soil multistability”**

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** 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 **Jena Experiment** is a DFG Research Unit that explores the ecological and evolutionary mechanisms of long-term biodiversity-ecosystem functioning and stability relationships (FOR 5000-2). Prior research predominantly focused on the magnitude of various ecosystem functions rather than on their stability, and mechanistic insights into biodiversity-stability relationships are especially lacking. It is thus key to continue developing a whole-ecosystem perspective in BEF research. In this interdisciplinary project, we propose to focus on the **biodiversity drivers of ecosystem stability**, including **temporal stability** using unique time series and **stability in response to extreme climate events**, such as drought, flooding, hot spells, and exceptional frost periods. The main hypothesis is that (multifunctional) stability is highest in high plant diversity plots, and biodiversity-stability relationships increase over time due to a variety of forms of ecological complementarity. In this context, **Subproject 07** has the overall objective to study multidimensional **soil stability** as affected by plant diversity. We designed three coordinated work packages (WPs) to comprehensively assess **soil multistability** to environmental fluctuations and climate extremes by considering the biological, chemical, and physical dimensions that are key for soil functioning.

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

**About the position**
- Fixed term of 4 years
- 65% of a full-time position
- Planned remuneration: salary group E13 TV-L
- Place of work: Leipzig.

**Duties**
- Novel research on major questions of biodiversity ecosystem functioning and biodiversity stability research
- Field work, work in the iDiv Ecotron, and laboratory analysis through repeated soil sampling throughout the year
- Mixed-model analysis of variance, time-series analysis, moving-window analysis, and structural equation modelling
- Writing and publication of scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals
- Presentation of results at national and international conferences.

**Requirements**
- Master’s or equivalent degree in ecology or a closely related field of research (e.g. soil science, Earth sciences, biogeochemistry, environmental science, biology)
- Expertise in plant and/or soil ecology
- Interest and ability to work with different ecologists on an interdisciplinary basis
- Strong statistical skills in R
• Experience of plant and/or soil-related field and laboratory work
• Excellent English communication skills (spoken and written)
• Team player with strong organisational skills
• Driver’s licence an advantage.

What we offer
• Cutting-edge field and laboratory research projects
• Excellent interdisciplinary and integrative research environment with many networking opportunities
• Individual supervision by internationally recognised scientists in molecular and ecological research with a strong focus on abiotic and biotic interactions
• A modern workplace and attractive working conditions (mobile working)
• Flexible working hours and work-life balance
• Commuter pass for the MDV network.

Please send your application with the usual documents, quoting reference number 353/2023 via our application portal at https://apply.idiv.de by 7 January 2024. Please refer to the requirements and duties in your cover letter. Although we prefer applications via our application portal, they can also be sent by postal mail to the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) – Halle-Jena-Leipzig, Professor Nico Eisenhauer, Puschstr. 4, 04103 Leipzig. Please note that it is not possible to guarantee confidentiality and rule out unauthorised access by third parties when communicating by unencrypted email. We kindly request that you submit copies only, as we are unable to return application documents. Interview expenses will not be reimbursed.

For project-related questions, please contact Professor Nico Eisenhauer (nico.eisenhauer@idiv.de). For queries on the application process, please contact our iDiv HR Department (hr@idiv.de).

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.

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. II(1) of the Saxon Data Protection Implementation Act (SächsDSG) 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.