

Leipzig, April 06, 2017

Leipzig University offers the following position:

**Doctoral fellowship**

(limited to 3 years, 65 percent of a full-time employment)

Salary: Entgeltgruppe 13 TV-L

**“Influence of land governance on global land-cover and biodiversity change”**

**Background:**

“Land governance” describes the system of policies and institutions by which land and associated natural resources are managed. This includes access to land, tenure rights, land use, and land development. The quality of land governance systems differs greatly among countries, and is believed to affect the severity of environmental changes such as deforestation or biodiversity loss. However, partly because land governance research has traditionally been dominated by qualitative and highly contextualized studies, we lack empirical information and a quantitative understanding of how different aspects of land governance determine global environmental changes, such as changes in land use, land cover, or biodiversity, over broad spatial scales.

**Topic/job description:**

- development of global datasets on selected aspects of land governance (e.g. on land ownership, access rights, or land-management plans)
- quantitative research on the effects of land governance on global environmental change (e.g. land-cover, land-use, or biodiversity change)
- engagement with data-owners (e.g. through data requests, online surveys, interviews)
- collaboration with scientists and technicians at iDiv and partner institutions
- dissemination of results through peer-reviewed publications and conference presentations

**Requirements/expected profile:**

- Applicants should hold a Master’s degree in a related field of research (e.g. geography, environmental sciences, political sciences, natural resource management, forestry, geo-informatics, etc.).
- We seek candidates who are motivated to approach land governance in a highly synthetic and data-driven way.
- A distinct inclination to interdisciplinary research and exchange, and teamwork is important.
- The successful candidate should be willing to acquire the necessary technical skills for handling large datasets (e.g. programming, database development); prior experience is advantageous but not a prerequisite. An inclination to work with empirical data, however, is required.
- Candidates should have excellent English communication skills, and the ambition to publish in internationally leading journals.
- Data on land governance are often held by institutions with a limited capacity or willingness to share information. Therefore, we seek candidates with the ability to interact professionally, yet persistently, with data owners from diverse professional and cultural backgrounds (e.g. employees of land administration offices or environmental NGOs). Communication skills in widely spoken languages beyond English will be advantageous.

We offer you a three-year PhD position at the **German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv)**, affiliated with Leipzig University. The **first semester** will be at the **Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM) of VU Amsterdam**. The project is supervised by Dr Carsten Meyer (head of iDiv’s Macroecology & Society group; [www.idiv.de/macroecosociety](http://www.idiv.de/macroecosociety)). Depending on the research directions and interests of the PhD, co-supervision at iDiv or a partnering institution is envisaged (e.g. Prof Henrique Pereira, Prof Irene Ring, Prof Ralf Seppelt). Applicants are encouraged to contact Dr Meyer beforehand for further details ([carsten.meyer@idiv.de](mailto:carsten.meyer@idiv.de)).

**Applications** are accepted until **May 17, 2017**, via our applicant portal under <https://apply.idiv.de>. Hard copy applications can be sent to German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research - iDiv; Dr Carsten Meyer; Deutscher Platz 5e; 04103 Leipzig. All selected candidates will be invited to the **joint recruitment symposium on June 22-23, 2017**. For queries on the application process, please contact [ydiv@idiv.de](mailto:ydiv@idiv.de).

All applications should be written in English and include the following documents:

- cover letter describing motivation, research interests & relevant experience
- detailed curriculum vitae in tabular form
- one letter of recommendation
- contact information of former professor(s) or supervisor(s) who know the applicant
- MA/BA/Diploma certificates
- a copy of the Master’s thesis

We promote greater diversity in science. Women are strongly encouraged to apply.

Severely disabled persons will be given preference in the case of equal suitability.

Applying via email is questionable under data protection law. The sender assumes full responsibility.

The **German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv)** is a DFG National Research Centre located in Leipzig and jointly hosted by the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU), the Friedrich Schiller University Jena (FSU), the Leipzig University (UL) and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ). Its central mission is to promote theory-driven synthesis and data-driven theory in the emerging field of Biodiversity Science. The concept of iDiv encompasses the detection of biodiversity, understanding its emergence, exploring its consequences for ecosystem functions and services, and developing strategies to safeguard biodiversity under global change.