



iDiv

German Centre for Integrative
Biodiversity Research (iDiv)
Halle-Jena-Leipzig

External Job Announcement Reg.-Nr. 4-9814/21-D

The Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, in cooperation with the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig, offers the following position at the earliest possible starting date and limited until 30 September 2024:

Postdoctoral Researcher (m/f/d) for the strategic project „sPlot – the global vegetation plot database“

as full-time employment (100%).

The salary will be up to Entgeltgruppe 13 TV-L, if the personal requirements and tasks are fulfilled. The workplace will be in Halle (Saale) in the research group of Prof. Helge Bruelheide in the Institute of Biology/ Geobotany and Botanical Garden, which offers an international working atmosphere and focuses on functional biodiversity research in forests and grasslands as well as on biogeography and vegetation ecology.

The project:

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, the Friedrich Schiller University Jena and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ). More information about iDiv: www.idiv.de.

sPlot is a strategic project of iDiv and the first global vegetation plot database with currently two million plots and aims at analysing the global patterns of plant community trait-environment relationships. It serves the global community of vegetation ecologists (www.idiv.de/splot). Project development of sPlot will be in close cooperation with other iDiv researchers in Leipzig and the principal investigators in the global sPlot consortium. Postdoctoral researchers at iDiv benefit from the [iDiv Postdoc Career Support Programme](#), which includes courses, coaching, mentoring and networking events.

Tasks:

- Expanding and updating the sPlot database to release version 4.0, in particular filling gaps in tropical regions and including vegetation plot time series
- Independent research on the sPlot platform, development of own research projects
- Data analysis by integration of vegetation plot data with trait, phylogeny, environment and remote sensing data
- Writing publications for international journals and presenting results at international conferences
- Organizing the sPlot consortium, support of current sPlot projects, communication with sPlot members and preparing workshops
- Active involvement in iDiv activities
- There is the possibility to participate in teaching and mentoring of interns, Bachelor and/or Master students

Requirements:

- Scientific University degree (Diploma/ M.Sc.) in Biology, Ecology, Biodiversity Research or a related field
- Doctoral degree (rer. nat. or PhD) in Plant Ecology, Vegetation Ecology, Functional trait analysis, Biogeography or Macroecology
- Extensive experience in ecoinformatics and with large databases, in particular vegetation-plot databases
- Deep knowledge of data integration, data analysis and statistical modelling with the statistical software R, with a focus on multivariate methods, temporal trend analysis, spatial statistics and randomization techniques
- Excellent publication record in international journals, with a focus on vegetation science, functional trait analysis and macroecology
- Fluent English skills (spoken and written language)
- basic knowledge of German is an asset but not required
- Outstanding communication skills and the ability to work in large teams

The Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg gives priority to applications from severely disabled candidates with equivalent qualifications. Women are particularly encouraged to apply.

Queries concerning the application process should be directed to Helge Bruelheide (helge.brueh-heide@botanik.uni-halle.de, Tel.: +49-345-55-26222).

Please submit your full application dossier with registration number 4-9814/21-D until 31 August 2021. Applications should be submitted via our iDiv application portal at <https://apply.idiv.de>.

All applications should include:

- Cover letter describing motivation for the project, research interests and relevant experience
- Curriculum vitae including a complete publication list
- digital copies of certificates such as master and PhD certificates,
- names and email addresses of two references who could provide an evaluation of the candidate upon request.

The position is offered with reservation of possible budgetary restrictions. Application portfolios will not be returned, application costs will not be reimbursed.

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.