



The Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) seeks a

## **Postdoc Position in Ecology/Biodiversity**

### **Responsibilities**

Research within the DFG project *The Jena Experiment* (<http://www.the-jena-experiment.de/>) with focus on *Species coexistence mechanisms as a basis for biodiversity maintenance and ecosystem functioning*. Research will focus on analysis of the time course of population dynamics in the plant communities of the Jena Experiment to test for multiple mechanisms of species coexistence. Research will include (1) applying competitive network theory to test for the possibility to predict species competitive ranks from pair-wise competition matrices in plant communities of varying diversity, (2) analyzing the negative frequency-dependency of population growth, and its relationship to various predictors related to stabilizing mechanisms and relative fitness differences, (3) exploring how species coexistence mechanisms are related to multiple ecosystem functions and their temporal variability, and (4) studying in a phytometer experiment in the field how plant-soil feedback affects plant performance. The core task of the project will be the analysis of long-term data and their interpretation and presentation of results at national and international conferences. Tasks will also involve the organization of a workshop and field work in the Jena Experiment.

### **Requirements**

We search a highly motivated researcher with the ability to work both independently and in team. Applicants must have a recent doctoral degree in ecology and have published in international journals. The candidate should be familiar with coexistence theory and diversity-ecosystem functioning research. He/she should have strong skills in data analyses and statistical modelling (preferably R) and strong interest in performing synthesis analyses. Fluent in English is required and fluent in German is desirable. Driving license is required.

### **Additional benefits**

The research will be carried out within a 2-year project (starting in summer of 2016). Payment will be according to the TVöD public sector tariff (TVöD-E13, 100%, 39h/week). The position will be based in the Department Physiological Diversity of the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, which is part of the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig. Working place is Leipzig with a six-month stay in the Plant Ecology Group at the University of Berne (Switzerland). We offer an interesting position in an international, interdisciplinary research group at a lively scientific environment in Leipzig (<https://www.ufz.de/index.php?en=33124>) and Berne (<http://www.botany.unibe.ch/planteco/index.php>) as well as international working experiences with project partners across Europe and the USA.

### **Application**

Please send your complete application via the online application system to the UFZ, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research using the following link (<https://recruitingapp-5128.de.umantis.com/Vacancies/673/Description/2>). Applicants should send their CV, copies of

certificates, a statement on motivation for studying mechanisms of species coexistence in the context of biodiversity-ecosystem functioning research and names (with email address) of two references by email in one single pdf file. Application deadline is 20th March 2016, and interviews will be in April in Leipzig, Germany. Further information can be obtained via PD Dr. Christiane Roscher (christiane.roscher@ufz.de).