

The Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ is a research institution within the Helmholtz Association. It provides scientific contributions to the safeguarding of the natural basis of life and of human development potentialities for current and future generations under the challenges of global and climate change. In this way the UFZ contributes towards a sustainable development.

The **Department of Conservation Biology** is offering a position for a

PhD Student (m/f)

available for 36 months and preferentially starting August within the project

BILL (Birds in Illuminated Landscapes) - The ecological consequences of artificial night light on bird populations

which is part of the large interdisciplinary BMBF-Project "Loss of the Night – Causes and consequences of artificial illumination on environment, nature, and society."

Artificial lighting has transformed civilisation and certainly enhanced the quality of life, but these benefits have been accompanied by major hidden costs, leading to substantial ecological and environmental degradations and causing undesirable social, economic, and human health consequences. Light pollution is now a widely accepted concept for any unwanted or nuisance artificial light that has adverse effects on nature and humans. Nevertheless, our understanding of the adverse effects of light pollution is vague and based mostly on purely observational case studies.

In BILL we will study the impact of artificial night light on structural, reproductive, and physiological parameters of urban and rural bird populations, as well as on individual behaviour.

Applicants should hold a Diploma or MSc in animal ecology and have excellent experience in ornithological field work. Good knowledge in animal physiology, skills in statistics, and experience in handling of space and time related data sets are essential. The ideal candidate would have already published results from diploma/master's thesis. We seek a scientist who is highly motivated to work within a team with a broad range of scientific backgrounds and has an interest both in basic and applied issues of conservation biology.

The place of work is Leipzig, Germany. Salary will be according to the appropriate civil service level TVÖD 13 (50%). The successful candidates will be working in a highly interdisciplinary research environment with excellently equipped facilities. The PhD students participate in the newly established Graduate School HIGRADE (<http://www.ufz.de/index.php?en=11429>).

Women are explicitly encouraged to apply to increase their share in science and research. Physically handicapped persons will be favoured if they are equally qualified.

Further Information:

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Please send your complete application documents including contact information for 2-3 references until 16.07.2010 under the code digit 72/2010 to the personnel department, P.O. Box 500136, D-04301 Leipzig, Germany or by E-Mail to application@ufz.de.