

27 April 2011

**Call for a Research Assistants (HiWi) and/or a Diploma/Master's student
on the topic of Dispersal**

Topic:

The movement of animals between habitat patches, in the process of dispersal, is fundamental for the persistence of populations (and metapopulations) in fragmented landscapes. The growing interest in considering how dispersal and connectivity affect the response of species to climate change and land-use changes, is reflected by a growing number of empirical studies and models that focus on dispersal or consider it within a larger framework.

In order to analyze how functional connectivity affects the persistence of animal species and their response to climate change across scales, we seek a **research assistant (HiWi)** for two-three months, or a **Diploma/Master's student** for a period of three to six months.

The person would assist in a) reviewing the dispersal literature; b) retrieving and organizing species-specific data from focal case-studies; c) analyzing the relations between morphological traits and dispersal capacities; and, depending on interest and skills, may d) parameterize and implement an individual-based simulation in order to assess connectivity for selected species in Europe. The work will be conducted within the project SCALES (www.scales-project.net).

Requirements:

The successful candidate should have studied (or currently study) Biology, Ecology or a related topic, and has acquired some familiarity with conservation biology, spatial ecology, and the topics of connectivity and dispersal.

Experience with databases, using Excel and/or Access, is highly beneficial.

GIS skills, programming experience (e.g. R, Delphi or C++) or statistical skills or are beneficial but not essential.

Duration of work:

Two to Three months in case of "HiWi", or 4-6 months for a student, starting immediately. This call therefore remains open until the position is filled.

Place of work:

Dept. of Conservation Biology, UFZ - Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Leipzig, Germany.

To apply, please send a short CV (up to 2 pages) and a short letter explaining your interests and relevant skills, to Dr. Guy Pe'er, guy.peer@ufz.de.

For further questions please contact by email or at +49-341-2351646.