

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 Community Ecology** at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research GmbH - UFZ is offering a position for three years within the BMBF funded project project „**LEGATO – Land-use intensity and ecological engineering – assessment tools for risks and opportunities in irrigated rice based production systems**”

**for a PhD student (Early Stage Researcher) (f/m)
code digit 3/2012**

LEGATO is a multidisciplinary project investigating the dependence of ecosystem functions and ecosystem services on land use intensity and biodiversity, and the potential impacts of future climate and land use change in landscapes shaped by irrigated rice production systems **in South-East Asia** (e.g. The Philippines, Vietnam). The consortium of LEGATO includes many international and national partners from different disciplines of natural and social sciences. Further information is available under www.legato-project.net.

Within LEGATO the applicant will work on the topic:

“Effects of land-use on multitrophic interactions in rice-dominated landscapes in South-East Asia”

In close cooperation with other scientists of the project, the successful candidate will conduct experiments in the study regions and in the lab with focus on **land-use effects on trophic interactions between plants, herbivores and their natural enemies as well as soil biota**. The work will involve the assessment of functional links between invertebrate decomposers and plant-associated herbivores and their natural enemies.

The candidate should hold a master degree or diploma in biology or related disciplines. Expertise in basic experimental ecology and data analysis as well as motivation for team work is required. Experience in entomology and soil ecology will be appreciated. We further expect creativity in problem solving and integrative skills. The place of work is Halle, however, several stays at the cooperating institutes are required. Salary and terms of employment will be according to the appropriate civil service level TVöD E13 (50%). The PhD students participate in the established Helmholtz Graduate School HIGRADE (<http://www.ufz.de/index.php?en=11429>).

Earliest start date: 01.March 2012

The position is intended for three years but initially limited to 31st August 2012. The extension to three years is subject to release of funds after the project's successful mid-term evaluation.

The UFZ is an equal opportunity employer. Women are explicitly encouraged to apply for increase their share in science and research. Physically handicapped persons will be favoured if they are equally qualified.

Further Information can be obtained from:

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Applications are taken until 10. February 2012. Please send your complete application documents including a CV, motivation letter and copy of certificates under the code digit **3/2012** to the personnel department, P.O. Box 500136, D-04301 Leipzig, Germany or by e-mail to application@ufz.de.