

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.

Within the Helmholtz research initiative TERENO and the European research infrastructure ICOS, the Department Computational Hydrosystems of the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ, Leipzig, Germany is seeking a motivated candidate for a

Researcher (Post-Doc) f/m (code-digit 147/2011)

to determine and analyse the carbon and water balances of different ecosystems within the Harz region in central Germany.

The appointment is for an initial period of 2 years starting January 2012; an extension for additional 2 years is foreseen depending on the most-likely approval of regular ICOS-Germany funding.

This sub-project focuses on the ecological and hydrological dimensions of TERENO and ICOS, in the areas of micrometeorology, hydrology, forestry and tree physiology. During the pilot and demonstration phase of ICOS, basic measurements will be established for the determination of the full carbon and water balance of a forest and a grassland ecosystem.

Tasks:

She/he should have the goal to understand the hydrological and carbon cycles of different ecosystems. Her/his workload includes, but is not limited to the design and implementation of studies in the field of plant-atmosphere interactions. The successful candidate should have experience in analysis, interpretation and synthesis of ecological field data with respect to carbon and water balance measurements acquired in different ecosystems such as:

- Analysis of soil respiration measurements (continuous and survey)
- Measurements of LAI, biomass, stem increment, etc.
- Interpretation of water balance measurements (sap flow, through fall, soil moisture)
- Support of maintenance work at the field sites

Planned installation designs should help to answer questions related to the effects of environmental changes on trace gas exchange (CO₂, water and CH₄) and how vegetation processes interact with soil and atmospheric processes. A strong focus is on the quantitative understanding of underlying mechanisms, also to test and improve a soil-vegetation-atmosphere transfer (SVAT) model. Experience with numerical data analysis and scientific programming is an asset. Applicants are expected to hold a PhD in ecosystem science, hydrology, forestry or related fields.

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We offer excellent research opportunities within an interdisciplinary, international team, located in the very pleasant city of Leipzig. We rely on a strong interest in team work and cooperation within the department. The department is well connected to national and international research programs (e.g. Tereno, Reklim, ICOS, Fluxnet).

Salary will be according to the appropriate German civil service level 13, TVÖD, depending on experience.

The UFZ is an equal opportunity employer. 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.

Please send your application with curriculum vitae, certificates of academic degrees and reprints publications under the code digit 147/2011. Please email your application with all documents in a single pdf-file that states your name and the reference number of this job description (e.g. Smith_Peter_147_2011.pdf) to application@ufz.de, or by mail to: UFZ, personnel department, P.O. Box 500136, D-04301 Leipzig, Germany. Applications are taken until the position is filled.