

PhD position (m/f/d) in Animal Ecology

Safeguarding wild pollinator diversity and ecosystem functions

Background: Pollinator diversity and associated ecosystem services are at risk due to the combined pressures of global land use and climate change. However a systematic assessment of multiple pressures on pollinator communities with a causal understanding of pollinator declines is missing. In particular, integrative studies on interactions between protected habitats and the surrounding landscape are required to develop novel regional management schemes and ensure long-term conservation of wild pollinators and insect-pollinated plants.

In the EU project SAFEGUARD, researchers, NGOs, and policy experts from 25 partner institutions aim to reverse the losses of wild pollinators. SAFEGUARD will assess the status and trends of European wild pollinators, establish empirical research for a systematic multiscale assessment of multiple pressures on pollinators, improve understanding of the diverse values of European pollinators, develop and test multiple interventions to benefit pollinators, from field to landscape scales and co-develop mitigation strategies to halt pollinator declines at local, national, and EU levels.

Requirements: We are seeking a highly motivated PhD student with strong interest and expertise in insect ecology and landscape ecology. Applicants should have a MSc. or Diploma degree in ecology or related disciplines and skills in several of the following areas: experimental field research (e.g. plant-insect interactions, pollinator monitoring), practical skills in insect identification, use of GIS and statistical data analysis (preferably in R), and scientific writing in English. A driver license, physical fitness and very good language skills in English are required. The candidate is expected to work both individually and in close collaboration with European partners in an interdisciplinary and international project with field study sites across Europe. The PhD position will be located in the Department of Animal Ecology and Tropical Biology (<http://www.zoo3.biozentrum.uni-wuerzburg.de/en/>) at University of Würzburg. For further information please contact:

Prof. Dr. Ingolf Steffan-Dewenter (ingolf.steffan@uni-wuerzburg.de)

Salary and conditions: Salary and benefits are according to public service positions in Germany (TV-L, 65%). Start date: **1st October 2021**. The planned duration of the project is three years. We offer the membership in an international research team, modern facilities and a structured graduate training program. Würzburg University is an equal opportunities employer and places particular emphasis on fostering career opportunities for women. Qualified women are therefore strongly encouraged to apply. Disabled persons with equivalent aptitude will be favored.

Applications: Please send your application as **one single pdf file** per email to michaela.jaeger@uni-wuerzburg.de latest until **27 June 2021**. Applications should include a cover letter, a short summary of research interests, CV, complete certificates, and the names (with email addresses) of two potential referees.