

**27 April 2011**

**Call for a Research Assistants (HiWi) and/or a Diploma/Master's student  
on the topic of Population Viability Analyses (PVA models)**

**Topic:**

Population Viability Analyses (PVAs) serve as important tools in nature conservation. Thus far, hundreds if not thousands of PVAs have been developed and applied for various purposes, most of which are applied in nature.

While conservation planning and species' protection often involve the question what the minimum area requirement (MAR) of a species is, PVA studies use a variety of viability measures, and only few provide an explicit answer about the area requirements of species.

For a review of PVA literature and an analysis of an existing PVA database, which summarizes the results of 85 published PVAs, we seek a **research assistant (HiWi)** or a **Diploma/ Master's student**. The person would be responsible for scanning the published literature and the database, in search for **statistical** or **mathematical** approaches to derive information about MAR despite the diversity of viability measures provided. Outcomes of the work will advance the tools for conservation across Europe, within the project SCALES ([www.scales-project.net](http://www.scales-project.net)).

**Requirements:**

The successful candidate should have studied (or currently study) **biology**, ecology, **system sciences**, or **mathematics**. Familiarity with topics such as population dynamics, spatial ecology and the protection of species at risk is highly beneficial.

Experience with databases, especially **Access**, is essential.

Programming experience (e.g. R, Delphi or C++) or statistical skills 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, or alternatively at the Dept. of Environmental Studies, University of the Aegean, Mytilini, Greece (with Prof. Yiannis Matsinos).

**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](mailto:guy.peer@ufz.de).

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