



The Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW) is one of eight research institutes in the Forschungsverbund Berlin e. V. and a member of the Leibniz-Gemeinschaft. They are jointly funded by the German federal and state governments.

We study the diversity of animal life with special emphasis on evolutionary adaptations, wildlife diseases, reproductive biology and biological conservation.

Within the framework of 'SPP 1596 – ecology and species barriers in emerging viral diseases', the Department of Evolutionary Ecology offers (beginning 1 April 2013) a

PhD-Position

on **The Resilience and Virus Ecology of Palearctic Bats**

(Reference number 04/2013)

Viral spill-overs into human populations have been increasingly observed over the past decades, probably as a result of the increasing encroachment of humans in natural ecosystems. Changes in anthropogenic land use frequently increase the contact zone between wildlife and humans (ecological driver), yet it is unknown whether habitat disturbances promote virus prevalence in wildlife species via physiological drivers as well. In the proposed work, we will study the chronic stress, immune competence and virus load of Southeast Asian bats in pristine, logged and fragmented habitats. The candidate will engage in both extensive field work at remote and wild places and laboratory work.

Specific tasks

- Catching and handling of bats during field work in Malaysian Borneo (Sabah);
- Sample collection;
- Administrative work for exporting and importing samples;
- Laboratory work in an immunological and/or virological laboratory;
- Data analyses and writing of scientific papers.

Requirements

- Diploma or Master in Biology (Zoology);
- Strong background in conservation ecology, tropical biology and/or animal physiology;
- Above average achievements in undergraduate studies;
- Expertise in immunological and/or genetic techniques;
- Profound knowledge of statistics;
- Organizational skills and ability to work under difficult conditions in a team;
- Profound knowledge of English (speaking and writing).

The position is limited for two years with a possible extension for another year. The reimbursement occurs to TVöD 13 (65 %). The IZW is an equal opportunity employer. Applications from women are strongly encouraged. Preference will be given to disabled applicants with the same qualifications. For further information please contact Dr. Christian Voigt (+49(0)30-5168-517 or e-mail voigt@izw-berlin.de).

Applicants should submit a letter explaining their interests in and particular skills for this position, a CV, a summary of their Diploma or Master Thesis, two letters of recommendation and publication list (if available) preferentially before **February 15, 2013**. We will consider applications until the position is filled.

Applications should be sent to: Leibniz-Institut für Zoo- und Wildtierforschung im Forschungsverbund Berlin e. V., Personalabteilung, Postfach 700 430, 10324 Berlin, personal@izw-berlin.de