

Newsletter April 2024

Dear reader,

Spring is here! At least in the northern hemisphere, nature is coming to life: birds are chirping, plants are growing and the first warm days invite you to spend time outside. In Germany, popular outdoor sports such as hiking, climbing or cycling are starting their season.

However, this pleasure is being overshadowed by the increasingly obvious effects of climate change – including the threat it poses to biodiversity. Around 1.8 million species of animals, plants and fungi have been described worldwide, which is only a fraction of the estimated total. Many scientists fear that “new” species will become extinct before even being discovered.

With this issue’s spotlight on biodiversity, we want to draw attention to the efforts of Germany-based researchers, organisations and initiatives to protect endangered ecosystems – from the Alps to the Antarctic Ocean. We have also included articles on associated topics like climate change and sustainability and wish you a pleasant read!

SPOTLIGHT

Wherever you see this tag, the post connects to our monthly spotlight topic.

Current calls

Apply by: 23 April 2024
Postdoc & Advanced research: all disciplines

GSO Leadership Academy

[Go to German Scholars Organization \(GSO\)](#)

Apply by: 30 April or 30 September 2024
Postdoc & Advanced research: all disciplines

Funding Opportunities for Costa Rican-German Research Projects: First Joint Call (CONARE-DFG)

[Go to Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft \(DFG\)](#)

Apply by: 4 June 2024
PhD & Postdoc: life sciences, physics, computer science, mathematics, engineering and related research fields

Add-on Fellowships for Interdisciplinary Life Science

[Go to Joachim Herz Foundation](#)

Apply by: 31 August 2024
PhD & Postdoc: all disciplines with focus on climate change and extreme weather events

Allianz Climate Risk Award

[Go to Allianz SE](#)

Apply by: 31 December 2024 (floating deadline)
Graduates, PhD, Postdoc & Advanced research: sustainability research topics in India or Germany

IGCS grants for students and researchers

[Go to Indo-German Centre for Sustainability \(IGCS\)](#)

Apply by: various deadlines (depending on applicant’s country of origin)
Graduates, PhD, Postdoc & Advanced research: all disciplines

Re-invitation Programme for Former Scholarship Holders

[Go to German Academic Exchange Service \(DAAD\)](#)

Apply by: various deadlines
PhD & Postdoc: all disciplines

Falling Walls Labs 2024

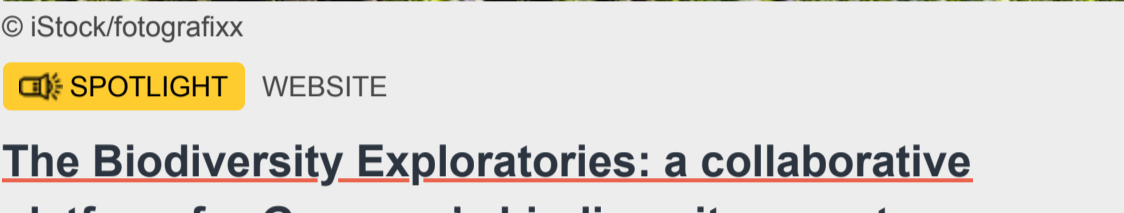
[Go to Falling Walls Foundation](#)

Apply by: any time
PhD: all disciplines

Doctoral scholarships from the German Academic Scholarship Foundation

[Go to Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes](#)

A spotlight on: biodiversity



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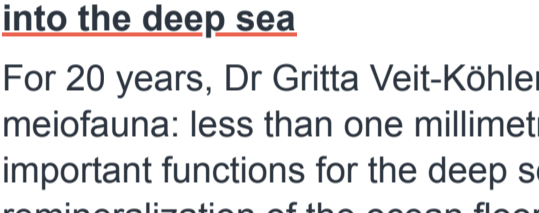
SPOTLIGHT WEBSITE

The Biodiversity Exploratories: a collaborative platform for Germany’s biodiversity experts

The Biodiversity Exploratories is Europe’s biggest open research platform of its kind: since 2006, it has been bringing together the German biodiversity research community for interdisciplinary and long-term research. More than 40 projects are currently taking place in three large-scale research landscapes, the so-called Exploratories. These are spread across Germany and differ in their landscape structure and climatic conditions.

Whether the changing microbiome of forest deadwood or the effects of land use on soil properties, the data generated by the projects is available to all involved scientists – and most of it also to the general public. The successful project is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and is currently in its seventh phase, with a new call for proposals expected by the end of 2024. Find out more on the project’s website!

A closer look: work in Germany

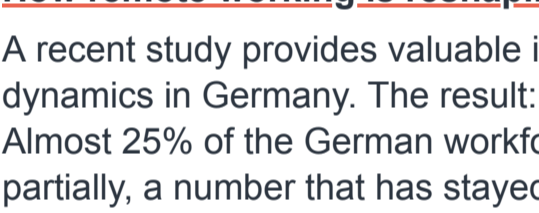


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SPOTLIGHT ARTICLE

Discovering new species in Antarctica: a researcher’s journey into the deep sea

For 20 years, Dr Gritta Veit-Köhler has been researching the so-called meiofauna: less than one millimetre small, these tiny organisms have important functions for the deep sea ecosystem by helping with the remineralization of the ocean floor. In this fascinating interview, Dr Veit-Köhler – Head of Division for Ecological Biodiversity at the German Centre for Marine Biodiversity Research (DZMB) – provides insights into life during Antarctica expeditions, the motivation for her work and the incredible diversity of the deep sea.



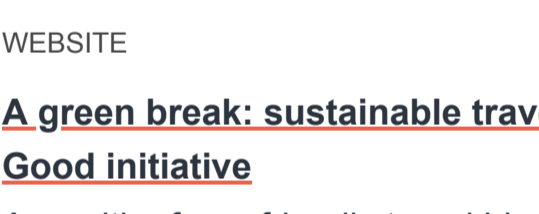
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ARTICLE

How remote working is reshaping the German labour market

A recent study provides valuable insights into current workforce dynamics in Germany. The result: working from home is here to stay. Almost 25% of the workforce is working remotely at least partially, a number that has stayed constant in the last two years, even after pandemic restrictions were lifted. This represents a significant departure from traditional office-based models and suggests a lasting impact on the future of work in Germany. Read the full article to find out more!

The bigger picture: life in Germany

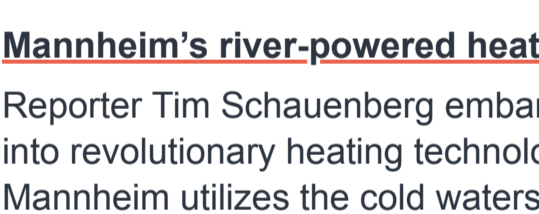


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WEBSITE

A green break: sustainable travel with Germany’s Simply Feel Good initiative

A wealth of eco-friendly travel ideas, accommodations and much more – the sustainable tourism initiative Simply Feel Good in Germany has a lot to offer. Whether you want to explore unspoilt German countryside or a climate-friendly city, this website helps you to plan a green holiday and offset your carbon emissions. Visit the website and get inspired for your sustainable trip to (and through) Germany!



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ARTICLE

Mannheim’s river-powered heating revolution

Reporter Tim Schauenberg embarks on a sometimes freezing journey into revolutionary heating technology by exploring how the city of Mannheim utilizes the cold waters of the Rhine to warm homes. The city’s river heat pump started operating in 2023 and is currently the largest in Germany. Using the Rhine’s thermal power is part of a long-term plan to shift the energy supply away from climate-damaging coal. How does it actually work? Find out in this article!

In case you missed it

SPOTLIGHT

Developing concrete measures against biodiversity loss with the FEaA initiative

FEaA – the Research Initiative for the Conservation of Biodiversity – is the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research’s flagship initiative to combat the worldwide rapid loss of biodiversity. The project both promotes research into the causes and effects of species decline and develops effective and concrete tools and measures to counteract this loss of biodiversity. Currently, FEaA organises 30 research projects, which you can explore on their website.

New heights: German Alpine Club wins prestigious sustainability award

The German Alpine Club has won the 2024 German Sustainability Award for its ambitious plan to become carbon neutral by 2030. With a meticulous carbon accounting system and investment in climate-friendly measures, the world’s biggest mountaineering association aims to preserve Alpine ecosystems in the face of climate change – making it a sustainability pioneer in the leisure industry.

Upcoming events

SPOTLIGHT

17.04.
APR 2024 · ONLINE

[International Exchange Workshop of the Alpine Biodiversity Board](#)

17.04.
APR 2024 · ONLINE

[Working and Living in Germany \(interactive lecture\)](#)

06.05.
MAY 2024 · BERLIN / GERMANY

[Climate Change and Innovative Paths toward a More Sustainable Future](#)

05. – 07.06.
JUNE 2024 · BERLIN / GERMANY & ONLINE

[University:Future Festival 2024](#)

19.06.
JUNE 2024 · ONLINE

[Make it in Germany: Opportunity Card \(webinar\)](#)

Your turn!

Does the loss of biodiversity influence your field of research?

Yes, immensely

Only a little

Not at all

Let’s stay in touch

Get updates about research career options and funding opportunities in Germany, the latest research news, interesting research projects and upcoming events.



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