

Master Thesis (Forst / Ingöko / Biologie / SRM) at Professur für Ökoklimatologie

How urbanization patterns affect animal tolerance towards humans?

What is it about?

One of the most general patterns in wild-living animal behaviour is that they reduce their shyness in the presence of humans. However, human settlements differ in their history, the size and character of the built environment, the size and density of the local human population, or the overall landscape characteristics where these settlements have grown. Therefore, knowledge from one area may not be transferable between different types of cities and regions.



Research Question

This thesis should summarise, in the form of a literature review or meta-analysis: How human tolerance by terrestrial vertebrates varies between in relation to (a) human settlement types (e.g. city vs. village, compact vs open city), (b) level of urbanization (with respect to distance to city centre, building density, human footprint, etc.), (c) size and density of human population, and (d) ecoregion of human settlement (e.g., tropical vs. temperate regions; lowlands vs. mountains)?

Tasks

- Comprehensive review of literature on the association between urbanization patterns and escape behaviour of animals (proxy for human tolerance)
- Data processing, analysis and visualization to answer the question
- Basic R or other statistical software skill is required in a case of review form of thesis; moderate to high skill in R is required for metanalytical approach

Starts immediately / until end-May

If you are interested, please contact:

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