

Bachelor or Master thesis:

How does deadwood management affect wildlife behavior and browsing pressure after disturbances?

Using vegetation surveys and browsing data combined with camera traps in the PoToMa project, you will address questions such as:

1. Does deadwood management (amount/type) affect wildlife activity?
2. Does a specific deadwood management reduce or increase browsing pressure and by that affect reforestation processes?
3. What is the effect of browsing on the forest floor vegetation and how does it shape future forest composition?

Your tasks:

- Fieldwork (data collection): vegetation surveys and surveys on browsing pressure, pre-processing of camera footage
- Integration: combine data on wildlife activity (camera traps) with browsing pressure and vegetation composition on the sites
- Synthesis: present findings in a seminar for PoToMa research group

Start:

From summer 2026 onwards

Requirements:

- Interest in forest ecology and animal-plant interactions
- Basic knowledge in vegetation ecology and statistical data evaluation (in R)
- Willingness to work in a collaborative, practical research project to increase general knowledge on deadwood management effects

If you are interested, please contact:

Fabian Löber (fabian.loeber@uni-jena.de) and apl. Prof. Dr. Markus Bernhardt-Römermann (markus.bernhardt@uni-jena.de) from the vegetation ecology group of the Institute for Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution



PoToMa