

Hofer, Heribert

Director, Leibniz Institute for Zoo & Wildlife Research (IZW)

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Job description

Professor of Interdisciplinary Wildlife Sciences, Freie Universität Berlin

Research in behavioural ecology, evolutionary epidemiology, biodiversity and conservation

Teaching of wildlife science, conservation, biostatistical analysis and epistemology

Research fields and interests

Behavioural and evolutionary ecology and conservation biology of mammals, evolutionary epidemiology of wildlife pathogens, stress and conservation physiology, land-use conflicts

Professional appointments

- 2007⇒ Appointment as full member, Faculty Biology, Chemistry, Pharmacy, FU Berlin
- 2000-2017 Head, Department of Evolutionary Ecology, IZW
- 2000⇒ S-Professor (W3), Interdisc. Wildlife Sciences, Faculty Vet. Medicine, FU Berlin
- 2000⇒ Director, IZW, Berlin
- 1990-1999 Research scientist, Max-Planck-Institute for Behavioural Physiology, Seewiesen: *Behavioural ecology, evolutionary biology and conservation of carnivores*
- 1986-1989 Postdoc, MPI for Behavioural Physiology, Seewiesen: *Behavioural ecology of spotted hyenas*
- 1984-1986 Scientific assistant, Institute for Zoology, Universität des Saarlandes: *Biophysics, hydrodynamics and aerodynamics of locomotion in fish, cetaceans and birds*

Higher Education

- 1997 Habilitation, Zoology, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich: *Serengeti spotted hyenas: a model for the study of the adaptive value of behavioural traits*
- 1981-1986 DPhil, Zoology, Oxford University (UK): *Patterns of resource dispersion and exploitation of the red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) and the Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*)*
- 1978-1981 Undergraduate studies in biology and philosophy, Universität des Saarlandes

Ten selected publications (total 186, h-index 48)

Benhaiem S, Marescot L, East ML, Kramer-Schadt S, Gimenez O, Lebreton JD, **Hofer H** (2018) Slow recovery from a disease epidemic in the spotted hyena, a keystone social carnivore. *Communications Biology* 1: 201

Hofer H, Benhaiem S, Golla W, East ML (2016) Trade-offs in lactation and milk intake by competing siblings in a fluctuating environment. *Behavioral Ecology* 27, 1567-1578

Wilting A, Courtiol A, Christiansen P, Niedballa J, Scharf AK, Orlando L, Balkenhol N, **Hofer H**, Kramer-Schadt S, Fickel J, Kitchener AC (2015) Planning tiger recovery: Understanding intraspecific variation for effective conservation. *Science Advances* 1(5): e1400175

Benhaiem S, **Hofer H**, Kramer-Schadt S, Brunner E, East ML (2012) Sibling rivalry: training effects, emergence of dominance and incomplete control. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 279, 3727-3735

Höner OP, Wachter B, **Hofer H**, Wilhelm K, Thierer D, Burke T, Trillmich F, East ML (2010) The fitness of dispersing spotted hyaena sons is influenced by maternal social status. *Nature Communications* 1: 60

Höner OP, Wachter B, East ML, Streich WJ, Wilhelm K, Burke T, **Hofer H** (2007) Female mate choice drives the evolution of male-biased dispersal in a social mammal. *Nature* 448, 798-801

East ML, Burke T, Wilhelm K, Greig C, **Hofer H** (2003) Sexual conflicts in spotted hyenas: male and female mating tactics and their reproductive outcome with respect to age, social status and tenure. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 270, 1247-1254

East ML, **Hofer H**, Cox JH, Wulle U, Wiik H, Pitra C (2001) Regular exposure to rabies virus and lack of symptomatic disease in Serengeti spotted hyenas. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA* 98, 15026-15031

Burrows R, **Hofer H**, East ML (1994) Demography, intervention, and extinction in a small population: the case of the Serengeti wild dogs. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 256, 281-292.

Fricke H, Reinicke O, **Hofer H**, Nachtigall W (1987) Locomotion of the coelacanth *Latimeria chalumnae* in its natural environment. *Nature* 329, 331-333.

Professional roles and services to the scientific community (selection)

Editorial Boards: *Ethology*; *Ecotropica*, *Ecotropical Monographs*; *International Zoo Yearbook*; *Journal of Zoo & Aquarium Research*

Faculty member: (1) Dahlem Research School, (2) International Max Planck Research School on Infectious Diseases and Immunity (IMPRS-IDI)

Supervisory Boards: (1) Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies Potsdam, 2016⇒; (2) World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Germany, 2016⇒; (3) Leibniz Centre for Marine Tropical Research (ZMT), 2015-2018; (4) Foundation for International Park Unteres Odertal, 2009⇒

Scientific advisory boards: (1) Group Chair + Discipline Representative (Biology), German Society for Nature Researchers and Medical Doctors (GDNÄ) 2014⇒ (2) Society for Tropical Ecology (gtö), Member (2000-15), Deputy Speaker (2004-09) (3) ZB MED Information Centre for Life Sciences 2016⇒ (4) Institute for Bird Research, Wilhelmshaven 2009-2017

Steering Committees: (1) DFG-RTG 2046 Parasitic Infections 2017⇒ (2) Centre for Infection Biology and Immunity (ZIBI), FU / HU Berlin 2004⇒ (3) Berlin Center for Genomics in Biodiversity Research (BeGenDiv) 2010⇒ (4) Berlin Brandenburg Institute for Advanced Biodiversity Research (BBIB) 2012⇒ (5) Conservation Planning Specialist Group, IUCN Species Survival Commission (USA) 2006⇒

Organisations: (1) Speaker 2009-15, Deputy Speaker 2015⇒ Section Life Sciences / member of Executive Board, Leibniz Association; (2) Member, Veterinary Committee, European Association of Zoos & Aquaria 2009⇒

Teaching and education, knowledge transfer

Teaching: Interdisciplinary wildlife sciences, conservation ecology and management, biostatistical analysis and experimental design, epistemology of life sciences

Knowledge transfer: Founding member, European Citizen Science Association (ECSA) 2013; Mentoring female scientists (ProFiL) 2004, 2008; head, Leibniz gender equality task force 2014-17; invention: biopsy dart Telinject syringes, licensed to Telinject GmbH (1991)

Awards and honours

German National Academic Foundation (Studienstiftung des dt. Volkes) 1980-84; German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Oxford 1982-84; European Florey Studentship, Queen's College, Oxford 1982-84; Conservation Fellow, Zoological Society of London 2005⇒; Tanzania Wildlife research Award 2019