UFZ
Planetary
solutions
KNOWLEDGE THAT DELIVERS.

Profile

The UFZ as an Advisor and Communicator of Knowledge



The challenge

Environmental crises such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental pollution are complex and do not stop at borders. Political decisions require reliable scientific knowledge about causes, consequences, and possible solutions.

We bring scientific findings into decision-making at the local, regional, national, EU, and international levels.

Our planetary solution

We make research findings accessible for use in policy processes. This process is not about dictating political decisions but rather about explaining causes and systemic relationships, identifying solutions and options for action, and highlighting the potential consequences of action or inaction to provide a sound basis for decision-making. In the example of the negotiations of a global plastics treaty, UFZ researchers contribute to the international Scientists' Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty, which compiles and prepares the latest scientific findings for the negotiations. After no consensus was reached in the 2025 negotiations and their conclusion was postponed, Helmholtz researchers analysed weaknesses in the negotiation process and proposed specific improvements. Similarly, UFZ scientists contribute their expertise on climate, biodiversity, water, chemicals, and other environmental issues at the local, regional, national, European, and international levels. In this way, research helps to ensure that political decisions and policy frameworks are based on sound scientific evidence in the long term for the benefit of people, the environment, and a sustainable economy.

Our partners

Scientific policy advice requires dialogue. We work with ministries and public authorities, local governments, international organisations, scientific bodies, researchers, and practitioners in Germany and abroad.

Relevant knowledge and formats

Policy advice and knowledge transfer:
We present complex research findings in accessible and practical formats such as policy briefs, position papers, background papers, and expert discussions. In this way, scientific findings can be incorporated into political decision-making processes.

Committee work and dialogue:
UFZ researchers contribute their expertise to national and international expert panels, negotiations, and dialogue processes. They assess current scientific knowledge, identify options for action, and promote dialogue between researchers, policy-makers, and practitioners.


© Sebastian Wiedling

Contact:
Prof. Dr. Annika Jahnke | annika.jahnke@ufz.de
(and many others)

Additional links:
Website: Knowledge Transfer – Collaborate
Press release: 'Global Plastics Treaty Negotiations: Success is still possible' (February 2026)
Press release: 'Global Plastics Treaty: What was achieved in the negotiations in Geneva?' (August 2025)
Website: Plastics Competence Cluster (PCC)

UFZ HELMHOLTZ Centre for Environmental Research

Member of the Helmholtz Research Field Earth and Environment

11/2026