POST-DOCTORAL POSITION ON BIRD SPATIAL MODELLING AND MONITORING
RESEARCH IN EUROPE

Reference: 22-02-00004

One new position to conduct post-doctoral research is open at Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia, CTFC (http://www.ctfc.cat) in close cooperation with CREAF (http://www.creaf.cat/) and the European Bird Census Council (http://www.ebcc.info) in the context of the new project GREENRISK (Funded by the Spanish ministry of Science and Innovation) and in close collaboration with the European project Europa-BON (https://europabon.org).

We are seeking an experienced, spatial modeller hearted researcher with a strong background in bird/biodiversity monitoring to work, together with other Spanish and European institutions, on building novel spatially explicit products (Essential Biodiversity Variables, EBVs) aimed at capturing spatial dynamics of bird distributions at different spatial scales (from subnational to European). These novel EBVs aim at significantly contributing to the core of policy relevant information targeting the implementation of the European Biodiversity Strategy 2030. Together with ICO (Catalan Ornithological Institute) and EBCC (European Bird Census Council), our group is leading on the development of bird based EBVs and derived indicators that bridge the gap between informing current global change impacts and the evaluation scenarios of future change allowing the assessment of current societal decisions.

More specifically the candidates will:

- Develop state of the art Species Distribution Models (SDMs) to bird monitoring datasets at subnational (Catalonia, Spain) and European levels.
- Unravel, using occupancy dynamic models, spatial and temporal changes in bird distributions and explore causal links with underlaying drivers of change.
- Collaborate with other researchers in the team and external partners to link developed bird spatial products to landscape and climate scenarios of future change.
- Translate the acquired knowledge on processes and interactions into operational tools.
- Increase research capacity by efficient interaction with other related projects in this research area.

INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT AND COLLABORATIONS

Ecoland lab is a research group based at CREAF, CTFC (GBIC group) and ICO. These are two ecology and forest research centres belonging to the Catalan network CERCA and an NGO on bird monitoring. A strength of CREAF-CTFC is that it is built on strong national, European and global networks. Collaborating with scientists within the team and with research partners across Europe, America and Australia will greatly expand the candidate international network. The post-doc will be expected to work in a highly collaborative research environment and participate in meetings and in the writing of project proposals related to the topics of this call.
REQUIREMENTS

- PhD. in environmental sciences (ecology, forestry, geography or similar).
- Excellent publication record.
- Proven expertise in spatial modelling and Species Distribution Model development.
- Demonstrated experience in advanced statistic programming languages (R)
- Expertise in biodiversity monitoring projects, preferably on birds.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience in linking biodiversity monitoring with decision making and conservation planning.
- Contrasted capacity to lead work and team up with other researchers.
- Previous experience in international project management and leadership.
- Proficiency in Catalan language.

WORKING CONDITIONS

- The contract expected start will be on April-May 2022. It is a full-time position for one to two years (with the possibility of an extension)
- Gross salary will be commensurate with the qualifications and experience and will be at least equivalent to the Juan de la Cierva Programme of the Spanish “Ministerio de ciencia e innovación”.
- Working place preferably in Solsona (120 km north of Barcelona, Spain), CTFC (http://www.ctfc.cat). Travelling often abroad with European project partners.

Integration policy: reservation of a place for staff with a certificate of recognized disability.

SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

The selection process will be led by researchers of the Ecoland lab and will be overseen by the Management Office and the Human Resources Area of CTFC. This process consists of:

1. Admission of candidates: applicants must submit their application in a single pdf-file, including a brief motivation letter (describing past research experiences and research interests), a curriculum vitae and contact information for two references. The application has to be addressed to dep.personal@ctfc.cat, indicating the reference code of the offer. The deadline for submitting applications is 31st March 2022

2. Pre-selection: verification of compliance with the minimum requirements of the offer.

3. Selection (April 2022): assessment of the preselected candidates based on objective criteria and an optional interview.

4. Final decision: in case of finding the suitable person, the election will be formally communicated to him/her, and the identification of the chosen person will be published on CTFC job openings section.