



CÁTEDRA
STEPPE
FORWARD

PhD CONTRACT OFFER IN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND PHOTOVOLTAIC RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

The Steppe Forward Chair (www.steppeforward.eu), promoted by the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM), the Forest Science and Technology Centre of Solsona (CTFC) and TotalEnergies, has as its main objective the generation of scientific knowledge on the ecology and management of steppe birds and their habitat in order to make their conservation compatible with the development of photovoltaic energy on agro-steppe landscapes.

The current process of intensification of cereal agriculture in Spain, together with the replacement of drylands and extensive pastures by intensive woody crops, has caused a sharp decline in steppe biological communities. In this context, the current and future development of photovoltaic power plants may add further uncertainty to their future if biodiversity responses are poorly known. The pseudo-steppe areas of the Iberian Peninsula are home to the most important steppe bird populations in Europe and host rich biological communities of singular value in the European and world contexts. Therefore, acquiring tools and knowledge for their conservation is essential for the development of environmentally sustainable photovoltaic energy.

The proposed thesis will address **key aspects to improve the integration of biodiversity conservation criteria in the planning and operation of photovoltaic renewable energy installations, including associated compensatory measures**. Its specific objectives will be defined on the basis of the Chair's current projects and the candidate's scientific interests.

The development of the PhD will involve field work for a few months during the first years of the contract together with the technicians working in the development of the projects. The contract holder will be integrated into the scientific and technical team of the Chair.

CANDIDATES

- The contract holder will be expected to complete a PhD degree in the doctoral Programme of the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid during her/his contract tenure (3 years + 1 potential extra year).
- Candidates must have the equivalents of a Bachelor's degree and official Master's degree in Biology, Ecology, Environmental Sciences, or similar disciplines, both with high qualifications.
- The following criteria will be also evaluated:
 - Good skills on data management and statistical modelling
 - Knowledge of the ecology of the species associated with these habitats and their sampling techniques.
 - Previous SCI and non-SCI publications
 - Communications in congresses and meetings
 - Stages in national and international research centres
 - Good English level
 - Good scientific writing skills
 - References letters (Up to 3)

CONDITIONS AND SELECTION PROCESS

Start date of the contract: First quarter 2023

Place of work: Mainly at the CTFC (Solsona, Spain) with the possibility of stays at the UAM (Madrid, Spain) and potentially other research centres.

Duration of the grant: 3 years + 1 potential extra year

Terms and conditions of contract: The holder of the grant will be hired by the CTFC. Annual gross salary around 23.000-25.000 €.

Deadline: 15th December 2022



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The selection process is led by the BIODIVERSITY AND ANIMAL CONSERVATION GROUP of CTFC and ECOLOGY DEPARTMENT of UAM. This process consists of:

1. **Admission of candidates:** Please, send a motivation letter along with the CV and the academic record (Bachelor and Master) to gerard.bota@ctfc.cat and manuel.morales@uam.es. The candidates should fulfil the requirements of the call.
2. **Pre-selection:** verification of compliance with the minimum requirements of the offer.
3. **Selection (January 2023):** assessment of the preselected candidates by scoring based on objective criteria and interview.
4. **Final decision:** in case of finding the suitable person, the election will be formally communicated to him/her.

CTFC guarantees an open, transparent, and merit-based recruitment process (OTM-R) to all registered candidacies avoiding thus any bias on gender, origin, age, ideology, or other circumstances that could be discriminatory. Integration policy: reservation of a place for staff with a certificate of recognized disability.

CONTACT

Forest Science and Technology Center of Catalonia (CTFC)
Crta. of St. Llorenç de Morunys, km 2 (direction Port del Comte)
25280 Solsona
Tel. (+34) 973 48 17 52
www.ctfc.cat/en/

E-mail: borsa.treball@ctfc.cat

CTFC is a research centre affiliated with the Generalitat de Catalunya (the Catalan government), and it reports to the Ministry responsible for forest issues.

CTFC is a CERCA centre and a government accredited TECNIO agent (developer of public technology).

It was granted a 'Human Resources Excellence in Research' award by the European Commission, recognizing CTFC as a European research institution that fosters an attractive and motivating work environment.