



University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty, Department for Forestry, Wildlife Ecology Research Group

## **Post-doc (or PhD) Position in Ecology & Wildlife Management**

Reference: Position 2 – Development & optimisation of monitoring system for Alpine-Dinaric brown bear population

Application deadline: 30.04.2017

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**A full-time post-doc** (or PhD) position is available at the Department for Forestry, Wildlife Ecology Research Group. Preferably post-docs are invited but we also encourage applications from highly-motivated PhD students with strong background in research work.

Starting date: June 1-st 2017 (can be delayed to up to three months)

Duration: 2.5 years, with possible extension.

Location: Večna pot 83, Ljubljana (Slovenia).

**KEY WORDS:** brown bear; population size, sex and age structure; temporal analysis of population parameters; analysis of age-at harvest data; camera trapping data; cohort analysis; simulations; bayesian statistics; optimisation of monitoring methods, Dinaric Alps

### **JOB DESCRIPTION:**

We invite applications from highly motivated candidates with a passion for and experience in research related to development and optimisation of techniques/methods used for monitoring of large species of mammals, more precisely of brown bears. The position is a part of an international EU Life Nature project "Population level management and conservation of brown bears in northern Dinaric Mountains and the Alps), actions C.5 (<http://dinalpbear.eu/activities/c-concrete-conservation-actions/c5-population-surveillance/>) and C.9.

Specifically, the applicant will have to analyse accuracy and other pros and cons of several monitoring techniques/methods currently used to monitor brown bear Alpine- Dinaric population: (1.) reconstruction of population size, sex and age structure and its dynamics over time based on age-at harvest data for different scenarios (spatially closed and open population, altering the proportion of undetected mortality), (2.) monitoring of population trends and reproductive parameters based on counting of the bears on a network of permanent counting sites, (3.) estimates of population size, structure and range based on non-invasive sampling, (4.) monitoring of damages done by brown bears. Based on the results of the cost-benefit analyses of different monitoring methods, the applicant will cooperate in preparation of a proposal and implementation of a final optimised monitoring system (set the list of methods, temporal dynamics and spatial extent of their use and their limitations with given demands of management and research).

For a further description of activities please see the attached part of the project proposal, especially points from (c.) to (g.). The main collaborators of the applicant will be the leader (prof. dr. Klemen Jerina) and other members of the Wildlife research group on the Forestry department in Ljubljana, and also members of research groups collaborating in project (dr. Tomaž Skrbinšek - Biology department - [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Toma\\_Skrbinsek](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Toma_Skrbinsek); prof. dr. Felix Knauer from Fiwi: <https://www.vetmeduni.ac.at/fiwi/beruns/personen/>; prof. dr. Djuro Huber – University of Zagreb - [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Djuro\\_Huber](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Djuro_Huber)).

We seek a highly motivated and creative post-doc (or PhD student) with good communication skills in English (oral and written), a strong capacity for work, and ability to think independently. The successful candidate is also expected to publish results in scientific journals and present them at scientific and project meetings and conferences as well as to more general public.

## REQUIREMENTS:

Successful applicants should:

- hold a M.Sc./Ph.D. degree (or equivalent) in statistics, biology, ecology, forestry or another relevant discipline;
- have a solid background with methods and software used for wildlife monitoring and reconstruction of population parameters/processes/dynamics (age-at harvest data analyses, Kaplan Meier estimator, analyses of data gained by camera trapping and counting of animals),
- have a solid background in statistics and population ecology of animals
- experience with computer programming, handling large datasets and knowledge of geographic information systems and tools (preferably ArcGis);
- can work independently as a researcher and has previous experience with publishing results in scientific papers (peer-reviewed scientific journals);
- has experience in project work with similar contents;
- very good English skills.

## SALARY:

Full-time contract.

Yearly gross salary scale:

31.713,60 €/year (post-doc position, salary class 40);

22.619,01 €/year (PhD position, salary class 30).

## DOCUMENTS REQUIRED IN APPLICATION AND CONTACT DETAILS:

To apply please send an email to Prof. Dr. Klemen Jerina ([klemen.jerina@bf.uni-lj.si](mailto:klemen.jerina@bf.uni-lj.si)) before June, 1-st 2017 and refer to the following reference: Position 2 – Development & optimisation of monitoring system for Alpine-Dinaric brown bear population

Attach a single PDF file to this email including:

- (1) cover letter with motivation letter including personal research interests, detailing the qualifications and research experiences of the candidate for the position (maximum 2 pages),
- (2) scientific CV including previous working experiences, a full publication list and copies of relevant academic certificates,
- (3) copies of all degrees (MSc up), and
- (4) contact details of at least two academic referees .

The most suitable candidates will be invited for an interview.

The University of Ljubljana is an equal opportunity employer.

The official version of this advertisement will be soon published on the University's homepage ([https://www.unilj.si/aktualno/prosta\\_delovna\\_mesta](https://www.unilj.si/aktualno/prosta_delovna_mesta)) and homepage of Zavod za zaposlovanje.

Prof. Dr. Klemen Jerina

Contact details can be used for any further information needed:

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Page: [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Klemen\\_Jerina](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Klemen_Jerina)