

POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH

Referência: PTDC/AGR-AAM/102300/2008

Área científica genérica: Environmental science

Área científica específica: Ecology

CIBIO – Centro de Investigação em Biodiversidade e

Recursos Genéticos

PTDC/AGR-AAM/102300/2008

FCT Funded

A call for applications is open for a Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship in the project “AGRIENV - Effects of agri-environment schemes on biodiversity: evaluation of a long-term landscape experiment in southern Portugal” (Reference PTDC/AGR-AAM/102300/2008), funded by the Program “COMPETE - Programa Operacional Factores de Competitividade” in its FEDER component and by the Foundation for Science and Technology budget in its OE component

1. Conditions: Duration of 12 months, renewable for two more years, starting in 15 July 2010 (negotiable), in a regime of exclusivity, following the regulations for advanced training of Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT) (<http://alfa.fct.mctes.pt/apoios/bolsas/normasbolsasemprojectos>) and the internal regulations of ICETA/CIBIO.

2. Scientific area: Ecology

3. Research objectives: The AGRIENV project aims to evaluate the efficacy of agri-environmental schemes in delivering biodiversity benefits in the Mediterranean region. The study will analyze long-term effects (1995-2011) on biodiversity of the application of an agri-environment scheme, focusing specifically on grassland birds in open agricultural landscapes. To attain this general goal we will pursue the following specific objectives: (a) to compare population trends of target species since the beginning of the agri-environmental scheme, in areas with and without agri-environmental subsidies, using data collected in 1995-97, 1999, 2003, 2008, and 2010-2011; (b) to compare landscape change trends since the beginning of the agri-environmental scheme, in areas with and without agri-environmental subsidies; (c) to estimate how the application of competing subsidy schemes affect

the uptake and impacts of agri-environment programs, focusing on livestock production systems; and (d) to determine farmers' socio-economic motivations when choosing between the different management options available.

4. Description of TASK: The successful applicant will join the research group developing the AGRIENV project, collaborating in the development of the ecological components of the project: (i) sampling site selection and characterization; (ii) collection of detailed data on bird assemblages and herbaceous vegetation structure and composition; (iii) land use mapping and characterization of landscape change; (iv) data analysis and publication of results. The field work will mostly be carried out within the Special Protection Area of Castro Verde (Alentejo, Southern Portugal).

5. Scientific supervision: Pedro Beja (<http://www.researcherid.com/rid/A-7851-2008>)

6. Candidate profile: The candidate should have a PhD degree in ornithology, plant ecology, ecology, or related fields, and to be open to get involved in scientific areas beyond his/her original field of expertise. We are looking for highly motivated candidates, with an excellent publication record in international scientific journals. Preference will be given to candidates with at least some experience with GIS, and good English. A driving license is required.

7. Institution: ICETA – Instituto de Ciências e Tecnologias Agrárias e Agro-Alimentares.

8. Host institution: CIBIO – Centro de Investigação em Biodiversidade e Recursos Genéticos

9. Remuneration: as table FCT (www.fct.mctes.pt)

10. Application documents: Curriculum vitae (including email address and phone contact), degree certificates, two references (including email address and phone contact) and a motivation letter.

11. Application deadline: The call is open between June **15** and June **29**, 2010.

12. Application submission: Applications should be sent by email to Sara Lemos Ferreira (cibio.up@mail.icav.up.pt)

13. Selection of candidates: Preliminary selection will be based on the adequacy of candidate profile to the work in the AGRIENV project, with a strong preference for candidates with an excellent publication record. Final selection will then be made from a short list of the most adequate candidates, after a personal interview. No candidate will be selected if there is no applicant meeting the call requirements.