

### **3 Postdocs on conservation conflicts at the University of Stirling**

#### **Post Details**

Fixed term contract (initial contract for 36 months) to start from 01 September 2016.

Interviews are expected to take place during the week of 18 and 25 July.

Closing date for applications is 26 June 2016.

#### **The Post**

3 postdoctoral research assistant positions are available at the University of Stirling to work in the research group of Dr Nils Bunnefeld on a European Research Council (ERC) funded project entitled “Resolving conflicts between food security and biodiversity conservation under uncertainty (ConFooBio)”. The three posts will initially be employed on a 3 year fixed term contract with the possibility of 2 more years after successful evaluation.

Conflicts between food security and biodiversity conservation are increasing in scale and intensity and have been shown to be damaging for both biodiversity and human livelihoods. Managing a specific natural resource often results in conflict between those stakeholders focussing on improving food security and those focussed on biodiversity conservation. Uncertainty, for example from climate change, decreases food security, puts further pressure on biodiversity and exacerbates these conflicts. ConFooBio aims to illuminate resolutions to such conflicts by developing a practical, transparent and flexible model for the sustainable future of natural resources that is also robust to uncertainty. ConFooBio will work on 7 topical case studies of conflicts: elephants and farming (Gabon), geese and farming (Denmark & UK), common cranes and farming (Sweden), grouse shooting and hen harrier conservation (UK), salmon farming and wild salmon (Norway) and wild reindeer conservation and tourism (Norway).

#### **1) What leads to conflicts using time series analysis of social-ecological data**

The main responsibility of the post-holder will be to investigate the question ‘what leads to conflicts’ by analysing socio-economic and ecological data of long term conflicts and relating these to climate, environmental and policy change and uncertainty.

The following activities will be expected of the post-holder:

- Collating and analysing long term socioeconomic and ecological data for the 7 case studies
- Liaising and collaborating with case study partners and carrying out stakeholder engagement

- Leading on peer-reviewed publications
- Writing reports (e.g. to funder)

You should have a relevant doctoral qualification in interdisciplinary conservation science, ecological modelling, quantitative social science or environmental economics or a closely related field. You should also have proven experience of handling and analysing large data sets and a keen interest in working with statistical models in an interdisciplinary field spanning natural/biological sciences, economics and social science.

**Apply here**

<http://www.stir.ac.uk/about/jobs/details/index.html?nPostingId=1153&nPostingTargetId=1105&id=QUUFK026203F3VBQB7V79V7NE&LG=UK&mask=extstirling>

**2) How to solve conflicts using game theory**

The main responsibility of the post-holder will be to tackle the question ‘how to solve conflicts’ by using game theory as a theoretical framework to devise scenarios to move situations from conflicts to collaboration. The post holder will develop behavioural games to be played with stakeholders to test scenarios in the field of conservation.

The following activities will be expected of the post-holder:

- Applying game theory under uncertainty to conservation conflicts in general and adapt to the 7 case studies
- Developing and playing stakeholder behavioural games using the case studies
- Organising stakeholder workshops in collaboration with case study partners
- Leading on peer-reviewed publications
- Writing reports (e.g. to funder)

You should have a relevant doctoral qualification in interdisciplinary conservation science, behavioural economics or a closely related field. You should also have proven experience in applying economics to environmental issues, conservation science or a related field.

Apply here:

<http://www.stir.ac.uk/about/jobs/details/index.html?id=QUUFK026203F3VBQB7V79V7NE&nPostingID=1154&nPostingTargetID=1106&mask=extstirling&lg=UK>

**3) System sustainability and social-ecological simulation modelling**

The main responsibility of the post-holder will be to investigate the effects of conflicts and cooperation on system sustainability by developing a social-ecological modelling tool, applicable to real-world conflicts where stakeholders operate under conditions of extreme uncertainty.

The following activities will be expected of the post-holder:

- Constructing social-ecological simulation models
- Developing new ways of stakeholder engagement with theoretical models
- Leading on peer-reviewed publications
- Writing reports (e.g. to funder)

You should have a relevant doctoral qualification in quantitative conservation science with a background in the social sciences, ecological/environmental economics, ecology or mathematical ecology or conservation science. You should also have experience in social-ecological simulation modelling, socioeconomic modelling, mathematical modelling, agent-based modelling, management strategy evaluation or a closely related field.

Apply here:

<http://www.stir.ac.uk/about/jobs/details/index.html?id=QUUFK026203F3VBQB7V79V7NE&nPostingID=1155&nPostingTargetID=1108&mask=extstirling&lg=UK>

#### **Additional Information**

**Whilst submitting the online application required by the University, applicants should also submit a curriculum vitae, covering letter, the details of two referees and a 1 page statement outlining (a) why they are interested in the particular project; and (b) why they are ideally suited for the project.**

Candidates are invited to make informal enquiries contacting Dr Nils Bunnefeld, email: [nilsbunnefeld@stir.ac.uk](mailto:nilsbunnefeld@stir.ac.uk), Tel: 01786 467804. The post holder will join the Stirling Conservation Science group (STI-CS) in Biological and Environmental Sciences [www.sti-cs.org](http://www.sti-cs.org). STI-CS is an interdisciplinary research group with 5 associated staff, 2 research fellows, 2 postdocs and 13 PhD students.