

## Open call for applications

# Master thesis

## Habitat preferences of Eurasian moose *Alces alces* in the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park, Belarus

### Content

Eurasian moose belong to the less frequent ungulates in the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park that have experienced some habitat changes due to draining of wetlands in the past. The study aims to gain knowledge about habitat preferences of moose relating to remaining wetlands and recently rewetted areas. Through the use of existing camera trap data collected over a time span of almost five years, the spatial behavior of moose in the national park will be analyzed in relation to habitat types.

### Your tasks

You will work with raw data collected over five years of camera trapping. A Belarusian student will help you with the processing of the camera trap data and will be mentored by you. Another 'MSc candidate-Belarusian student team', that will work on a different research question, will process the data in the same way so that you will help each other at the beginning. A small workshop will be held to define important parameters and a common work platform. The statistical analysis is the responsibility of the MSc candidate. It would be desirable to share and explain the statistical analysis to your Belarusian assistant, depending on her/his previous knowledge. You will write the thesis in English, similar to a conventional scientific paper in structure and form, with the aim to publish it in a peer-reviewed journal. For the data processing, you will stay in Białowieża (Poland), where you will get to know your Belarusian assistant as well as gain an insight into the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park. For the actual analysis and writing you are free to choose your place of work.

## Requirements

- studying wildlife ecology, biology, forestry, nature conservation or a comparable field of study;
- completion of bachelor degree;
- good experience with and sound knowledge of the statistical software R or SPSS;
- good knowledge and use of the software ArcGIS, QGIS or a compatible software;
- very good English language skills, ideally also Russian language skills;
- a talent for organization and a structured way of working;
- willingness to spend time in the project area in Belarus, ideally already experienced with Eastern European countries;
- an open-minded personality and joy in getting to know foreign people and culture;
- team spirit and willingness to instruct and work together with a Belarusian colleague.

## Start

In consultation

## Duration

Approx. 3 months

## Partial Scholarship

The candidate receives reimbursement of the travel expenses and a monthly allowance of 300 €.

## Application

CV, motivation letter (max. 1 page), previous qualification, bachelor certificate



## Host Institution

The Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) is an international conservation organization, that is committed to preserving wildlands and biological diversity in the last remaining wilderness areas on the planet.

Further information can be found here <https://fzs.org/en/> (FZS), <https://fzs.org/en/projects/belovezshkaya-pushcha/> (project).

## Contact

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