

Expression of interest for research cooperation

Description of institution

Interested institution:	Institute of Nature Conservation, Polish Academy of Sciences
Department carrying out the proposed research	Department of Biodiversity Department of Ecosystem Conservation Department of Geoconservation Department of Fauna Conservation Department of Freshwater Biology
Address and webpage	al. Adama Mickiewicza 33, 31-120 Kraków, Poland www.iop.krakow.pl
Contact person (name, e-mail address, phone)	Elżbieta Wilk-Woźniak, e-mail: wilk@iop.krakow.pl , Phone: +48 12 3703548

Research offer

Brief description of the department (key research facilities, infrastructure, equipment)

(up to 1000 characters)

The Institute of Nature Conservation of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IOP PAN) is one of the leading scientific institutions in Poland focused on nature conservation, and basic and applied ecology. INC PAS carries out a wide range of research on the processes that promote, limit or endanger biodiversity, applying multiple approaches and techniques within a multidisciplinary context. The Institute has a long standing tradition in fauna research, ranging from natural history driven science and population monitoring to multidisciplinary research which have incorporated modern tools, such as molecular markers, physiological indicators, stable isotopes or ecological modeling. The addition of these techniques and scientific disciplines, such as genetics, physiology, chemistry, toxicology, mathematics, modeling and remote sensing, to INC PAS long-term traditional research have broadened its scientific perspectives and promoted addressing research questions from new points of view. The Institute possesses genetic and chemical laboratories in Kraków, and well equipped laboratory and gene bank of mountain plants in Zakopane.

Scientific area

<input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Sciences and Humanities
<input type="checkbox"/> Economic Sciences	<input type="checkbox"/> Information Science and Engineering
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Environment and Geosciences	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Life Sciences
<input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics	<input type="checkbox"/> Physics

Research field

(up to 500 characters)

Major research fields are as follows: (1) conservation of the species diversity of flora and fauna, (2) identifying the causes of degradation in ecosystems, natural landscapes, waters and land surface, (3) complex studies on anthropogenic transformations of geosystems, (4) the development of theoretical and practical foundations for plant and animal species conservation and for management of dedicated protected areas, (5) comprehensive limnological studies focused on the structure of water biocenoses, relations between aquatic organisms and their environment.

The proposed research/project description

(up to 1000 characters)

The Institute's mission is to acquire scientific knowledge and put it to use in the practical conservation of nature, to document biological and geological diversity and the threats to it, and to promote environmental education. Its main goal is to develop standards for the rational management of natural resources, both in areas only slightly altered by man and in areas strongly affected by human pressures. Five scientific departments focus on research linked to conservation both of plants and animals populations, in terrestrial and water ecosystems.

Currently ongoing larger projects deal with impact of climate changes on brown bear population in Europe, conflicts between humans and large carnivores, invasive alien species and factors stimulating invasions, biological diversity at the species and ecosystem levels and the factors affecting biodiversity, the role of dam reservoirs in cumulating of carbon, toxic cyanobacterial blooms, geodiversity as a principal value of the geoheritage of Polish territory, as well as anthropogenic transformations of geosystems.

Additional information (key Persons and Expertise; additional trainings, research programme, other)

(up to 1000 characters)

The Institute of Nature Conservation is an important partner for Polish nature conservation authorities, e.g. the Polish Ministry of the Environment and the General Directorate of Environmental Protection in addressing basic applied environmental conservation issues, such as the implementation of the European Ecological Network Natura 2000. For example, the Institute has elaborated the principles for monitoring of habitats and species for Natura 2000 sites in Poland and conducted unique investment and renaturalisation activities to protect the species' northernmost population of Aesculapian snake in the Carpathian Mountains.

The Institute is authorized to confer the academic degree of doctor in biology. Currently, the Institute employs 40 scientists from Poland, Spain and Germany.