

FUNDED PhD STUDENTSHIP: Landscape Ecology

Supervisor 1: Dr J. Tzanopoulos, **Supervisor 2:** Dr I. Vogiatzakis, **Supervisor 3:** Dr S. G. Potts

Funding Status: Directly Funded Project (European Students Only)

Application Deadline: 31 October 2010

Project Title: The coherence and ecological sufficiency of European protected area networks

We are looking for two PhD students to work on testing the suitability of methods for analysing and ensuring regional connectivity of habitats for various species and at different scales of dispersal distances. Connectivity will be assessed mainly on the regional but also national administrative levels and the selected methods will primarily consist of:

- Application of the dispersal traits, especially dispersal distances and habitat models with and without accounting for uncertainty;
- The dispersal models developed in the project especially to evaluate to which extent the model predictions can be transferred successfully to new landscape settings.;
- The population viability models developed in the project, and especially their predictions about critical distances and fragmentation thresholds.

The PhD is part of the European FP7 project SCALES (www.scales-project.net) and the successful applicants will have the chance to work within a vibrant research project and follow training opportunities arising within SCALES.

Funding Notes: There are two studentships: one will be joint between Kent and Reading Universities and the other joint between Open University of Cyprus and Reading University. The studentships are for 3 years, and will start in Jan 2011. We are seeking high calibre students who have a 1st class, or 2:1 degree in physical geography, Ecology, or conservation science and are keen to develop trans-disciplinary skills across natural and social science disciplines. The applicant should have strong organisational skills, and be a good communicator.

To apply for this project, please send a CV and a covering letter with details of two referees to the contact supervisor.

Dr Joseph Tzanopoulos, School of Agriculture, Policy and Development, University of Reading, Reading, RG6 6AR

Email: j.tzanopoulos@reading.ac.uk