

The University of La Reunion, Reunion island, is offering a 2 years renewable postdoc position in Seabird Population Genetics.

Human activities have negatively impacted seabird populations globally and in the tropical Indian Ocean most remaining breeding colonies are restricted to remote oceanic islands. In the western Indian Ocean (WIO) this loss of breeding colonies has led to population fragmentation for many species, with a potential reduction in the movement and exchange of individuals between colonies.

The postdoc position is part of a research project funded by the Bertarelli Foundation, which aims at investigating the connectivity of seabird colonies in the western Indian Ocean.

This project will assess the degree of connectivity in the WIO for five very different seabird species by establishing the rate of transfer of genetic material between colonies (i.e. gene flow). This will allow us to identify discrete 'conservation units' made up of one or more (connected) colonies.

The successful candidate will have a solid research background at the interface between population genetics, phylogeography and conservation biology. She or He should master molecular biology techniques including genotyping (microsatellites) and sequencing (mitochondrial sequences), and be familiar with multiple and commonly used population genetics software tools. Topics to be developed during the Post-doc will include but are not limited to 1) analysis of population structure based on morphometric and genetic characters and relevance for conservation, 2) analysis of the evolutionary potential of populations and extinction risk using two types of molecular markers in spatially explicit contexts, 3) estimate demographic history of each species and identify appropriate conservation units. Candidates should have completed a PhD in population or conservation genetics, and a strong interest in biodiversity conservation. Prerequisites also include evidence of strong oral and written communication skills and the ability to complete tasks in a timely and structured fashion. Experience of supervising and mentoring students is desirable.

Applications should include a letter of motivation (max. 1 page), a CV, including contact details of at least two referees and publication list (preferably in a single pdf-file).

The postdoc will be based at UMR ENTROPIE, Campus du Moufia, Saint Denis, La Réunion.

Deadline for application: 15 August 2021
Beginning of the contract: 1 October 2021

Send applications to Laurence Humeau (laurence.humeau@univ-reunion.fr)
Copy to Audrey Jaeger (audrey.jaeger@univ-reunion.fr) and Matthieu Le Corre (lecorre@univ-reunion.fr)

More information about our labs:

<http://umr-entropie.ird.nc/index.php/home>

<https://umr-pvbmt.cirad.fr/>