

VALUE OFFER FOR HORIZON EUROPE PARTNERSHIPS



INSTITUTE FOR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND NATURE CONSERVATION

INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE



Name: Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences (MATE) – Institute for Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation

Location: Gödöllő, Hungary

Website: <https://wildlife.uni-mate.hu/>

Type: University research institute

Focus: Wildlife ecology and conservation biology, invasive species and habitat restoration, population dynamics and wildlife health monitoring, sustainable game management, large scale field ecology and living labs, and AI-supported biodiversity assessment.

WHO WE ARE

The Institute for Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation (VTI) of MATE is a national and regional centre of excellence in wildlife biology, ecology, and sustainable game management.

The Institute investigates the ecological functioning of wildlife populations and natural habitats through an interdisciplinary approach that integrates wildlife conservation, population ecology, environmental sciences, habitat management, and advanced monitoring technologies.

VTI aims to generate high-quality scientific knowledge and practical solutions that contribute to the preservation of wildlife populations, the improvement of habitat quality, and the long-term sustainability of ecosystem services. The Institute plays a key role in addressing challenges related to large game species, human–wildlife interactions, invasive species, habitat fragmentation, and nature conservation policy.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- **Wildlife ecology and conservation biology** – population ecology of wildlife species, habitat use and spatial ecology, conservation-oriented field studies, long-term ecological observations supporting sustainable wildlife management.
- **Wildlife health and disease ecology** – wildlife disease dynamics at the wildlife–livestock–environment interface, surveillance of wildlife-related pathogens, epidemiological assessment supporting risk management and prevention strategies.
- **Large game biology and sustainable management** – population dynamics, behaviour and habitat use of large game species (ungulates), assessment of wildlife impacts on ecosystems, sustainable harvest planning, mitigation of human–wildlife conflicts and game damage.
- **Invasive species and ecosystem impact assessment** – detection, monitoring and ecological impact analysis of invasive plant and animal species, development of management and control approaches, support for habitat conservation and ecosystem resilience.
- **Biodiversity monitoring and ecological field sensing** – long-term biodiversity monitoring programmes, field-based data collection, species occurrence and movement tracking, integration of monitoring data into wildlife and conservation management practices.
- **Soil–plant–wildlife interactions and ecosystem functioning** – analysis of wildlife–vegetation interactions, impacts of herbivory on habitats, soil biodiversity studies, evaluation of ecosystem functions and ecosystem services in managed and natural landscapes.
- **Climate adaptation and environmental stress research** – assessment of environmental stressors affecting wildlife and ecosystems, evaluation of wildlife responses to climate change, analysis of adaptive processes and implications for future habitat suitability and management.



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RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

The Institute operates field-based wildlife research sites, long-term monitoring areas and habitat assessment plots supporting evidence-driven wildlife management. Its infrastructure includes facilities for biological sample processing, wildlife health examinations, telemetry-based tracking, camera-trap monitoring and population surveys. GIS and remote-sensing tools enable landscape-level habitat analyses, while experimental management plots function as living laboratories for testing conservation and game-management interventions. Collaboration with national analytical laboratories provides access to complementary genetic, ecological and bioanalytical capacities.

RECENT AND ONGOING PROJECTS

The Institute is actively engaged in applied wildlife ecology, conservation biology, habitat management and game management research. Its projects support healthy wildlife populations, evidence-based conservation, invasive species control and sustainable coexistence between human activities and natural ecosystems.

- **VAX4ASF** – African swine fever control in wild boar populations – Development of vaccination concepts, epidemiological modelling and wildlife-based disease-control strategies to reduce ASF transmission risk.
- **Our Arrival to Central Europe – Visegrad Fund project** – Multidisciplinary reconstruction of early human presence and environmental conditions using ecological, palaeoenvironmental and soilmicromorphological analyses.
- **Agroecological Transitions Rooted in Tradition for Climate Resilience (REAGRY)**: As part of the AGROECOLOGY Partnership's second co-funded call, this newly won international project — coordinated by MATE — aims to enhance the climate resilience and social acceptability of agricultural systems through agroecological transitions. Integrating pilot sites, living labs, farmer learning networks, and socio-economic and policy analyses, REAGRY generates actionable solutions for regenerative and sustainable practices across diverse landscapes.

OUR OFFER FOR HORIZON EUROPE PARTNERSHIPS

The Institute seeks collaboration under Horizon Europe (Cluster 6, Missions, Marie Curie, ERC), LIFE, Interreg, and other international programmes, with a strong focus on wildlife ecology, conservation biology, habitat restoration, invasive species management, climate adaptation and sustainable game management. We offer:

- **High-level expertise in wildlife biology**, population ecology, habitat assessment and conservation management, including long-term monitoring and field-based experimental systems.
- **Integrated ecosystem-based approach**, linking wildlife health, disease ecology, environmental stressors and biodiversity conservation.
- **Extensive participation in national and European research networks**, including collaborations in wildlife monitoring, large carnivore conservation, habitat restoration and sustainable land-use initiatives.
- **Strong commitment to Open Science, FAIR data, ethical wildlife research**, environmental sustainability, and science-based policy support.



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WHAT HORIZON EUROPE CALLS INTEREST US

The Institute is interested in the following Horizon Europe calls:

- **HORIZON-MISS-2026-05-SOIL-01** – Living labs for soil health in forests and natural/semi-natural ecosystems
- **HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV-01** – Living labs for ecosystem restoration
- **HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV-04** – Effectiveness of protected areas under biodiversity loss pressures
- **HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-BIODIV-01** – Integrated biodiversity observation (remote sensing and in-situ data)
- **HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-BIODIV-04** – Management and eradication of invasive alien species
- **HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-BIODIV-08** – Farmland biodiversity for resilient food systems

PARTNERING VISION

Our vision is to strengthen biodiversity, wildlife health and resilient ecosystems through science-based conservation and sustainable wildlife management. We aim to translate ecological and population-level knowledge into real-world impact — from healthier wildlife populations and restored habitats to evidencebased nature conservation that supports Europe's green transition and longterm ecological resilience.

We collaborate with universities, research institutes, conservation agencies, protected area managers, forestry and agricultural stakeholders, hunting organisations and public authorities to build strategic partnerships aligned with

Horizon Europe priorities in biodiversity, ecosystem restoration, climate adaptation, invasive species management and One Health.

Contact:

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