



Job opening at The European Topic Centre on Spatial Analysis and Synthesis - [ETC-UMA](#)

Vacancy notice for position:

Senior Specialist in Forest ecosystem conservation and climate resilience

Please send your application by 5 February 2024 at midnight (Malaga time) - First stage

This position entails a 2-stage process that is specified together with the instructions to apply in the ANNEX

ETC-UMA:

The European Topic Centre on Spatial Analysis and Synthesis (ETC-UMA) is an international center that develops and applies scientific knowledge and cutting-edge technology to address environmental issues and enhance the status of ecosystems at all spatial scales targeting various stakeholders. The center's mission is to support protecting, managing, and restoring ecosystems, landscapes, and seascapes in the face of major global changes.

ETC-UMA is partner of the European Topic Centre on Data Integration and Digitalisation, a consortium collaborating with the European Environmental Agency (EEA). As such it is supporting the EEA in delivering information on the condition and trends of the environment through data collection, harmonization, maintenance, environmental assessments, technical and science for policy reporting. Furthermore, ETC-UMA collaborates with a network of regional institutions to implement international projects to assess and monitor the effects of global change on ecosystems, tailoring solutions to reduce their impacts.

To consolidate a growing working area, ETC-UMA is opening a vacancy to recruit a highly motivated and well qualified candidate to work as a Senior Specialist in Forest ecosystem conservation and climate resilience. This position seeks to consolidate ETC-UMA's working area in forest conservation research through increasing the knowledge on the crucial role of forests in tackling biodiversity and climate crises and addressing ways for prioritizing their resilience. More specifically, the position is related to the implementation of the Interreg-Med EUROMED project StrategyMedFor, coordinated by ETC-UMA, which will use innovative techniques and technologies to improve the Mediterranean wide forest ecosystem spatial layer and climate scenarios to predict scientific-sound recommendations to guide towards forest resilience strategies.



This vacancy is expected to fill two requirements. On the one hand, it is expected to strengthen the stock-taking of latest scientific and technological developments in understanding the role of resilient forests in supporting the climate and restoration agendas of the current decade. And on the other hand, it aims at identifying applicable strategies and needed collaborations to influence ecosystem-based management practices and policies at multiple scales.

The new colleague will be a motivated, professional team player, with at least seven years' experience in project management, who can demonstrate high collaborative capacities in international context, excellence in forest ecosystem assessments, and an ability to innovate and have the potential to take on increasing responsibilities.

The place of work is Malaga, Spain.

Minimum requirements

- PhD degree in forest ecology, agriculture, geography, engineering, or other related fields (validated in the University of Malaga)¹.
- Seven years of relevant experience working on initiatives promoting regional and international partnerships and alliances on forest landscapes and associated environments.
- Seven years of demonstrated experience in managing projects, organising international meetings, seminars, and training courses with a wide range of stakeholders.
- Working knowledge of English in addition to another Mediterranean language.

Duties and responsibilities

- Executing ETC-UMA's duties in ongoing projects, namely in the EUROMED StrategyMedFor, overseeing the accurate and timely overall project management, its correct implementation, through coordinating the relation with the partnership and following up the regular communication with the donor.
- Guiding ETC-UMA's vision in international sustainable forest management and the application of the European Forest Strategy.
- Coordinating ETC-UMA's knowledge generation agenda on forest including the writing of technical and scientific publications and policy briefs and providing linkages with relevant international agreements and processes on forest and climate strategies.

¹ The PhD degree held, if not issued from a Spanish University, should be presented to the University of Malaga (a justification is needed)



- Overseeing and co-designing the analytical work and harmonised geospatial results for supporting an informed regional implementation of forest linked policy instruments.
- Upscaling solutions to ensure that forest management activities defined are improving forest condition in the project case studies.
- Supporting the design and implementation of regional workshops, and with multiple stakeholders to validate achieved results and to collect additional elements for the follow-up of the forest line of work of ETC-UMA.
- Building on the analytical outcomes, help defining measures and recommendations to be implemented to support sustainable development and the climate agenda through forest restoration prioritisations.
- Contributing to the fundraising activities of the centre through mobilising financial resources, in collaboration with other ETC-UMA members and regional partners, including developing and maintaining linkages with donors, in support of forest conservation and its adaptation to global change.

Selection criteria (candidates should fulfil to a certain extent the list below)

- Prior experience of successful implementation of international projects and timely and high-quality delivery of outputs involving a variety of stakeholders;
- Proven extensive knowledge and experience, of at least seven years, in monitoring and assessing forests and identifying ecosystem-based solutions to disaster risk reduction and climate resilience by promoting the application of pertinent policies and strategies;
- Proven knowledge of global and EU forest strategies and policies, including the UN strategic Plan for Forests, the EU Forest Strategy, and the EU restoration Law, among others;
- Proven experience of working with relevant global and European datasets on forest ecosystems and the ability to use these datasets for assessing forest condition;
- Proven ability to carry out integrated forest resources assessments and addressing climate adaptation approaches based on environmental, climate and socio-economic data and information;
- Experience in data analysing, in synthesising results and transforming research findings to recommendations to guide actionable policy;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including the capacity to translate complex and technical information into key messages for different audiences (e.g. policy makers, experts, the general public).
- Proven communication and interpersonal skills, with a demonstrable ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships in a multicultural environment;
- High organisational and communication skills and proven capacity to work autonomously and as part of a team.



Additional criteria for the evaluation

- Proven knowledge in ecosystem and ecosystem services assessment methodologies and related data handling.
- Proficiency in spatial data analysis using GIS and/or modelling tools and quantitative techniques applied to forest landscape and associated ecosystems;
- Proven experience in analysing results from climate modelling and scenarios and in integrating them to measure forest resilience;
- Proficient understanding of Copernicus programme and proven experience using the Copernicus products with an emphasis on the Copernicus land and climate programmes;

Conditions:

- The contract is subject to a 6-month probation period with the possibility of longer-term extension upon meeting the recruitment conditions.
- ETC-UMA offers a generous number of holidays (26 days) per year plus two weeks for the Christmas period and one week for the Easter period.
- Gross annual salary: 50'000 euros
- Starting date: April 2024
- Place of work: Malaga, Spain

All candidates interested in applying to this open position should read carefully the required documents listed in the stages below.

Please note that we are interested in receiving and considering applications from applicants who may not tick every box.

For additional information, please contact: etc-uma@uma.es



ANNEX

STAGE 1 - LIST OF ADMINISTRATIVE DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED DURING THE FIRST STAGE to etc-uma@uma.es (by February 5, 2024)

- CV
- Copy of Ph Degree (title deed) *
- Copy of Identity Card (NIE/Passport)

STAGE 1.1. Short-listed candidates will be invited to STAGE 2

- Spanish short-listed candidates can apply directly to Stage 2 presenting their Spanish PhD degree.
- In case of short-listed candidates with Non-Spanish PhD degree, they should present the PhD degree title with a sworn translation (recognised by the Spanish Ministry of External Affairs) into Spanish and apply for the equivalence of the doctoral degree.
- For non-EU candidates, they require to go through the steps indicated below **

** Applying **for the equivalence** of a doctoral degree (for non-EU candidates) at the University of Malaga Doctoral School requires – the following documents:

- Certification of the nationality of the applicant (authenticated copy of the National Identity Document or Passport),
- Authenticated copy of the PhD Degree (title deed) whose homologation/standardization is requested and official translation to Spanish language,
- Authenticated copy of the academic record of studies achieved to obtain the PhD Degree, subjects, programme, number of hours/credits, duration, years, and qualifications (with official translation to Spanish language),
- Description of thesis one page in Spanish language,
- A copy of the original thesis.

STAGE 2 - OPEN CALL to short-listed candidates that justified requirements of STAGE 1.1. in the University of Malaga to complete the online application (21 February 2024)

- Application form
- CV
- Copy of Identity Card/Passport
- Copy of PhD Degree
- Supporting documents that guarantee requirements/merits
- Copy of Application Form “Solicitud de equivalencia” if needed**



If a non-EU candidate is selected for the post: The selection process for the contract requires an administrative process (an immigration procedure) including:

- the filling of a questionnaire that will be provided by the University of Malaga research service,
- a complete passport including the blank pages and an identification card in Spain (NIE) in case of possessing it.

P.S.: It will be the University of Malaga that initiates the immigration **procedures for residence and work permits**, which will take between 1.5 and 2.5 months to get processed and resolved.