



### PhD position in the project “Wolves and cattle”

In collaboration with Prof. Philippe Christe, Department of Ecology and Evolution, University of Lausanne and AGRIDEA, the foundation KORA (Carnivore ecology and wildlife management) is seeking an outstanding PhD candidate to conduct research within the project “wolves and cattle”, which aims to identify factors affecting the risk of wolf attacks on bovids and equids with the aim of developing mitigation measures.

In recent years depredation of cattle/equids by wolves have been increasingly registered. The keeping of cattle, especially dairy cows, is characteristic of Swiss agriculture, of high economic importance and a central part of Swiss identity. A low-conflict coexistence between cow breeders and wolves is therefore central for the future of the wolf in Switzerland. The aim of this PhD project is to address the challenges arising for the coexistence between bovid and equid breeders and wolves in Switzerland and to develop the scientific basis for management solutions in Switzerland.

#### Your responsibilities:

- Review the literature on wolf damages to cattle and horses, non-lethal and lethal measures to prevent them and their effectiveness in Switzerland and internationally
- Collecting already existing data on livestock depredation in Switzerland
- Collect agricultural data in the first place in summering regions (e.g., distribution of different livestock herds, composition of the herds, number of cattle/equids, breeds...)
- Collect data on mitigation measures (e.g. lethal and non-lethal measures) in place
- Collect environmental data in the form of GIS layers
- Support collaring wolves and cattle
- Analyze GPS data of wolves and cattle
- Communicate with local collaborators and players in GR and VD and possibly other regions
- Write publications, and present your research to stakeholders and at scientific conferences

#### Your profile:

- A Master’s degree in a relevant field (ecology, biology, environmental science etc.)
- Good communication skills in German, French and English
- Ecological knowledge related to the position.
- Proficiency in R and GIS software
- Strong ability to work in a team-oriented environment with external collaborators
- Good field and endurance skills
- Empathize with the problems and needs of the cattle/equid breeders
- Good conflict solving skills and good ability to communicate the practical relevance of scientific results to a critical non-scientific audience
- Driver’s license category B

#### What we offer:

- An interdisciplinary work environment with connections to practitioners as well as scientists
- Possibilities for education and networking, attending national and international conferences and for supervising master students
- Project with strong implications for wildlife management in Switzerland

Preferred starting date December 1st, 2022 or upon agreement with a contract of four years.

Please apply by October 16<sup>th</sup> by submitting your application materials in a single document in German or French and sending it to Dr. Nina Gerber [n.gerber@kora.ch](mailto:n.gerber@kora.ch) under the subject “Application PhD Wolves and Cattle”

For further inquiries, please contact Dr. Nina Gerber [n.gerber@kora.ch](mailto:n.gerber@kora.ch)