

Research evaluation



Comportement et Écologie de la Faune Sauvage (CEFS)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCH BODIES:

Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique -INRA

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2019-2020GROUP A

Report published on February, 05 2020



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Nelly Dupin, acting president

In the name of the experts committee2:

David Lusseau, Chairman of the committee

Under the decree No.2014-1365 dated 14 November 2014,

¹ The president of Hcéres "countersigns the evaluation reports set up by the experts committees and signed by their chairman." (Article 8, paragraph 5);

² The evaluation reports "are signed by the chairman of the experts committee". (Article 11, paragraph 2).



Tables in this document were filled with data submitted by the supervising body on behalf the unit.

UNIT PRESENTATION

Unit name: Comportement et Écologie de la Faune Sauvage

Mr Mark Hewison

Unit acronym: CEFS

Current label and N°: UR 035

ID RNSR: 197317920A

Application type: Renewal

Head of the unit

(2019-2020):

Project leader

(2021-2025): Ms Hélène Verheyden

Number of teams and/or

themes:

1

EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: Mr David Lusseau, University of Aberdeen, Grande-Bretagne

Experts: Ms Sandie Arnoux, INRA, Nantes (supporting personnel)

Ms Myriam Harry, Paris-Sud University, Orsay (representative of Inra CSS)

Mr Jérôme Moreau, Bourgogne University, Dijon (representative of CNU)

Mr Klaus Zuberbühler, Université of Neuchatel, Suisse

HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Christopher CARCAILLET

REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

Mr Pascal Carrère, INRA (EFPA)

Ms Michèle MARIN, INRA Centre Occitanie-Toulouse



INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

INRA's Unit CEFS, «Comportement et Écologie de la Faune Sauvage», is part of the INRA Department « Écologie des Forêts, Prairies et milieux Aquatiques » (EFPA) since 2004, and is one of the 19 INRA units at the Toulouse Occitanie campus in Auzeville-Tolosane. The unit has been located in this area since 1986 emerging from the association of INRA's «Laboratoire Faune Sauvage et Cynégétique Sud » and a research team from the Paul Sabatier University, Toulouse.

From 2004 to 2014 the CEFS was composed of two teams, one working on animal behaviour and another working on evolutionary ecology. Those were merged in 2014. The CEFS currently has nine permanent researchers and 10 technicians at the time of the evaluation organised around six independent research themes primarily anchored in behavioural ecology and linked to the maintenance of two experimental field systems. It is forecasted that the team will lose 3 researchers in the 5 years to come and the team aims to reorganize itself around four new research themes. The CEFS is affiliated to the doctoral school « Sciences Écologiques, vétérinaires, agronomiques et bioingénieries » under the supervision of the Paul Sabatier University.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The head of the research unit is Mark Hewison, DR INRA, and one deputy director, Hélène Verheyden (CR, INRA)

HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE

SVE1-2 Evolution, ecology, population biology

THEMATICS

The CEFS's scientific objective is to understand wild ungulate populations in their natural habitats and in interaction with humans. The unit is structured into different complementary research themes, such as behaviour, population genetics or conservation. In doing so, the unit is focusing chiefly on one species, the European roe deer (Capreolus capreolus), although their researchers collaborate nationally and internationally with other study systems.

The CEFS takes an individual-centred approach to understand how individual's demographic contributions are shaped by the landscape in which they live. This leads the research unit to develop insight in the way the interaction between individuals and their environment shapes landscape ecology, demography, disease propagation and the provision of ecosystem services. The CEFS uses a mixture of long-term population follow and field manipulations to address these behavioural ecological questions.



UNIT WORKFORCE

CEFS		
Active staff	Number 06/30/2019	Number 01/01/2021
Full professors and similar positions	1	1
Assistant professors and similar positions	0	0
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	1	1
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	7	5
Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.")	0	0
High school teachers	0	0
Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	10	11
Permanent staff	19	18
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	0	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs (except PhD students)	0	
PhD Students	5	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	1	
Non-permanent staff	6	
Total	25	18

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

INRA's research unit « Comportement et Écologie de la Faune Sauvage » (CEFS) has good scientific outputs and a very good reputation. Its strengths lie in a transdisciplinary approach resting on outstanding wild and managed field facilities maintained by an extremely competent and enthusiastic technical team. The facilities focus on roe deer, a socially and economic important species, through which the unit foster good interactions with national and regional actors. The CEFS also has a very good network of collaborators including the participation in key networks of long-term field studies. The unit has an outstanding track record obtaining ANR funding, and some European funding as partners. The unit has developed an excellent fostering framework to receive and supervise doctoral students who tend to complete their theses with very good publication track-records.

The CEFS currently faces some structural challenges including staffing and investment issues, and performance issues for some of the research staff. These are affecting the team size which also has difficulties attracting visiting researchers internationally. A clearer organisational and recruitment strategy is required to meet these challenges.

The scientific project of the CEFS continues along the same broad lines of investigation of how an individual-centred understanding of populations can help us gain insights in landscape ecology, demography, disease propagation and the provision of ecosystem services.

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