

MoveTech – State of the Art Loggers for Tracking Animal Movement

Dr Aldina Franco

The wildlife tracking market is currently dominated by expensive technologies which are unaffordable to the research community, as well as other potential consumers. The number of projects tracking wildlife movement has increased exponentially in the last few years. The British Trust for Ornithology uses 100 – 150 tracking devices each year and the RSPB recently had a seabird tracking project using archival GPS tags and tagged 1200+ birds since 2010. It is estimated that in the UK alone 1,500 birds had a GPS tracking device each year. Therefore, there is significant demand for a more affordable, smaller tracker.

Dr Aldina Franco (UEA) is working in collaboration with University of Lisbon and the Norfolk based British Trust for Ornithology to develop a low-cost, low-weight high efficiency GPS/GSM solar powered tracking device. The NRP Translational funding will be used to develop and test prototypes of the tracking devices and Apps. The logger has the potential to revolutionise the tracking of animal migration and animal movement.