

IBA 2020 Elections
Candidate for Councillor
Marta De Barba (Incumbent)

Affiliation: Biology Department Biotechnical Faculty

Country: Slovenia

Email: marta.debarba@bearbiology.org

I have been involved into bear research and conservation since my early studies, and ever since I attended my first IBA conference in 2004, the IBA has become a family to me, professionally and personally. I am grateful for the support I have received from IBA throughout my career, and I highly value the dedication of its members to global bear conservation.

When I was elected to Council in 2017, I took it as an opportunity to contribute back to the community and help the IBA carry out its mission. I have been actively involved in the current IBA-process to increase its capacity to more effectively support bear conservation and the work of its members worldwide. Participating in this process has made me more aware of how unique IBA is and how important it is to increase the impact we have as a community of bear biologists, researchers and managers. I really enjoy working on Council, such a diverse and dedicated group of people linked by the same motivation. If re-elected, I will be enthusiastically committed to continue strengthening IBA's development and programs.

In the course of my work, I came to understand the importance of cooperation among all relevant actors involved into bear work at different levels. If still serving on Council for the next term, I will use this experience to foster collaborative initiatives and trans-boundary coordination to fill gaps in bear research and promote science-based conservation and management.

