

Post Doc projet INVALUABLE (2 years)

Economist: Environment, Ecosystem Services, Forests

IDDRI

At the interface between research and decision-making, the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) is an independent, policy research institute based at Sciences Po (Institute for Political Studies) in Paris. Its activity focuses on sustainable development issues that require international coordination, especially biodiversity and climate change (for more information on the programme, see www.iddri.org).

IDDRI has three **objectives**: informing policy decisions; identifying emerging issues; and providing a platform for dialogue between various stakeholders, including research institutes, public agencies, private sectors and NGOs.

Based in Paris, IDDRI currently has about 40 staff including an interdisciplinary team of 20 social scientists (economists, political scientists, lawyers, etc.).

Background

IDDRI will coordinate a European Project from 2012-2014 entitled “Invaluable: Integrating Valuations, Markets and Policies for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services”, which is briefly described below. The Post Doc will be in charge of several research activities in the framework of this project, and will provide assistance to the coordinator.

Project description. While the use of “market-based instruments” (MBIs) for the management of biodiversity and ecosystem services (B&ES) is currently booming, the definition and underpinning theory of these tools are matters yet to be settled. Among MBIs, Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) and biodiversity offsetting are increasingly regarded as promising tools, but evidence regarding their performance is still far from being conclusive. More research is required to understand which policy and legal frameworks are supportive of their development. Furthermore, public policies have an essential role to play in ensuring that the main types of ecosystem values are identified and taken into account. To this end, economic valuations may be helpful for allocating public spending, for setting guidelines and regulation in offset-schemes, just to name a few examples.

In this context, the overall objective of INVALUABLE is to clarify the potential of MBIs to better integrate B&ES into society, based on appropriate institutional arrangements for relevant public policies and an improved utilization of economic valuation approaches.

The project is organised around 3 Work Packages with the following objectives:

- To elaborate a comprehensive theoretical framework to define MBIs;
- To conduct a historical account of the notions of market-based approaches;
- To examine how the application of MBIs has changed the role of stakeholders and the governance structures;
- To investigate the role of biodiversity offsets and PES in reinforcing public conservation policies, and to examine their supporting governance frameworks and outcomes to date, drawing comparative lessons across case studies;
- To provide an overview of existing Science Policy Interface bodies and activities relating to the particular field of MBIs for biodiversity conservation at various scales (global, national, local), assess their effectiveness through case studies, and formulate options to better integrate science and policy;
- To identify shortcomings of valuation methods and results, and possible improvements with an end-user's perspective to make them operational at both EU and Member State levels;
- To analyse how and which legislations support the use of economic valuation in MBIs and broader conservation policies and, conversely, how such valuation influences the legislative process.

Objectives and mission

The post doc will be part of the Biodiversity team and will work under the supervision of the project coordinator. He will undertake research in two work packages:

- Work package 1. The task consists in providing a theoretical framework to existing market-based instruments, and to work on a typology that is derived from the economic / market characteristics of these instruments. This task will be performed also in collaboration with other partners to the project in charge of case studies and discourse / historical analysis.
- Work package 2. The candidate will conduct research on the implementation of market-based instruments through case studies of Payments for Environmental Services and /or Mitigation Banking. These case studies might take place in Europe or developing countries, and field research is required.
- Coordination. Assistance to the coordinator will be another component of the work, with the writing of notes for meetings, activity reports and review of other partners' work.

Deliverables

The post doc will participate in the writing of various notes and reports according to the project's list of deliverables.

Duration and starting date

Beginning of the Post Doc in 2012 and will last for two years.

Qualifications required

- PhD in Economics with good command of environmental economics;
- Good knowledge of public policies from an institutional and an economic policy tool points of view;
- Work and/or research experience in developing countries;
- Fluency in English (oral and written);
- Excellent writing skills;
- Knowledge of tropical forest and /or agricultural issues would be welcome;
- Knowledge of Spanish, Portuguese or Indonesian would be welcome;
- Basic knowledge of French is an asset as it is IDDRI's working language.

This position was opened on October 2011

Position opened until filled

Applications (CV, cover letter, three referees) should be sent as soon as possible to Romain Pirard (romain.pirard@iddri.org)

Only short-listed candidates will receive a feedback on their application.

IDDRI is an equal opportunity employer.