Vacancy Announcement

Research fellow

Biodiversity COP15 and its outcomes

About IDDRI

Founded in 2001, IDDRI is an independent think tank that aims to facilitate the transition towards sustainable development. IDDRI identifies the conditions and offers the tools for integrating sustainable development into public and private policies. The Institute acts at various levels, from international cooperation to engaging national and sub-national governments, as well as private companies. As a research institute and a dialogue platform, IDDRI creates the conditions for a shared analysis and expertise between stakeholders. Based on leading interdisciplinary research, IDDRI connects its stakeholders and partners in a transparent, collaborative manner and makes its analysis and proposals available to all. IDDRI's focus is on four major issues: climate, biodiversity and ecosystems, sustainable development governance, and the Ocean.

The Post-2020 International Biodiversity Governance Initiative

The 2019-2021 period will be crucial for renewing international biodiversity governance. While biodiversity loss continues worldwide, States are currently negotiating the future global framework that will succeed the current “Strategic Plan for 2011-2020” and should be adopted at COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which will be held in China (Kunming, capital of Yunnan). This framework should enable the renewal of the objectives of the international community and, above all, to lay the groundwork for a new functioning of international biodiversity governance.

Indeed, we are coming to terms with two successive decades of failing to achieve very ambitious objectives aimed at slowing down the loss of biodiversity; losses that have, in fact, accelerated everywhere, and in all types of ecosystems. Two major changes are necessary for the future of international biodiversity governance: to put more emphasis on the socioeconomic drivers of biodiversity loss and find ways to better stimulate transformation in the sectors that are most directly harming biodiversity (e.g., agrifood sectors), and the future framework must be reinforced in terms of accountability and monitoring of implementation.

By the end of 2020 and the CBD COP15, an intense sequence of mobilisation and negotiation will take place. IDDRI, with the support of various partners, will contribute to this process in three different ways:

- Analytical work. Publications taking stock of the state of international biodiversity governance and of post 2020-related negotiations and key events.
• Propositions. IDDRI and its partners will formulate proposals and recommendations on the content and architecture of the post-2020 biodiversity governance framework. These proposals will encompass future international objectives, implementation mechanisms, and means of linking post-2020 discussions to other fora (sectoral, environmental, etc.) whose mobilisation is essential for slowing down biodiversity loss.

• Facilitation. IDDRI will regularly organise events for different audiences, to coordinate the multi-stakeholder debate on the post-2020 framework and to facilitate informal discussions between negotiators on key discussion points. IDDRI is also working to reinforce exchanges between intellectual centres on biodiversity governance; it is one of the main coordinators of the Rethinking Biodiversity Network, which brings together researchers and practitioners.

After COP15, there will also be a need to take stock of its outcomes and make recommendations for the implementation of decisions.

Objectives and Mission

Under the supervision of the initiative lead and in liaison with the whole team, the researcher will contribute to all three kinds of activities. More specifically, the researcher will:

• Make regular analyses of negotiation documents and elaborate proposals, especially on issues pertaining to socioeconomic drivers and reinforcing accountability in international biodiversity governance.
• Contribute to the organization of experts and negotiators workshops and to the outreach and dissemination activities.
• Promote the team’s analyses to the public and to expert audiences (e.g., CBD events).
• Assist in the reporting to the various partners funding this initiative.

More generally, she/he will:

• Join a dynamic team of researchers;
• Develop a research activity, publishing and promoting policy-oriented publications;
• Develop and maintain relevant networks and partnerships of researchers and with other stakeholders;
• Represent IDDRI in relevant stakeholder meetings, conferences, as well as with the media;
• Support, when appropriate, fundraising for research activities and project management.

Requirements

Required qualifications

• Have a Master degree or doctorate in International Relations, Environmental Policy, Sociology or Political Science.
• Have 2 to 5 years of experience in one or more of the following sectors and institutions or good knowledge of them:
  - Research institutions or think tanks working on multilateral negotiations on sustainable development;
  - NGOs, with a strong focus on international relations and negotiations;
  - Public institutions, in charge of following international environmental affairs.
She/He has a good knowledge of debates and issues related to international environmental politics, on biodiversity but also possibly on climate change, ocean governance, and the Sustainable Development Goals. An experience of direct contribution within an international environmental process, the production of research and synthesis reports, and the valorisation to decision-makers is highly desirable.

Other required skills:
- Good ability to take initiatives, to work independently, and good team spirit.
- Good relationship to coordinate networks and work in partnership.
- Excellent working and communication skills in both French and English.
- Excellent writing and synthesis skills

Contract and Location
A fixed term contract until August 2021.

Remuneration according to qualification and experience, based on IDDRI’s salary policy.

Position based in Paris.

How to apply?
Applications should be sent before September 11th at noon to aleksandar.rankovic@iddri.org and lisa.dacosta@iddri.org. Candidates should submit a file containing: a cover letter and CV (max. 2 pages each); the names of 3 referees; and a writing sample (e.g. a published paper, media article, or essay).

The interviews should take place the week of September 30th.

IDDRI is an equal opportunity employer and we encourage applications from candidates from all backgrounds.

Due to the volume of applications, we regret that only short-listed candidates will receive feedback on their application.