JOB OFFER

Junior research fellow on Adaptation to climate change
“Adaptation pathways for small islands countries and regions”

IDDRI

The Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) is a non-profit policy research institute based in Paris, France. Its objective is to determine and share the keys for analysing and understanding strategic issues linked to sustainable development from a global perspective. IDDRI supports stakeholders in deliberating on global governance of the major issues of common interest: strategies and actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change, to protect terrestrial and ocean biodiversity, to enhance food security and to manage urbanisation. IDDRI also takes part in efforts to reframe development pathways.

Based on a well-developed partnership network with emerging countries to better understand and share various perspectives on sustainable development issues and governance, IDDRI also seeks to develop its capacity to account for the perspective of the most vulnerable countries and regions. For more effective action, IDDRI operates with a network of partners from the private sector, academia, civil society and the public sector, in France and internationally.

As an independent institute, IDDRI mobilises resources and expertise to disseminate the most relevant scientific ideas and research ahead of negotiations and decision-making processes. It applies a cross-cutting approach to its work, which focuses on four thematic areas: Climate, Biodiversity, Ocean and Global Governance.

Context and job description

The proposed position is mainly linked to the STORISK project (2016-2020, https://lienss.univ-larochelle.fr/storisk), which develops an integrated approach to the risks induced by climate- and sea-related hazards (e.g., marine erosion and flooding) on small islands in the Pacific (Tuamotu and Australies archipelagos in French Polynesia, Kiribati, Cook Islands) and the Indian (Reunion Island, Seychelles) oceans. Based on the reconstruction and analysis of “chains of impacts” for both specific climate events (e.g., cyclones, El Nino) and gradual environmental changes (e.g., sea level rise, ocean warming and acidification), as well as of “trajectories of vulnerability” (i.e. changes in coastal vulnerability drivers over the last decades), STORISK aims at translating the threats from current hazards and climate change into comprehensive “storylines of risk”. This allows advancing scientific knowledge a step forward (i.e., highlighting the trade-offs between current and future challenges, and the path dependencies of local or regional development patterns that can lead to increase vulnerability instead of reducing it), as well as engaging an empirically-based dialogue with local to regional and national stakeholders on how to address future threats (i.e., adaptation strategies). Using local case studies, STORISK demonstrates that Small Islands will be concerned with various storylines of risk, and thus that in parallel to regional approaches, context-specific and adaptation-compatible decision-making processes are needed.

In such a scientific context, the researcher will contribute to the identification of contrasting adaptation pathways for some of the case studies above-mentioned. More specifically, he/she will address the following main tasks:

(1) Assess the implementation of adaptation (types of measures, stakeholders involved, degree of implementation, etc.), based on (i) an extensive literature review, (ii) the development of an analytical framework, and (iii) fieldwork. Possible case studies: Seychelles, Cook Islands, Kiribati.
Based on (1), contribute to develop reflections on **pragmatic adaptation pathways** for the selected case studies. This will require *(i)* a literature survey on the adaptation pathway issue (basic principles, examples of analytical frameworks and concrete experiences), *(ii)* the development of a STORISK-compatible analytical framework linking the risk management dimension with land use or economic and regional development planning, and *(iii)* a reflection on the possibility of upscaling the adaptation pathway concept from a local-to-national scale to a regional scale.

In terms of outcomes, publish and promote **scientific and policy-relevant publications**, as well as communicate with **key scientific and policy partners** at the scale of the case studies, but also in international fora;

In addition, and depending on his/her expertise, the researcher is also expected to **contribute to other works** IDDRI is developing on adaptation (e.g., transboundary effects of decisions on adaptation, progress tracking, etc.).

**Required qualifications and skills**

- PhD level in Social and/or Environmental Sciences. A transdisciplinary experience will be particularly appreciated.
- Extended knowledge on climate change-induced risks on coastal areas, as well as in vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (literature and field experience), especially in tropical areas. Experience in Small Islands will be particularly appreciated.
- Robust experience in conducting fieldworks, notably interviews with a diversity of stakeholders (from the local to the national levels)
- The capacity to link the risk management dimension, central to the STORISK project, with land use planning, regional development planning, and economic planning at regional scale will be appreciated.
- Excellent writing and communication skills, in English (working language) and also possibly in French
- Capacity for initiative and autonomy, especially in the field, and teamwork attitude.

**Contract details**

- 12-month full time position
- Based in Paris, France, with frequent and mostly distant travels (for fieldworks)
- Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience, according to IDDRI’s rules and regulations.

**Important dates**

- Application: a detailed CV and a motivation letter (with contacts of 3 referees) are to be sent before August 31st, 2018, to Alexandre MAGNAN (alexandre.magnan@iddri.org) and Lisa DACOSTA (lisa.dacosta@iddri.org).
- Selection of the candidates: by September 7th. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for the interview process.
- Interview process: between the 17th and 20th of September. Skype and video conferences will be possible.

IDDRI adheres to and supports norms of equal opportunity for employment.