

Postdoc position – Co-construction and evaluation of prospective scenarios for marine carbon dioxide removal

IRD (French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development), UMR LEMAR

Contract duration: 24 months

Location: Brest, France

Employer description

IRD is a multidisciplinary French public research organization which, for nearly 80 years, has been committed to equitable partnerships with developing countries and French Overseas Territories. As a key player on the international development agenda, its priorities are in line with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Together, scientists and the Institute's partners propose concrete solutions to the global challenges facing society and the planet. This win-win relationship makes science and innovation major levers for development. The Institute comes under the dual oversight of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research and the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs.

The organization and project you are joining

You will be working in the LEMAR Joint Research Unit (UMR 6539). You will be based at the Brest site, at the Institut Universitaire Européen de la Mer (IUEM), and will be required to travel occasionally for meetings or events involving the various partners in France or abroad. The LEMAR unit brings together multi-disciplinary scientists, with the aim of understanding and modelling marine systems. The research themes of the DISCOVERY team, to which the position is attached, focus on the functioning of socio-ecosystems.

Your position will be funded by the TRACCOS project of the Ocean & Climate Priority research program (PPR Océan & Climat¹). TRACCOS focuses on the transdisciplinary assessment of governance issues associated with the deployment of marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) techniques at the international level. The project aims to understand the issues associated with funding, the techniques envisaged for Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV), societal acceptability, and the governance framework for deploying mCDR strategies. The results of this project will thus help to inform policy makers, civil society and future research on the sustainability of possible mCDR deployment trajectories.

The post-doctoral project will be carried out under the joint supervision of Adrien Comte (research fellow at IRD, UMR LEMAR) and Manuel Bellanger (researcher at Ifremer, UMR AMURE).

Key responsibilities

¹ <https://www.ocean-climat.fr/Le-PPR>

You will **design and implement qualitative approaches**, including:

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- Literature review
 - Semi-structured interviews with key players (scientists, NGOs, industry, policy makers) at international level
 - Strategic assessment of drivers and barriers through a PESTEL analysis
 - Participatory workshops to co-construct prospective scenarios for mCDR in the French context

Originality of the approach:

- Participatory approach with stakeholders involved in or affected by mCDR
- Contribution to the development of a new tool aligned with sustainability sciences goals
- International dimension of the study
- Consideration of the points of view of stakeholders from the global South

Aims and expected outcomes:

- Improving our understanding of mCDR-related issues including key stakeholder viewpoints
- Produce results to inform the IPCC methodological report on carbon removal technologies
- Write scientific publications and policy briefs to disseminate results
- Contribute to transdisciplinary science by clarifying mCDR-related issues and defining the priorities for future research projects
- Informing the societal debate on the potential deployment of mCDR strategies

Your team

TRACCOS brings together a team of researchers from the IRD, Ifremer and the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, working in social sciences disciplines (economics, sustainability science, political science). You will be working at the interface between the project's scientific partners, as well as with external researchers who are also involved in the Ocean & Climate priority research program (cohort of 9 post-docs on mCDR). These interactions and collaborations will involve French and international researchers (France, Europe, international) from a variety of disciplines (oceanographers, modellers, economists, political science, sociology), as well as institutional partners (decision-makers, NGOs, industry, etc.).

Qualification

You must have a PhD in sustainability science, environmental economics, social sciences, political science, marine and coastal geography, environmental management, or another relevant discipline, ideally with research experience in marine management and/or climate change. You are a self-motivated individual with a strong desire to work as part of a team in an international, interdisciplinary and multicultural research environment.

Required skills:

- Experience in conducting semi-structured interviews
- Expertise in participatory methods and qualitative analysis
- Knowledge of mCDR strategies
- Experience in academic research and scientific communication, both written and oral
- Fluency in English and experience of scientific publication in English

Desired skills:

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- Knowledge of the social and environmental justice issues associated with the deployment of climate solutions
 - Familiarity with development issues

Salary information

The salary is in accordance with IRD's salary scale (approx. 2800€/month).

Application instructions

To apply for this position, please submit an application via email to adrien.comte@ird.fr and manuel.bellanger@ifremer.fr by 15 April 2025.

Applications must include: 1) a cover letter explaining your interest in the position and describing your relevant skill set; 2) a Curriculum Vitae; 3) a sample of scholarly writing on which you are the first author.

An ideal start date is June 1, 2025 (flexible).