

CASEST - Anthropogenic constraints to Tropical Savanna Social-ecological systems: a stakeholders and mental maps approach.

Contact persons:

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Topic:

The CASEST project (French acronym for “*Anthropogenic constraints to Tropical Savanna Social-ecological systems*”) aims to investigate the interfaces between nature and society particularly between wildlife and agricultural practices around protected areas (PAs). Biodiversity conservation has become a prominent human-ecological community issue at regional, state or worldwide scales. While countries have implemented many rules and laws, biodiversity erosion has accelerated in recent decades. Agricultural practices and land use changes dynamics have been pointed out by worldwide experts as major causes of biodiversity erosion (cf. IPBES 2018).

The CASEST project will gather regional and international research units studying interplays between nature and human activities involving production landscapes around protected areas (PAs). Although PAs are supposed to protect natural habitats within their boundaries, peripheral zones around PAs became so anthropogenic that they seem to fail to maintain their buffer roles. Savannas are one of the most threatened areas in the tropics because of the high dynamics of land use and agricultural expansion in the last decades. In this context, a worldwide, integrative and sustainable network between all stakeholders of the savanna Social-Ecological System (SES) aims to include researchers with diverse and complementary skills at the interplay between social, ecological, agricultural and economic sciences. This project aims to build a conceptual framework for the management of interfaces between protected areas and production landscapes in savannas, using social-ecological systems (SES) perspectives. This project will improve the worldwide knowledge of regional research for biodiversity conservation and forging international research partnerships through a valuable and active research network.

The project is hosted by three LTSER (Long Term Social-Ecological Research) labeled site:

- PELD Planalto da Serra da Bodoquena (Mato-Grosso do Sul, Brazil) (<http://peldbodoquena.wixsite.com/home>)
- Zone Atelier CNRS Hwange (Zimbabwe) (http://www.za-hwange.cnrs.fr/?page_id=130&lang=fr)
- Garden Route (South Africa) (<http://sru.mandela.ac.za/>)

Field work will be done in those three sites.

Job details:

The post is available from 1st July 2018

Contract duration is 18 months

The applicant will be based in University of Angers, but is expected to spend a very significant amount of time in Brazil, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Information enquiries should be sent to:
Renaud Pierre-Cyril (pierre-cyril.renaud@univ-angers.fr)
UMR 6554 CNRS - LETG-Angers
Université d'Angers - UFR Sciences
Campus de Belle-Beille
2 Bd Lavoisier
F-49045 Angers France

Salary:

Average monthly net salary: 2100 € (net salary means that all taxes, including insurance and health care, are already paid). Field expenses will be covered by the project.

Job purpose:

Stakeholder's analysis: identify relevant stakeholders and assess their views and interests on sustainable management of agriculture/biodiversity interface. The assessment can investigate economical, sociological, ethnological, political interests.

Propose a mental map oriented analysis to be included into the global Social-Ecological framework.

Data analysis to investigate and model impact of mental maps and stake holders' game in sustainability of public policies for agriculture/biodiversity interface.

Supervision of Master students

Writing of scientific papers (several per year are expected)

Main responsibilities:

Collect, analyse data and write articles related to stake holders and mental maps in tropical savannah agriculture/biodiversity interface.

Build explicitly models to have a better understanding of the impacts of stake holders' view and interest in developing public policies in agriculture/biodiversity interface.

To integrate and help animating an international consortium (preparing workshops ...).

Coordinate and conduct fieldwork.

Present work at meeting and conferences when possible.

Knowledge, skills and experience needed for this job:

Qualifications/Training

Mandatory: A PhD either in conservation science, sociology, geography, anthropology, applied ecology, ethnography, economy.

Essential: Publication in peer reviewed journals in relation with the topic of the Post Doc.

Skills in computer programs and software's related to the topic of the Post Doc.

Experience

Essential: stakeholder analysis, mental maps analysis and fieldwork experience

Desirable: Good knowledge in the dynamics of agricultural landscape around protected areas in tropical areas.

Fluent in English, French and Portuguese knowledge will add value but are not mandatory.

Knowledge, skills and competencies

Essential: Stakeholder analysis in environmental and conservation planning in tropical areas, mental maps.

Mandatory: Driving license

Desirable: Some experience in public policies implementation.

Personal attributes

Essential: Ability to work alone as well as part of an international team: facilities to work in multicultural group. To be open to work in interdisciplinary approaches. A close link with a second post-doc working on landscape dynamics is crucial.

Essential: Willing to leave overseas in tropical areas for long periods.

Accommodation

Accommodation is easy to find in Angers. Accommodation in the field will be facilitated by LTSER holders.

Application procedure

All applicants should send a detailed CV and a letter of motivation to Pierre-Cyril Renaud (pierre-cyril.renaud@univ-angers.fr) and Marie-Caroline Schbath (marie-caroline.schbath@univ-angers.fr) before the 10th of June 2018. We will contact you to plan an interview if you have been shortlisted.

There is no closing date, but we will select the first candidate fulfilling the job attributes and would like to start the Post Doc contract by the 1st of July 2018.