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Maritime and Fisheries Fund

Job Announcement (#2/4)

Postdoctoral Researcher in Ecology/Ecosystem Services/Marine Spatial Planning

I – CONTEXT: the OCEAN METISS Project

Applicants are invited for a Postdoctoral Researcher who will join researchers at the University of Reunion Island (France) in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) (<http://www.univ-reunion.fr/university-of-reunion-island/>) as part of the OCEAN METISS scientific project funded by the European Commission – European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. This project is one of four European projects on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) to be selected for funding by EASME (<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/south-western-indian-ocean-maritime-spatial-planning>) and the only one to be selected from the European overseas territories.

The successful applicant will be based at the University of La Réunion (UMR ENTROPIE), and will actively participate in project-related activities, which involve cooperation between the Regional Council of Reunion Island, French State institutions - based in Reunion Island under the aegis of the Secretary General for Regional Affairs (SGAR) - and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC).

Overall, the OCEAN METISS project aims to support the integrated economic development of the South West Indian Ocean Basin and the EU. To this end, the project will develop 1) MSP as a method to operationalize a blue economy strategy; 2) the sharing of international experience and active networking in favour of a blue economy; 3) the mutualizing of local, national and international human, scientific and technical resources; 4) capacity building to ensure higher performance results in the analysis, development and implementation of the blue economy; 5) the emergence of projects that may be entitled to further funding beyond the duration of the OCEAN METISS project.

The OCEAN METISS project implements MSP as a framework for consistent, transparent, sustainable and evidence-based decision-making, as stated in the 2014 EU directive on MSP for instance. To meet this objective, the various partners will apply a multi-scale approach to marine spatial planning involving both a large scale (WIO) and small scale (Reunion Island coastlines) approach. Participants will be associated to the project in working groups linked to each work package (WP). The first three thematic work packages are sectorial and aim to set baselines for the project: WP1 Ecosystem and Energy; WP2 Sustainable Development of Economic Activities; WP3 Research and Innovation. The following three work packages are cross-sectorial and aim to develop the blue economy strategy: WP4 Governance; WP5 Risks and Conflicts of Practices; WP6 Cooperation and Networking.

II – REQUIREMENTS

1 – Missions

The Postdoc will work in WP1 and will, in particular, contribute to 1) characterize the study area in terms of oceanic productivity using both satellite imagery and in-situ measurement, 2) mapping the distribution, abundance and behaviour according to the life cycle stages for a subset of selected species using available data (tracking programs, at-sea and aerial surveys, fishery statistics, oceanographic campaigns, and any other relevant spatially explicit biological data), 3) developing a basic assessment and valuation of associated marine and coastal ecosystem services related to biodiversity and biological processes (migration pathways, biomass aggregation in relation to trophic ecology) and the links between these processes and human uses (ecotourism, fisheries, maritime routes,...). The recruited Postdoc will work closely with a GIS engineer, a Postdoc researcher in marine governance (WP4) and a Postdoc researcher in geography.



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2 – Job Profile

We seek a creative individual with expertise in spatial ecology (e.g., marine ecology, spatial analysis and modelling) and the ability to effectively work with stakeholders in interdisciplinary teams. The work of the Postdoc will require proficiency in programming (Python and R), experience with GIS tools and data visualization, ability to manage large datasets. We seek a person with experience and/or strong interest in both advancing scientific frontiers and addressing real - world challenges of marine and coastal sustainable management.

3 – Conditions

The position is for 20 months starting in June 2018 in Réunion Island. Salary after tax is about 2130 euros per month. The successful candidate will have a PhD in a related field and preferably a 2 to 4 years experience in advanced technical work, including demonstrated ability to analyze systems and solve complex technical problems using spatial analytic methods, and experience in the analysis and interpretation of environmental data using statistical methods and/or modelling.

Preference will be given to candidates proficient in issues related to marine ecology, geography, oceanography, marine spatial planning, as well as scientific productivity demonstrated by publications in high-level peer-reviewed journals. Candidates must possess strong teamwork skills and ability to work successfully with in an interdisciplinary group of researchers. Because of the international nature of the work in the Western Indian Ocean, the ability to read and speak French and English would be an additional asset.

III – APPLICATION

Interested applicants should send a cover letter, research statement, Curriculum Vitae, and the names and contacts of three referees to Pr Matthieu Le Corre and Dr. Erwann Lagabrielle at the following e-mail addresses: matthieu.lecorre@univ-reunion.fr and erwann.lagabrielle@univ-reunion.fr, by April 30th, 2018. The email should be entitled « POSTDOC ECOLOGY OCEAN METISS ».