PhD position in Environmental Economics
Political Economy of Protected Areas

The Laboratory of Forest Economics (INRA) is recruiting a new PhD student, to work on the Political Economy of Protected Areas.

Summary

Protected areas (PAs) are an environmental policy tool widely used both in developing and developed countries. They are frequently implemented jointly with other types of environmental instruments (e.g: payment for environmental services), but also interact with development and infrastructure policies. Moreover, a set of diverse policy makers can be involved in the PAs implementation, which suggests that interactions among those policy makers are likely to impact the implementation characteristics.

Yet, those interactions between policy makers and between policy instruments have not been much investigated so far. This PhD project therefore aims at understanding how the implementation of PAs (localization, degree of exclusion, targeted ecosystem services) is influenced by those types of interactions. The economic analysis will combine theoretical tools of the political economy and empirical validation.

The PhD student will be hosted at the Laboratory of Forest Economics and at Duke University. He/she will benefit for the two labs facilities, and their research environment and network. At the Laboratory of Forest Economics, the PhD candidate will join the team working on forest multifunctionality, and will benefit from the team's expertise on spatial econometrics and political economy. At Duke University, the PhD student will sit with the UPEP (University Program on Environmental Policy) at Duke, which has a PhD program in Environment & Resource Economics joint between the Sanford School of Public Policy and the Nicholas School of the Environment. Also the candidate will take part in TREE, the Triangle Resource and Environmental Economics group, who have seminars with speakers from around the US and connects with the University of North Carolina (in nearby Chapel Hill) and North Carolina State University (in nearby Raleigh) in the Research Triangle.

Profile of the candidate

The successful applicant should hold a Master's degree in Economics and has graduated with excellent grades. A high interest and motivation for topics related to environmental and energy economics is essential. Very good quantitative and mathematical skills, interest in economic modeling, very good writing skills, and fluency in English are required.

The candidate is expected to write a dissertation and publish his/her results in peer-reviewed academic journals. The PhD thesis is to be completed within three to four years.

Application: please send a cover letter, CV (including reference letters from prior internships/job positions and contact information for at least one academic reference), university transcripts, and a statement (1-2 pages) that describes you motivation for doing a PhD in our Laboratory. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Please submit all files electronically in a single PDF file named "PhD application - [Your Name]" and with the same subject name to Philippe.delacote@nancy.inra.fr and alex.pfaff@duke.edu.