


POSTDOCTORAL POSITION OT-16534

# Pro-environmental Behaviours and attitudes towards forest ecosystem services provision and payments for environmental services

 54000 Nancy

## INRAE presentation

The French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment (INRAE) is a public research establishment. It is a community of 12,000 people with more than 200 research units and 42 experimental units located throughout France. The institute is among the world leaders in agricultural and food sciences, in plant and animal sciences, and is 11<sup>th</sup> in the world in ecology and environment. INRAE's main goal is to be a key player in the transitions necessary to address major global challenges. In the face of the increase in population, climate change, scarcity of resources and decline in biodiversity, the institute develops solutions for multiperformance agriculture, high quality food and sustainable management of resources and ecosystems.

## Work environment, missions and activities

### Context and general objectives

Forests cover 30% of the territory of the Grand-East Region and allow the existence of a local wood industry that generates income and employment. In addition to the wood supply, they host an important biodiversity and provide multiple forest ecosystem services (FES) such as water quality regulation services, cultural and recreational services that benefit the local population, or climate regulation services that have a positive global effect on the whole society. However, these FES and biodiversity are not always taken into account in forest management, mainly due to a lack of economic valuation. We also lack information on how different forest management practices and associated EFS are perceived by forest users.

The post-doctoral work is part of the PERCEVAL project led by the UMR BETA, whose general objective is to assess the potential for developing a platform for marketing FES in the Grand Est region and to co-construct and implement a digital platform for the exchange of FES with economic partners and civil society actors. The work will be conducted within the Research Component 1 (RC1) "Attitudes and preferences of stakeholders", whose objective is to explore and assess the attitudes and preferences of the population towards the provision of FES, forest management and forest policy objectives, in a context of climate uncertainty. In doing so, the person recruited will contribute to a better consideration of societal expectations in the development and implementation of forest and territorial policies aimed at the emergence of the bioeconomy. This work is also part of action 1.1 "Services rendered by trees" of the Innovation Territory project "Des Hommes et Des Arbres" (DHDA) and in particular operation 1.1.4. carried out by the UMR BETA.

## **Research project**

The objective of the work will be to develop theoretical and empirical knowledge on how the general population and forest owners perceive FES and their potential marketability via a trading platform, as well as to identify the socio-economic, cognitive and psychological determinants of individuals' expectations of how forests are and should be managed for the provision of FES. To this end, a hierarchical cognitive model of attitudes and behaviors towards the management of forests for the provision of FES will be constructed and tested. In addition, owners' preferences for markets for FES will be assessed. Empirical applications will be made on the basis of survey data and choice experiment (CE).

The main objective of the work will be to answer the following questions: How are environmental attitudes specific to the provision of ES structured, and what roles do they play in determining behavioral intentions towards the establishment of markets for them? This question is divided into several sub-questions:

1. How are forest-specific environmental attitudes structured in the general population and among forest owners?
2. To what extent do individuals' general and forest-specific environmental attitudes influence their preferences for the establishment of market mechanisms for FES?
3. To what extent do these cognitions and their structuration differ according to the type of actor considered?

The working hypotheses are as follows:

1. Attitudes specific to the provision of FES through forest management mediate between deep (values, general attitudes) and surface (PES preferences) cognitions;
2. Peripheral factors, including degree of attachment to the land, personal connection to the forestry sector and level of forestry knowledge, influence attitudes;
3. It is possible to identify several groups (archetypes) of forest users and forest owners according to their attitudinal profiles and preferences;
4. Among forest owners, there may be a difference between attitudes towards the provision of FES in general and attitudes towards the provision of FES on their own forest.

## **Research unit and management**

The Bureau d'Economie Théorique et Appliquée (BETA) is the main laboratory in Economics and Management in the Grand-Est region. The person recruited will be hosted by the BETA on its AgroParisTech campus in Nancy. It is the reference research unit in France on economic issues related to forestry. It conducts high-level research on the evaluation of ecosystem services, forest management, and bioeconomic forecasting for the forestry and wood industry. This research is often carried out in an interdisciplinary perspective, in strong synergy with disciplines from the environmental sciences.

The young researcher will be part of a team of about 30 people, which will encourage exchanges. He or she will be able to work closely not only with the project leaders, but also with other researchers specializing in ecosystem services and the survey methods used in the project. The geographical and institutional proximity with other laboratories of AgroParisTech and INRAE will also allow the researcher to assimilate the forestry context. Finally, he or she will be integrated into the community of the Territoires d'Innovation program "Des Hommes et Des Arbres", led by the Metropole du Grand Nancy, which is co-financing this project.

The person recruited will be supervised by several researchers associated with the above-mentioned projects:

- Miguel Rivi re (AgroParisTech, UMR CIRED and BETA) and Ankin e Kirakozian (University of Lorraine, UMR BETA), in charge of the RC1 of the PERCEVAL project and of the operation 1.1.4. of the DHDA project.
- Serge Garcia (INRAE, UMR BETA), coordinator of the PERCEVAL project.
- Jens Abildtrup (INRAE, UMR BETA), in charge of the RC2 of the PERCEVAL project and of the operation 1.1.5 "Ecosystem Services Exchange" of the DHDA project.

## Training and skills

### PhD

**Profile:** PhD in economics with research and interests at the intersection of environmental economics and behavioral economics. Skills in econometrics.

#### **Knowledge and skills required:**

- Environmental economics and/or behavioral economics.
- Ideally, familiarity with literature on environmental attitudes, pro-environmental behaviors, ecosystem services.
- Ideally, familiarity with methods of questionnaire surveys, CE, attitude and preference assessment, and econometric processing of survey data.
- Fluency in English.
- Experience working on interdisciplinary projects or willingness to be involved in them.
- Autonomy, creativity and independence.

#### **How to apply**

Send a cover letter, CV and one or two letters of recommendation to

- Miguel.riviere@agroparistech.fr
- Serge.garcia@inrae.fr

## INRAE's life quality

By joining our teams, you benefit from (depending on the type of contract and its duration):

- up to 30 days of annual leave + 15 days "Reduction of Working Time" (for a full time);
- parenting support: CESU childcare, leisure services;
- skills development systems: training, career advise;
- social support: advice and listening, social assistance and loans;
- holiday and leisure services: holiday vouchers, accommodation at preferential rates;
- sports and cultural activities;
- collective catering.

# How to apply

## OFFER REFERENCE

- **Contract:** Postdoctoral position
- **Duration:** 1 an
- **Beginning:** As soon as possible
- **Remuneration:** 2604.47 - 2832.42€ /months before tax depending on experience
- **Reference:** OT-16534
- **Deadline:** 31/12/2022

**CENTRE**

Grand-Est - Nancy

Bureau d'Economie Théorique et Appliquée (BETA)



54000 Nancy

## CONTACT

**SERGE GARCIA**[serge.garcia@inrae.fr](mailto:serge.garcia@inrae.fr)**MIGUEL RIVIÈRE**[miguel.riviere@agroparistech.fr](mailto:miguel.riviere@agroparistech.fr)**LIVING IN FRANCE AND WORKING AT INRAE**

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Headquarters: 147 rue de l'Université 75338 Paris Cedex 07 - tél. : +33(0)1 42 75 90 00

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