

Call for Applications

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Development Economics

ECOTERM Project

As part of the research project **ECOTERM** (ECOsystem services derived from TERmite Mounds in the lower Mekong basin), funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR), the Centre d'Études et de Recherches sur le Développement International (CERDI, UMR UCA-CNRS-IRD) is recruiting a postdoctoral fellow in economics for a duration of 24 months.

Start date: November 1, 2025 (flexible, with possibility to postpone to January 1, 2026)

Application deadline: August 31, 2025

Project Background

The **ECOTERM** project (2023–2027) explores the ecosystem services provided by termite mounds in the rice paddies of Kampong Chhnang province, Cambodia. The project is coordinated by **Pascal Jouquet** (IRD, UMR iEES Paris) and involves the following partners: CERDI, CEREGE, PharmaDev, Centre Norbert Elias, ITC, RUA, and LISODE. The project combines a **transdisciplinary** approach—blending ecology, agronomy, anthropology, and economics—with a **participatory** dimension, involving farmers in the co-construction of sustainable agricultural practices. Its goal is to develop recommendations for climate-resilient agriculture and improved biodiversity conservation.

The postdoctoral researcher will be involved in the economic work package (WP3), led by CERDI, which combines field surveys and econometric modeling to estimate the economic value of the ecosystem services provided by termite mounds. The WP3 team includes **Martine Audibert** (Emeritus CNRS Director of Research), **Chanrithy Lao** (PhD student), and **Sébastien Marchand** (WP3 lead, Associate Professor with habilitation).

Main Responsibilities

1. Participate in the **econometric analysis of collected data**:
 - Evaluate the effects of termite mounds on agricultural activity (yields, input use, etc.)
 - Evaluate the effects of termite mounds on living conditions, healthcare expenditures, and household well-being.
2. Contribute to the design, facilitation, and analysis of the **final participatory workshop** aimed at co-constructing conservation solutions with local communities, based on both project findings and local knowledge.
3. Collaborate with French and Cambodian partners (ITC (Ratha Muon) et RUA (Kimchhin Sok)) and engage with local stakeholders.
4. Contribute to the dissemination of WP3 results through scientific publications and policy briefs.
5. Assist in building economic indicators based on results for future termite mound management scenarios.

Candidate Profile

- Ph.D. in development economics, environmental economics, agricultural economics or health economics.
- Strong proficiency in econometric methods (production models, impact evaluation, stochastic frontier analysis, etc.) and in using STATA/R.
- Experience in survey data analysis and familiarity with developing country contexts.
- Strong interest in interdisciplinary research and sustainability challenges.

Prior experience in conducting participatory workshops with local communities, especially in rural areas or interdisciplinary research contexts, will be considered an asset, though not a strict requirement

Conditions

This is a full-time position for a period of 24 months, with a net monthly salary of approximately €2,100. The postdoctoral fellow will benefit from health insurance coverage under the French social security system.

The position is based at CERDI in Clermont-Ferrand, France, with regular field missions in Cambodia.

CERDI offers a stimulating research environment with regular seminars and collaboration opportunities with other research partners. Clermont-Ferrand is a mid-sized, safe, and pleasant city located near the Auvergne Volcanoes Natural Park.

Application Process

Applications should be submitted by August 31, 2025, via email to Sébastien Marchand (sebastien.marchand@uca.fr), with the subject line: “Postdoc ECOTERM Application + Candidate’s Name”.

The application file should include:

1. A detailed CV (including copies of diplomas or degree certificates).
2. A copy of the PhD dissertation manuscript (if already defended).
3. A motivation letter explaining your interest in the project (max. 2 pages).
4. One or two relevant publications related to the position.
5. Two letters of recommendation or two references.

We will interview candidates in September. A selection of candidates may then be invited to Clermont-Ferrand for fly-outs (travel costs will be fully covered).

More Information

- About the ECOTERM project: <https://cerdi.uca.fr/version-francaise/recherche/projets-de-recherche/ecoterm#/>
- About CERDI: <https://cerdi.uca.fr/>
- About Clermont-Ferrand and the Auvergne region: <https://www.auvergne-destination.com/>