

International Institute for Environment and Development

Job Description

Climate Change Group Sustainable Markets Group

Job title:	RESEARCHER Climate Change and Environmental Economics
Responsible to:	Programme Director – Environmental Economics (line manager) Group Head – Climate Change Group
Main contacts:	Colleagues within IIED, collaborative research teams, international NGOs, industry associations, national governments and multilateral organisations, etc.
Main purpose:	To undertake policy-oriented research on the economics of climate change
Contract:	Permanent full-time position, 35 hours per week or 5 days per week
Salary:	Programme Grade 4 £27,568 - £34,430, plus benefits
Location:	London Office

Overview

IIED aims to provide expertise and leadership in researching and achieving sustainable development at national, regional and global levels. In alliance with others we seek to shape a future that ends global poverty and delivers and sustains efficient and equitable management of the world's resources.

IIED's Environmental Economics Programme (EEP), which forms part of the Sustainable Markets Group, works to identify and promote practical means of bringing environmental values into the market place, in ways that benefit poor people and countries. This includes evaluating the economic significance of environmental change, as well as the environmental consequences of economic trends. The Climate Change Group at IIED aims to enhance understanding of the links between sustainable development and climate change, in particular the impact of climate change on poor developing countries and the enhancement of adaptation capacity in developing countries. IIED places particular emphasis on capacity strengthening through collaborative research with individuals and organizations in the South.

The post holder will work closely with both the Environmental Economics Programme and the Climate Change Group to apply economic analysis to climate change issues in developing countries. Valuation, natural resource accounting and incentives, including markets and payments for environmental services are key themes in EEP's current agenda. EEP's current collaborative projects with the Climate Change Group include economic analysis of climate change impacts on natural resource dependent economies, expanding the development benefits of voluntary carbon offsets, and

“Fair Miles” which examines the development and environment tradeoffs of efforts to reduce food miles in the context of air freight of food exports from Africa.

New collaborative research and capacity building work is planned in two main areas. First, applying the total economic value approach to generate evidence on the social and economic contribution of pastoralism in arid regions in the context of climate change impacts. This will inform policy discussions on the responses to climate change and increasing desertification. Second, the costs and benefits of adaptation to climate change – to generate evidence and increase awareness amongst key stakeholders of the scale of the financial challenge to address climate change through adaptation, the potential benefits of such activities and the tools needed to identify and assess the most cost-effective approaches.

The post holder will also work with other parts of IIED, notably the small team aiming to integrate environment into development processes. One of IIED’s five strategic objectives is to ‘Bring investment in and management of environment centre-stage in policy, practice, aid architecture and delivery of the MDGs.’ This work currently focuses on Africa and on the multi-donor Poverty Environment Partnership. Upcoming work includes activities in support of capacity to integrate environmental assets and hazards in country-level planning processes. It involves: identifying, developing and promoting best-fit methodologies and tools for environmental integration; improving advice on pro-poor environmental investments, and supporting environmental mainstreaming learning groups.

The post holder will be expected to design, promote and carry out a balanced portfolio of activities relating to climate change economics, taking forward appropriate areas of the existing and planned work mentioned above as well as developing new themes. This would include independent and commissioned research, organization and facilitation of international meetings, writing and speaking for professional and general audiences.

Environmental Economics Programme – key personnel

- Maryanne Grieg-Gran, Programme Director
- Annie Dufey, Researcher
- James MacGregor, Senior Researcher
- Ina Porras, Researcher
- Frances Reynolds, Group Co-ordinator

Climate Change Group – key personnel

- Saleem Huq, Group Head
- Beth Henriette, Group Administrator
- Hannah Reid, Researcher

Key responsibilities

1. Undertake policy-oriented research projects on the economics of environment and development with a particular focus on economic aspects of climate change, This would be both independently and in partnership with other IIED staff, external consultants and collaborators around the world.

2. Organize research and other inputs from IIED colleagues and consultants; support multi-disciplinary research teams in developing countries, working with them to develop their agendas, provide technical and organisational support, peer review, and help ensure they deliver quality work to schedule.
3. Assist the Environmental Economics Programme and Climate Change Group in developing other research and capacity-strengthening activities on topics related to climate change and development policy and practice in developing and industrialised countries.
4. Liaise with and advise project partners, government and non-government research and development agencies, as well as industry representatives.
5. Write, edit and coordinate the publication of research findings, and contribute to disseminating these outputs to a range of technical and non-technical audiences.
6. Organise and participate in training seminars, workshops and conferences on issues related to climate change and development policy.
7. Respond to enquiries from the media and general public regarding issues of climate change and development economics.
8. Assist in developing funding proposals and grant applications, managing work plans and budgets, and reporting to donors in connection with all of the above.

This job description defines the level of responsibility and areas of involvement of the post; the details of the duties may change over time and do not form part of the contract between IIED and the post holder.

Person specification

Essential requirements

Qualifications:

- Post-graduate degree in a relevant branch of economics (environmental, international, development, public or regulatory economics).

Experience:

- Relevant work experience including policy-oriented economic research on environment and development issues.
- A publications record demonstrating both relevant research skills, and an understanding of environmental economic issues relevant to development
- Experience of research management, e.g. study design, fundraising and financial management, staff supervision, donor/client relations, promotion of findings, etc.
- Experience of short-term consulting assignments abroad, and a willingness to spend up to 3 months abroad each year.

Skills:

- Excellent research skills accompanied by excellent written and oral English.
- The ability to work both independently and as a member of multi-disciplinary, international teams.

- Good working knowledge of Windows-based computing, including word processing (Word), spreadsheets (Excel), database (Access), statistical, and economic modelling packages.

Desirable attributes

- Research experience and publications on the economics of climate change
- Professional experience at post-graduate level based in the developing world
- Fluency in French, Spanish, Portuguese and/or other languages of the developing world.