Post-doctoral position

Conservation and development economics

A postdoctoral position in conservation and development is available immediately in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources at North Carolina State University. Candidates are expected to have completed all requirements for a PhD in economics or a related field by January 2009. The appointment is for a minimum of 9 months and up to 3 years contingent upon performance. Salary will be commensurate with experience.

Responsibilities include planning and supervising a household survey and related data collection in the Brazilian Amazon, econometric analyses of spatial panel household datasets, and writing and editing manuscripts for peer-reviewed journals. Possible research topics include the evolution of welfare and land use on the Amazon frontier, program evaluation of community forestry initiatives, design and assessment of projects to reduce carbon emissions from deforestation (REDD), and markets for ecosystem services. Depending on the interests and skills of the successful candidate, the scope of work could be expanded to include collaboration on research proposals, project management, advising and supervising masters students, and development of international academic programs.

The post-doctoral researcher will work directly with Dr. Erin Sills, while also collaborating with other PIs on a panel survey in the Amazon. The position will offer opportunities to engage with the extensive network of environmental, resource, and development economists in the Research Triangle of North Carolina (e.g., CenRep at NC State; Environment and Policy at Duke University; and the US Forest Service). The post-doc will be based primarily at NC State, but must be willing to travel to Brazil as needed.

Requirements include a strong background in a relevant field of economics (e.g., environment, development) and experience in applied economic research methods, econometric analysis, and statistical software. Field experience with household surveys (or other primary research), fluency in Portuguese (or Spanish), knowledge of spatial and/or panel data methods, strong technical writing ability, and GIS skills are desirable and will be taken into consideration in the evaluation of applications. Qualified candidates from developing countries (broadly defined), women, and minorities are particularly encouraged to apply.

To apply, send cover letter, CV, graduate transcripts, contact information for three references, and two research writing samples via email to sills@ncsu.edu (with “post-doc” in the subject line). Materials may also be mailed to

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Evaluation of applications will begin on October 15 and continue until position is filled.