

CALL FOR POSTDOC CANDIDATE IN ECOSYSTEM SERVICE ACCOUNTING

The Environmental Policy Research Unit (EPRU) at the School of Economics, University of Cape Town, is looking for a researcher to participate in a three year research project in ecosystem service accounting. The project is a collaboration with the Environment for Development Centers (EfD) in Chile, Costa Rica, China, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa (EPRU), Sweden as well as the World Bank and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA). It is a full time assignment that stretches from May 2015- December 31, 2017.

EPRU, as part of the Environment for Development network, will participate in an international research collaboration with the long term objective to contribute to international guidelines on ecosystem service accounting. This involves designing and carrying out studies that in their combined analysis provide useful methodological advancements in ecosystem service accounting. The project is funded by the Swedish International development Agency (Sida) and led by the Swedish EPA and the EfD initiative. It is carried out in close collaboration with the Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Service (WAVES) program at the World Bank. The project will contribute to the objectives of the WAVES program, especially in the ability to identify and record changes in the value of critical ecosystem services. This means methodological enhancement in environmental economics that at the same time adheres to national accounting principles.

As a researcher in this project, you will jointly with the researchers at the other EfD centers set up the design for the program and specifically for your country. You will then be in charge of carrying out the study in your country and to discuss and communicate with colleagues in the other research centers and with WAVES on a regular basis. The end result relies on the specific case studies but also the combined experience within the program. We expect high quality scientific publications and policy relevant results as outcomes of each country case study. This requires regular documentation and communication of methodological matters and incidents between countries. Twice a year you will therefore attend workshops, organized by the World Bank and the EfD initiative, discussing and exchanging results of the methodological country work as well as monthly meetings through video link.

We search for an environmental economist with theoretical knowledge in valuation of ecosystem services and experiences in applied economics work. You should find it interesting to collaborate and interact in research related questions as well as to carry out independent work. You should enjoy the challenge of finding solutions to yet unresolved problems and in doing so not hesitate to interact with other disciplines such as natural scientist and statisticians.

Women are especially encouraged to apply. Remuneration will be up to SEK17,500 per month. Interested candidates should send their expression of interest to jane.turpie@uct.ac.za.