Director of Research - Second Class
Recruitment competition N° DR2N6CSS

Sectoral scientific commission: (CSS) : Inter CSS

Title
Sustainability Science and Development: a transdisciplinary approach

Keywords / disciplines
Earth sciences, life sciences, humanities and social sciences, human ecology, data sciences

Context and issues of the Global South
As the 2030 agenda of sustainable development goals (SDGs) promoted by the United Nations shows, there is an urgent need to acquire integrated scientific knowledge of the Earth, the social and technological systems, and their interfaces. To reduce inequalities, limit the impact of human activities on the environment, and ensure resilient livelihoods, the scientific research must consider not only the integrity of living systems, but also the underlying environmental and socio-economic stress factors that perpetuate the vulnerability of the global south in a changing world.

State of the art and needs
The creation of transdisciplinary knowledge, i.e. knowledge whose purpose goes beyond disciplinary research, appears essential for a better understanding of the complexity of the modern world and for finding solutions to social and environmental challenges.
IRD is seeking candidates for a full-time research position focused on sustainability and development science, with an emphasis on understanding the links, negative externalities and positive synergies and optimum trade-offs between the SDGs (nexus approach). These links can be considered at three levels: a better understanding of the complex causal chains in socio-ecosystems that produce the phenomena to be controlled; that of the impacts of sector-specific policies, targeting one SDG, on other sectors and the global agenda; and lastly, innovative multi-stakeholder solutions likely to promote new sustainable models of development.
This position is for candidates who wish to drive and coordinate innovative research programs that address these phenomena at different scales and help solve complex real-world problems that existing disciplines have not fully addressed. Therefore, candidates should have experience in co-construction of ambitious, transdisciplinary scientific projects involving scientists from different disciplines but also civil society actors (NGOs, politicians, etc.). Areas of interest include, but are not limited to climate change, land use change, conservation of continental and marine biodiversity, agriculture, fisheries and food security, natural resources, pollution, health and the environment, urbanization and cities, risks, mobility, tackling different forms of inequality, all related to sustainable development. This position aims to develop science-based forecasts that will be understood and accepted by civil society; therefore, applications with experience in participatory research with stakeholders will be particularly appreciated.

Desired skills / abilities
Systemic approaches, modeling, participatory sciences, study of complex systems, meta-analysis, data visualization, North-South-South cooperation, assembly, and coordination of transdisciplinary projects.

IRD promotes professional equality between men and women