

Internship in environmental / development economics (level 1st or 2nd year of master):

Measuring the impact of coastal ecosystem protection on poverty reduction: a long-term study in Tanzania.

Duration: 2 to 4 months

Start date: flexible between April and 2022

Context and research question :

Marine protected areas (MPAs) are the cornerstones of today's marine conservation strategies, promoted by international conservation organizations and implemented around the world to prevent biodiversity loss. If the ecological benefits of MPAs have now been clearly demonstrated, economic effects for local communities are still poorly understood. Such knowledge is required to build efficient conservation policies and promote the establishment of new MPAs to meet global conservation targets (30% on land and sea by 2030). The Alter-Poverty project conducts among the first long-term study of the socio-economic effects of MPAs on local human communities by focusing on Tanzania. It relies on household survey data collected in 2003 and 2021 following the same protocol, and wildlife census conducted by marine biologists through eDNA surveys. It is part of a larger research project studying the effect of marine conservation efforts in the Western Indian Ocean.

In summer 2022, a third round of survey is scheduled: the survey conducted in 2021 was not done with the same respondents than in 2003. This phase of work however confirmed that finding back most respondents from the 2003 survey was possible. This will be the topic of this third phase of data collection. This will allow us to study the economic situation and attitudes towards conservation of the same person over a 20 years time period.

The intern will be based in Montpellier. No travel to Tanzania is planned. The intern will have the chance to work with an interdisciplinary team composed of economists, ecologists and geographers.

Main tasks :

During the internship, the selected candidate will work on two main tasks:

- 1- Supervising data collection for a third round of survey
 - a. Adapting survey instruments for this new round of data collection (ODK forms)
 - b. Assisting Tanzanian supervisors during the survey (Including, developing codes in Stata or R for data quality checks)

- 2- Analysis of data from 2003, 2021 and 2022. It notably includes:
 - a. Data cleaning for the last round of survey
 - b. Creating a dataset combining respondents from 2003 and 2022
 - c. Running regression models to understand the evolution of outcomes over 20 years.
 - d. Participating in writing results

Skills / Qualification :

- Master 1 or 2 in Economics, with a focus (or an interest of the candidate) for environmental and development economics.
- Skills in applied econometrics
- Knowledge of R or Stata. Ideally, some experience with GIS / Remote sensing.
- Fluency in English (oral and written)
- Intellectual rigor
- Ability to work in a team / multi-partner environment.
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Spirit of initiative, ability to listen, interest in academic research

Host institution : Centre for Environmental – Economics – Montpellier (*CEE-M*), Université de Montpellier.

Degree : M1 or M2 in Economics

Contact : Sébastien Desbureaux (sebastien.desbureaux@umontpellier.fr)
Antoine Leblois (antoine.leblois@inrae.fr)
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Monthly stipend: following French Universities standards, 3,90€/hour corresponding to an average of 600€ per month

To apply : send you CV, short cover letter and one exemple of a R code or do file to Sébastien Desbureaux and Antoine Leblois with the object “Internship – Tanzania”.

Deadline: April 1st 2022. Applications will be possibly reviewed as they arrived.