

Job Opportunity
Post-Doctoral Research Associate - Brazilian Amazon

Observatory for Forests and Just Transitions

Based in Belém, Brazil (Federal University of Pará - UFPA)
2-year position
Stipend: R\$ 12.000,00 (USD 2,200)/month
Apply by June 1st, 2026

Execution



Partner



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The [Observatory for Forests and Just Transitions](#) is a £1.3 million research programme, funded by the Ford Foundation. The Observatory will study the role land rights play in a just transition to a decarbonised future. Taking place over 3.5 years, the observatory team will combine large-scale geospatial and socioeconomic analyses with in-depth qualitative case studies in Mexico, Brazil and Ghana. A team of researchers (Dr Johan Oldekop and Dr Charis Enns) at the [Global Development Institute](#) (GDI), University of Manchester, lead the Observatory's activities alongside co-investigators at the University of Manchester and the University of Ghana, the National Autonomous University of Mexico, and the Federal University of Pará in Brazil.

As part of this project, we are seeking to appoint a long-term (2 years, flexible start date in 2026) full-time post-doctoral research associate based in the [Graduate Program in Amazonian Agriculture](#) of the Amazon Institute of Smallholder Agriculture at the Federal University of Pará (UFPA).

You will work under the supervision of Dr. Valério Gomes, the Observatory's lead Brazilian partner at the UFPA. Together with collaborators in the UK, Ghana and Mexico, you will develop a qualitative research programme to deepen understanding of the relationship between land rights, decarbonisation processes (e.g., critical mineral extraction) and environmental and socio-economic benefits at specific sites in the Brazilian Amazon. As an integral member of the broader Observatory team, you will also help implement the wider programme and its activities.

The primary criterion for appointment will be research excellence. You will be supported and mentored to develop a strong publication profile in a rapidly developing research area, as well as benefitting from international network-building (e.g., through fully funded travel and conference attendance opportunities). You will also benefit from being part of a large group of multi-disciplinary researchers across diverse career stages within the Observatory's research team.

The primary responsibilities of the PDRA will be:

- Support qualitative research activities at specific forested sites in Brazilian Amazon where decarbonisation processes are ongoing, including collecting and analysing interview, focus group and policy data
- Engage and work with key civil society organisations, including but not limited to Ford Foundation partners and grantees, in Brazil to identify research and training priorities
- Collaborate with project leads at Manchester and other partner institutions (working on sites in Ghana and Mexico) to develop evidence syntheses and comparative analyses across all study sites
- Participate in project activities, including annual meetings, workshops, research prioritisation exercises and a bespoke research training programme
- Lead on writing and dissemination of project outputs and impact through publications, presentations in conference sessions and international workshops, and contributions to other fora and events.

Essential characteristics

- A PhD, either completed or close to completion, in a relevant research area to the project, such as, geography, anthropology, sociology, law, and other related fields linked to the topics of development studies, natural resource management, political ecology, and agrarian studies.
- Experience using qualitative social science research methods, including interviews, focus groups and policy document analysis

- Expertise in thematic areas relevant to the project, such as land rights, mining for the energy transition, decarbonisation processes and/or forests conservation and livelihoods of forest and land-connected communities
- Ability to work effectively as an individual and capacity to work as part of a multi-disciplinary team
- Experience coordinating project fieldwork activities and/or conducting research virtually
- Fluency in Portuguese and good working knowledge of English
- Demonstrable interest in participatory and applied research
- Ability to build and maintain constructive working relationships with a wide diversity of different actors, such as evidence of strong transdisciplinary and/or international working relationships
- An emerging track record, relative to career stage, of publication in international peer-reviewed journals
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including demonstrated ability to present research to both academic and non-academic audiences

Desirable characteristics

- Experiencing conducting research in Brazil or Latin America
- Experience with co-production methodologies
- Some familiarity with geospatial analysis and associated techniques and data

Other details

- The position will have a duration of up to 24 (twenty-four) months and consists of a monthly stipend of R\$ 12.000,00 (USD 2,200), administered by the Research Support and Development Foundation (FADESP) - serving as the administrative and financial intermediary - with funding provided by the Ford Foundation

Application Instructions

For full consideration, applications must be submitted by June 1st, 2026. When applying please ensure that you include the following information: (1) Curriculum Vitae, (2) Cover Letter explaining your experience and suitability for the role linked to the essential and desirable characteristics above, (3) Names and contact information for 3 professional references. We expect to conduct interviews with candidates shortlisted for this position in mid-June. Application materials should be sent to: ppgaa@ufpa.br, with a copy to: valeriogomes@ufpa

Informal enquiries

Informal enquiries may be made to Dr. Valério Gomes (valeriogomes@ufpa.br), co-investigator at the Federal University of Pará in Brazil.