



The Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP) of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies is looking to fill the position of

## Postdoctoral Researcher and Project Coordinator (80%)

for its project entitled “Curbing Illicit Financial Flows from Resource-rich Developing Countries: Improving Natural Resource Governance to Finance the SDGs”, funded by the [Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development \(r4d programme\)](#), a joint initiative of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF).

**Application deadline:** 30 April 2017

**Start date:** 1 September 2017

**Contract modalities:** The contract will be issued for an initial period of three years, and can be renewed for three additional years (until September 2023) after formal approval for the second phase of the project.

### About the project:

Attempts to reduce illicit financial flows (IFFs) have gained increasing policy traction and scholarly attention in recent years. Following the 2008 financial crisis and the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, curbing IFFs is seen as critical to help developing countries mobilize resources to implement the SDGs. Existing studies – conducted so far primarily by think-tanks and advocacy groups – emphasize the volume and centrality of trade-related IFFs resulting from trade and transfer mispricing. Yet, the topic remains under-researched and the evidence weak because of data and methodological flaws.

This interdisciplinary, collaborative research aims to i) improve our knowledge and understanding of commodity trade-related IFFs, ii) analyse the variables that explain the persistence of IFFs along the value chain, iii) examine the roles and potential contributions of the key state and non-state actors involved, and iv) design/promote innovative policy responses at the national, regional and global levels to curb trade-related IFFs.

Drawing on economics, law, political science, and political economy analysis, the project engages in intensive process-tracing across multiple data sources. It seeks to uncover the key drivers behind IFFs with a focus on both push factors (out of developing countries) and pull factors (into major trading/financial hubs). It examines the mechanisms, strategies and policy innovations through which commodity trade-related IFFs can effectively be curtailed in diverse institutional and political settings. Phase one of the project (2017 – 2020) will establish an analytical framework to be applied to two resource-rich developing countries (Ghana and Laos) in relation to major commodity trading centres (Geneva/Switzerland and London/UK). In a second phase (2020 – 2023), the analytical framework will be applied to other contexts: two upper-middle income countries (Peru and South Africa), a post-conflict country (Sierra Leone), and a regional grouping (ASEAN).

The project is implemented jointly with partners from the University of Ghana, the National Economic Research Institute in Laos, the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) of the University of Berne and the NADEL Center for Development and Cooperation at the ETH Zürich. The consortium is supported by a multi-stakeholder advisory group.

For more information about the project, please visit our website [here](#).

### Main tasks and responsibilities of the Postdoctoral Researcher:

- **Overall coordination of the project:** act as the focal point for the research teams in Ghana, Laos and Switzerland as well as other project partners and the international advisory group. Coordinate and monitor the advancement of the research in various Work Packages, ensure continuous substantive exchanges across them, and (co-)organize project meetings, conferences and outputs.
- **Lead researcher for Work Package 1:** engage in desk research and expert interviews, data compilation, dataset construction and quantitative analysis to ascertain the volume of commodity trade-related IFFs based on solid data and methods;
- **Project outputs:** contribute to the publication of academic papers, policy briefs and training materials; take a lead role in establishing the trade-related IFFs database.
- **Dissemination and outreach:** produce news items, policy briefs and other materials; maintain the project website up-to-date, and present research findings at academic conferences and other events. Contribute to a documentary film and the production of online training material.

### Required qualifications:

- PhD in a relevant social science field with strong grounding in economics and quantitative methods;
- Excellent English-language writing, drafting, and communication skills;
- Proven interest/expertise in the field of natural resource governance, commodity trade, development finance or other fields related to the research project;
- Experience with the compilation and management of large datasets (command of relevant software packages);
- Strong organization, coordination and communication skills;
- Ability to work under time pressure, meet multiple deadlines, and work both autonomously and in a participatory manner within an interdisciplinary team;
- Command of social media is a plus.

Experience in managing large-scale research projects involving partners in different countries would be an additional asset, as would a working knowledge of French.

To apply, please send a one-page **letter of motivation** addressed to Prof. Gilles Carbonnier and a **complete CV** via email to [ccdp@graduateinstitute.ch](mailto:ccdp@graduateinstitute.ch). The subject heading of the email should read 'r4d Postdoctoral Researcher Position'. The deadline for applications is Sunday, **30 April 2017**. Interviews will be held in the second half of May.