RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
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INRAE

JOB POSITION

Postdoctoral position in river hydromorphological restoration ecology

The French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment (INRAE) is a public research establishment gathering a community of 12,000 people with more than 270 units including fundamental and experimental research, spread out throughout 18 regional centres in France. Internationally, INRAE is among the top research organisations in agricultural and food sciences, plant and animal sciences, as well as in ecology and environmental science. It is the world's leading research organisation specialising in agriculture, food and the environment. Faced with a growing world population, climate change, the depletion of resources and declining biodiversity, the Institute has a major role to play in providing the knowledge base supporting the necessary acceleration of agricultural, food and environmental transitions, to address the major global challenges.

Work environment, missions and activities

You will be welcomed in the HYCAR research unit (Hydrosystems under changes), located at the Antony site (Hauts-de-Seine, France). The unit brings together approximately forty researchers, including twenty permanent staff members. HYCAR is organised into three research teams specialising respectively in ecological engineering (ARTEMHYS), fluvial hydroecology (HEF), and catchment hydrology (HYDRO). The position will be embedded within a highly dynamic and interdisciplinary research environment, with strong expertise in modelling and observational approaches. HYCAR is internationally recognised for the development of hydrological and ecological models, as well as for the production and management of large-scale, high-quality databases…

The successful candidate will be affiliated with the HEF team and will collaborate closely with partners from the French Office for Biodiversity in relation to the national network of demonstration sites (SDD network) for river hydromorphological restoration in France. This network is unique and is specifically dedicated to the generation of well-documented feedback and lessons learnt. Consequently, the sites within this network are subject to scientific monitoring based on a harmonised, multi-compartment protocol (notably hydromorphology, fish and macroinvertebrate communities), following a BACI (Before–After–Control–Impact) experimental design. The network currently comprises approximately forty sites that were restored between 2008 and 2022. The project into which the candidate will be integrated is a continuation of Biodiversa COSAR project; it started in 2025 and has a duration of three years. Its objective is to develop a functional analytical framework for the analysis of monitoring data in order to assess the ecological effectiveness of restoration measures and to identify the conditions underpinning their success.

You will be more specifically in charge of:

1. To handle the biological & environmental monitoring datasets collected (approximately 600 surveys).
2. To select relevant functional metrics & appropriate analytical methods to assess the ecological effects of restoration operations.
3. To evaluate the influence of the environmental context of restored sites in order to identify potential constraints on restoration success.
4. To disseminate the results of this research through academic outputs (e.g. peer-reviewed publications & scientific communications).

You will be supervised by Virginie Archaimbault and Evelyne Tales, and will have the opportunity to interact with Rémy Rivière (Project Officer hosted at Hycar, responsible for the SDD network coordination). You will also have the possibility to take a broader part in the team's scientific activities.

Special conditions of activity:

- Location: Antony (92, Île-de-France), primarily computer-based work
- Easily accessible by public transport (RER C – Chemin d'Antony station or RER B – Antony station)

Training and skills sought

Recommended training: PhD in Ecology or Data Science applied to Ecology

Desired knowledge: Freshwater ecology, Data analysis and modeling in R, GIS skills

Appreciated experience: Restoration ecology; Interdisciplinary and/or transdisciplinary work

Skills: Teamwork skills, Autonomy / ability to work independently, Oral and written communication in French and English

INRAE's life quality

By joining our teams, you benefit from (depending on the type of contract and its duration):

- up to 30 days of annual leave + 15 days "Reduction of Working Time" (for a full time);
- parenting support: CESU childcare, leisure services;
- skills development systems: training, career advise;
- social support: advice and listening, social assistance and loans;
- holiday and leisure services: holiday vouchers, accommodation at preferential rates;
- sports and cultural activities;
- collective catering.

Contract details

- Research Unit HYCAR Hydrosystems under changes
- 92160 Antony France
- Type of contract: Post-doctoral position
- Duration: 20 months
- Starting date: 1st June 2026
- Remuneration: between €2,880 and €3,205 gross per month, depending on experience

How to apply

Please send a cover letter and CV.

By email : Virginie Archaimbault (virginie.archaimbault@inrae.fr)
or
Evelyne Tales (evelyne.tales@inrae.fr

✖ Deadline to apply: **20/03/2026**
Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed via videoconference on a rolling basis

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