



Ministry of Water and
Irrigation

CETRAD

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PhD Scholarship Announcement and Call for Applications

Implementing Sustainable Land Management (SLM) strategies to mitigate the negative impacts of woody invasive alien species in Baringo County

Background: CABI Switzerland, in collaboration with Swiss, Ethiopian, Kenyan, Tanzanian and South African research institutions, is implementing a project funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC). The project “Woody Invasive Alien Species in East Africa: Assessing and mitigating their negative impacts on ecosystem services and rural livelihood” aims to help mitigate the effects of woody invasive alien species (IAS) on biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being in selected study areas in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania (woodyweeds.com). To achieve this goal, we will generate and share knowledge on invasion processes and on context-dependent effects of woody IAS. Additionally, we will elaborate sustainable control measures and develop and document Sustainable Land Management (SLM) strategies that mitigate the negative effects of woody IAS in the affected areas in East Africa.

PhD Position: Within this project, an exciting PhD position is available at the Centre for Training and Integrated Research in ASAL Development (CETRAD) (www.cetrad.org). Ever had a strong desire for a PhD in this field? This is your chance!

Broad PhD Study Goal and Objectives, and Implementation Arrangement:

This PhD study in Baringo will run parallel to other two to be implemented in East Usambara mountains, Tanzania and Awash river basin, Ethiopia, with the common broad objective to identify, test and monitor promising Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices to mitigate negative effects of woody IAS in order to improve biodiversity, ecosystem services and rural livelihoods in East Africa. The three PhD theses will build on the outputs achieved during the phase I of the project, and will involve accompanying the work of the Local Implementation Groups (LIGs) with the aim to follow the process, tutor the LIGs and comprehensively document the development (negotiations, selection and prioritization) and implementation processes towards producing an SLM Technology Document that describes the specific SLM options successfully tested in the selected areas. Furthermore, there is envisaged a strong learning process that clearly brings out i) how and to what extent the information and knowledge generated from Phase I outputs have informed negotiation and selection process and/or influenced the setting up of priority SLM measures and approaches; ii) determine/test and demonstrate the willingness of the participating LIGs to upscale the tested SLM measures and approaches.

Specific focus

Building on the common elements as elaborated above, the Kenyan PhD will specifically put emphasis on the aspects of land tenure rights and power relations in the context of the land use systems and ecosystem restoration (illuminating the relevant SLM measures and approaches). In this context the study will i) determine if, in the perception of LIGs, there are existing or potential institutional barriers (stemming, for example, from multilevel and complex institutional power relations or plural legal land tenure regimes) that

may hinder the enforcement of given land tenure rights considered necessary for successful implementation of the selected SLM measures and approaches; ii) identify and characterize the barriers and show how they hinder or may impact on the enforcement of such land tenure rights; and iii) elaborate promising pathways to address them.

Required competences

- Master in Geography, Regional Planning, Environmental Studies, Natural Resources Management, Community Development, Sociology, Development/Utilisation of ASALs, or related fields
- Good understanding in the topic of land tenure and institutional power relations in the context of common property regimes
- General understanding of sustainable land management (and ecosystems restoration) practices in the context of common property regimes
- Experience and competence in stakeholder or institutional analysis and involvement is an added asset
- Conversant with contemporary multi-stakeholder – multilevel negotiation processes (tools, methods and approaches), and a proven ability to facilitate such processes at grassroots level
- Strong interest and ability to work with an interdisciplinary team and in a multicultural setting
- Excellent skills in oral and written communications (English)
- Ability to speak the local language will be an added advantage
- Willingness to travel and work for extended periods and under challenging conditions
- Not more than 40 years old

What the research project offers

- Work in a strong international multi-cultural and interdisciplinary team
- Training in inter- and transdisciplinary research
- PhD Stipend according to CETRAD standards during the 3 years (subject to approval of project's second phase in September 2017)
- Field subsistence and travel allowances
- Field Research Assistance when necessary
- Supervision by experts from CETRAD, host Department of University of Nairobi and the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE; <https://www.cde.unibe.ch>), Switzerland

Application: Please send a CV, academic transcript, contact details for at least two academic references, and a brief outline of research interests to: The Director, Centre for Training and Integrated Research in ASAL Development (CETRAD), P. O. Box 144 – 10400, Nanyuki; via email address b.kiteme@africaonline.co.ke or b.kiteme@cetrad.org.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until August 30, 2017. Informal inquiries, via email, are welcome. Short-listed candidates will be contacted immediately after the deadline to set up interviews. The envisaged start date for the project is November/December 2017.