



**UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN**

**CDE  
CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT  
AND ENVIRONMENT**

## VACANCY

The Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) is an interdisciplinary research centre of the University of Bern. Its overarching goal is to produce and share knowledge for sustainable development in cooperation with partners in the global North and South.

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 aims to help mitigating the effects of woody invasive alien species (IAS) on biodiversity, ecosystem services (ES) and human well-being in selected study areas in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania (<http://woodyweeds.org>). 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 Eastern Africa.

For the second phase of the Woody Weeds project CDE offers a

## PhD position in Geography and Sustainable Development

### DUTIES

The PhD aims to elaborate principles of SLM for the mitigation of the negative effects of woody IAS. Specific goals of the study include: (1) to develop indicators for measuring impacts of SLM on biodiversity, ES and rural livelihoods; (2) to evaluate together with stakeholder these impacts regarding their benefits and nuisances for human wellbeing; and (3) to elaborate spatially explicit principles for SLM strategies in the three study areas in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania.

The PhD study builds on extensive work done during the first phase of the project (2015-2017) by six PhDs currently nearing completion. Methods include development of indicators based on literature review, assessing the impacts of SLM from documented practices in the WOCAT system, combining quantitative and qualitative data, deriving spatially explicit principles with the help of map layers developed in the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the project, valuation of impacts in multilevel stakeholder workshops, etc. The PhD will collaborate with three parallel PhDs in East Usambara Mountains, Tanzania, in Awash River basin, Ethiopia, and Baringo County, Kenya.

The PhD candidate will be based at CDE and registered at the University of Bern. He/she will have to conduct fieldwork and stakeholder workshops in the three study areas.

## REQUIREMENTS

- Masters degree in geography, environmental sciences or related fields with a strong additional competence in social sciences (interdisciplinary science), preferably with a background in sustainable land management
- Excellent skills in empirical research, conceptual thinking and synthesizing complex data
- Experience in geospatial data analysis
- Experience with transdisciplinary methods and stakeholder interaction is an asset
- High social competences in interacting with stakeholders at different levels in development contexts
- Excellent skills in oral and written communication (English)
- Interest in working in an interdisciplinary and international team
- Willingness to travel and work in the field for several weeks.

## WE OFFER

- Collaboration in an experienced, dynamic, multidisciplinary international team
- A stimulating working environment in a multinational, multicultural context at the interface of academic research and development cooperation

## DETAILS

**Supervision:** Professors of the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE)

**Funding:** 3 years, in accordance with the standards of the Swiss National Science Foundation (subject to approval of project's 2<sup>nd</sup> phase in Sept. 2017).

**Location:** Centre for Development and Environment CDE, University of Bern, Switzerland. The following institutions will be hosts during field work:

- Water and Land Resource Centre (WLRC), Ethiopia
- University of Haramaya (UHAR), Ethiopia
- Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), Kenya
- Centre for Training and Integrated Research in ASAL Development (CETRAD), Kenya
- Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Tanzania
- Tanzania Forestry Research Institute (TAFORI), Tanzania,

**Starting date:** Nov 1 or Dec 1, 2017

**For further information:** Dr. Gudrun Schwilch (gudrun.schwilch@cde.unibe.ch)

**Application deadline:** 13 August 2017.

**Application materials:** Please send your CV, your Master's certificate including transcript, three referees, and a letter of motivation as a single PDF file, plus an electronic version of your Master's thesis as a second PDF file, to: [personaladministration@cde.unibe.ch](mailto:personaladministration@cde.unibe.ch)

*CDE values diversity and is committed to equal opportunities; applications are welcome from all suitably qualified candidates who meet the stated criteria.*