



**UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY**

**LOCAL RECRUITMENT
Bonn, Germany**

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**PhD Position – Vulnerability and adaptive capacity WASCAL
Doctoral Fellowship Award**

- Organizational Unit** : Vulnerability Assessment, Risk Management and Adaptive Planning - VARMAP
- Reference Number** : 2012/UNU/EHS/PhD/WASCAL/28
- Applications to:** hrbonn@vie.unu.edu
- Closing date** : 20 February 2012
- Starting date** : 1 March 2012

UNU Mission:

The United Nations University (UNU) is an international community of scholars, engaged in research, postgraduate training and dissemination of knowledge in furthering the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The mission of UNU is to contribute, through research and capacity building, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems that are the concern of the United Nations and its Member States. For more information please visit www.unu.edu.

The UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) in Bonn has been conceived and created to assess the vulnerability and coping capacity of societies facing natural and human-induced hazards in a changing environment. Within the scope of this mandate, UNU-EHS is engaged in policy relevant research and capacity building. For more information about UNU-EHS, please visit www.ehs.unu.edu

Vulnerability Assessment, Risk Management & Adaptive Planning Section –VARMAP

VARMAP develops frameworks, models and tools to assess vulnerability and risk linked to natural hazards using quantitative and qualitative measures. Additionally, the section explores options to reduce vulnerability and risk and to strengthen adaptive governance, e.g. through urban adaptation strategies in the context of extreme climate-related events and gradual changes.

The WASCAL Project: “West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use”

With climate change being one of the most severe challenges to rural Africa in the 21st century, West Africa is facing an urgent need to develop effective adaptation and mitigation measures. WASCAL is a large-scale research-focused program initiated to address these challenges. Its overall objective is to

enhance the resilience of social-ecological systems to the impacts of climate change and increased climate variability. For more information about WASCAL, please visit www.wascal.org

Within the realm of the WASCAL project, UNU-EHS offers a PhD Scholarship.

Responsibilities:

Under the authority of the Director of UNU-EHS and the Head of the Vulnerability Assessment, Risk Management and Adaptive Planning (VARMAP) section, the successful candidate will be entrusted with the following tasks:

- Support the systematic analysis of vulnerability patterns and coping as well as adaptation processes to major climate change related hazards relevant for WASCAL;
- Evaluate existing concepts and frameworks for vulnerability, adaptation and risk in the context of natural hazards and climate change;
- Focus on how to assess vulnerability and adaptive capacity using qualitative and quantitative methodologies, including participatory tools and quantitative local data;
- Explore whether and how crises and hazard events in the past might have increased or decreased the adaptive capacity of communities at risk;
- Contextualize vulnerability concepts for selected watersheds in West Africa;
- Explore the dynamics of vulnerability and develop tools that allow to model vulnerability and adaptive capacity patterns for the future.

Required qualifications:

- Completed upper level university MSc degree (or equivalent) in Geography, Social Sciences, Environmental Management, Spatial Planning or related fields relevant for vulnerability and risk research in the context of natural hazards and climate change;
- Excellent command of oral and written English; good command of French would be an asset;
- Experience in systematic literature reviews;
- Strong research skills;
- Experience in empirical work linked to social sciences or social-ecological systems;
- Statistical skills are an advantage;
- Expertise in qualitative and participatory research methods;
- Willingness and ability to conduct extensive field research in remote areas of Benin, Burkina Faso and/or Ghana;
- Good team player with strong interpersonal skills demonstrated by the ability to work in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity.

Remuneration:

Stipend of 1,100 EUR per month; not subject to social security provisions in Germany.

Duration of contract:

The successful candidate will be based at UNU-EHS in Bonn on a full-time basis under the Doctoral Fellowship Award category for a period of 24 months with the possibility of extension - up to 36 months.

The successful candidate will not hold civil servant status nor be a "staff member" as defined in the United Nations Staff Rules and Regulations. This is a locally recruited position; no relocation expenses or allowances apply. Suitably qualified women candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

Starting Date:

1 March 2012

Application Procedure:

Interested applicants should submit their applications, preferably by e-mail to hrbonn@vie.unu.edu, and must include the following:

- a cover letter setting out how the qualifications and experience match the requirements of the position;
- a curriculum vitae with a completed and signed UNU Personal History form_downloadable from UNU's website at <http://www.bonn.unu.edu/article/read/job-vacancies>. Please avoid using similar forms provided by other United Nations organizations;
- the application must also indicate the reference number of the vacancy announcement.

We thank all applicants for their interest in this position; only short-listed candidates will be contacted; unsuccessful applications can neither be acknowledged nor returned.