

The Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn is an international research university with a broad range of subjects. 200 years of history, around 33,000 students, more than 6,000 employees and an excellent reputation at home and abroad: the University of Bonn is one of the most important universities in Germany and has been awarded the title of University of Excellence.

The Center for Development Research (ZEF) is looking for the next possible date (latest July 2024) initially limited until June 2026, with possible extension

Senior Researcher and Scientific Coordinator (100%) for the ZEF-Heritage Project

The ZEF-Heritage project is titled “Local Dynamics and Integration of UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Outstanding Universal Value: Evidence from Cultural Landscapes in Ethiopia and Kenya”. Funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, the project aims to understand UNESCO World Heritage Sites as ‘living’ landscapes that are shaped and transformed through local dynamics including context specific socio-economic, cultural, environmental and political factors. Closely working together with partners in Ethiopia and Kenya, the project focuses on the Konso Cultural Landscape in Ethiopia and the Sacred Mijikenda Kaya Forests in Kenya. The research addresses:

- How the cultural landscapes are used, managed and preserved by people living in them;
- How the heritages are changing inter-generationally and in relation to the UNESCO criteria;
- The interests of different actors, and changes in their needs, attitudes and interests; and
- How interests are expressed, negotiated, and contested, and the effects of conflicts on the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

We are now looking for a motivated postdoc with a solid experience in research, research project leadership and publishing.

Your tasks:

- Coordination of the ZEF Heritage project,
- communication with partner universities (Dilla University, Ethiopia, and Kenyatta University, Kenya) and local researchers in the project,
- organization of workshops in both partner countries and Germany,
- communication and constant reporting to the donor organization, VW-Foundation,
- Scientific publication of research results together with partners / researchers.
- engagement in tasks in the Political and Cultural Change working group at ZEF

Your profile:

- PhD degree in a related field (including anthropology, sociology, political science, social geography, environmental sciences, development sciences),
- A postdoc research experience in natural resource management, local livelihoods, sustainable land use, protected area conservation, indigenous/traditional knowledge, and/or similar subjects,
- research experience in Sub-Saharan Africa is a strong asset,
- Very good English language skills;

- willingness to tutor and teach doctoral students at ZEF,
- committed, team-oriented and interested in further learning.

We provide:

- A varied and interesting job with one of the largest employers in Bonn,
- an international and English speaking working environment at an interdisciplinary research institute,
- Company pension scheme (VBL),
- numerous university sports facilities,
- very good public transport connections due to the central location in Bonn and the possibility to use inexpensive parking facilities,
- flexible working hours and the opportunity to work partly from home,
- Remuneration according to pay group 13 TV-L.

The University of Bonn is committed to diversity and equal opportunities. It is certified as a family-friendly university. Its aim is to increase the proportion of women in areas in which women are underrepresented and to promote their careers in particular. It therefore strongly encourages applications from suitably qualified women. Applications will be treated in accordance with the State Equal Opportunities Act. Applications from suitable people with proven severe disabilities and persons with equivalent status are particularly welcome.

If you are interested in this position, please send your complete and informative application documents (Motivation letter, CV, list of publications, Master and PhD certificates) by April 10th, for technical reasons only in a PDF file by e-mail to rwyrwich@uni-bonn.de. For further information, please contact Dr. Eva Youkhana (email: eva.youkhana@uni-bonn.de), or Dr. Till Stellmacher (email: t.stellmacher@uni-bonn.de).