

### MSc thesis call 1

The Working [Group of Environmental Social Sciences/Economics at the Institute for Environmental Sciences \(iES\) of the University of Landau](#) offers an opportunity to carry out a MSc thesis on:

#### **Evaluation of the social-ecological resilience and overcoming of tipping points in rural households of the MAP Amazon region: biophysical aspects**

##### **Background**

Land use- and cover change is particularly acute in the MAP (Madre de Dios-Peru, Acre-Brazil, Pando-Bolivia) Amazon region. Ecosystem degradation, selective logging, farmland expansion, illegal mining, etc. are causes and consequences of these changes in land use. This constellation endangers seriously the provision of ecosystem services and the well-being of its inhabitants, mostly rural and depending on the surrounding for their livelihoods. The project *PRODIGY soil biodiversity governing tipping points in the Amazon* <[www.prodigy-biotip.org](http://www.prodigy-biotip.org)>, tackles this challenge on several scales: soil functional biodiversity, household economic well-being, institutional setting appropriateness, etc. The evaluation of the social-ecological resilience of rural households lies in the cross-roads of these.

Hence an opportunity to do a MSc thesis is offered to investigate the biophysical aspects of the MAP household livelihoods. Potential studies may relate to deforestation, land-use -conversion and -planning, natural-resources management, agriculture, agroforestry, postproduction, etc. It is expected that the MSc. topic will be co-defined with the appointee.

Simultaneously, the appointee will support a survey baseline for concurrent studies.

##### **Requirements**

- Being enrolled in a Master's program in a German university
- Background on natural sciences, agriculture, biology, forestry, agroforestry, natural resources management, intermingled or related discipline
- Proficiency in biophysical field data collection methods
- Proficiency in general data processing and analyses
- Proficiency in scientific reporting and drafting
- Fluency in English language and good knowledge of Spanish and/or Portuguese language
- Field experience in developing countries and working in not easy conditions
- Being a team player, adaptive and proactive

##### **Terms**

The time frame for the whole assignment is 9 to 12 months divided in three phases: (i) Formulation of a detailed research proposal (3 months); (ii) Field work in Latin America -Brazil, Bolivia or Peru (3-6 months); and (iii) Analysis and reporting of findings in scientific standards (3 months). The appointed candidate will be tutored and supervised by a senior scientist along the whole process. Logistically, travel and research costs will be covered, logistic support in the field will be provided. The appointee will receive a student assistant position with a monthly remuneration of ca. 500 Euros for 6 months. The appointment is planned to start in early 2021. In Germany, the working stations may be Bonn or Landau, we are open to flexible arrangements.

This roadmap is devised under the assumption that the COVID pandemics will be under control in mid-2021. Alternatively, on-distance/remote working alternatives may be considered.

##### **How to apply**

Send an email with: i) motivation letter and research statement, and ii) a detailed CV and in a single PDF file to Daniel Callo-Concha ([d.callo-concha@uni-bonn.de](mailto:d.callo-concha@uni-bonn.de) and [callo-concha@uni-landau.de](mailto:callo-concha@uni-landau.de)) with the subject: "PRODIGY MSc 1". The application deadline is December 31<sup>st</sup> 2020.

##### **Disclaimer**

The University of Koblenz-Landau is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from female candidates and minorities. International students are encouraged to apply.