

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE  
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## **GEF5 Rhodes University Sustainable Land Management for Rural Resilience Project (RU-SLMRR)**



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### **Advertisement for PhD Study 2018-2021**

#### **Project overview and responsibilities**

The Rhodes University Sustainable Land Management for Rural Resilience Project (**RU-SLMRR**) forms part of a broader Global Environment Facility 5 (**GE5F**) funded sustainable land management (**SLM**) project being implemented in South Africa. The GEF5 SLM Project comprises three implementation sites: Macubeni and the Baviaanskloof in the Eastern Cape, the Olifants catchment in Limpopo Province, and the Karoo. The project has four overarching objectives:

- 1) Improved natural resource (NR) management in degraded communal and commercial agricultural landscapes through community-driven climate and ecosystem smart land rehabilitation and management practices.
- 2) Improved technical capacity for management of land degradation risks, uncertainties and impacts, and land rehabilitation, in the three project sites. This objective involves training workshops held with government officials at all levels as well as local farmers and community based institutions and organisations.
- 3) The creation of an enabling environment for accessing the carbon market under new carbon tax laws in South Africa to create incentives for Sub-tropical Thicket rehabilitation and improved management.

- 4) Creation of governance and financing frameworks at national to local government levels to facilitate the mainstreaming of SLM in South African land-use and management policies and programmes.

The RU-SLMRR Project is seeking a PhD candidate to investigate barriers and enablers to community-driven natural resources governance in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. The proposed PhD feeds into objectives 1 and 2 of the GEF5-SLM project and requires adherence to several deliverables associated with these objectives. The study will be focussed at Macubeni and Baviaanskloof communal farmlands in the Eastern Cape, but may be upscaled to the other GEF5 SLM Project sites if time permits. The project period is from April 2018-April 2021.

Some of the key questions that need to be answered by the PhD for the two project sites include:

- 1) How are NRs governed and by who?
- 2) To what extent is sustainable land management considered in NR governance at provincial, local, and community governance levels?
- 3) What are the barriers and enablers of improved NR governance framed within the context of sustainable land management at different scales of governance? (e.g. motivation levels, community or individual agency, power relations, levels of communication, trust, and community values.)

The PhD candidate may obviously include additional key questions to the above list.

### **Requirements**

- A valid driver's license;
- Fluency in IsiXhosa is preferred;
- Experience in the theory and practice of sustainable land management and NR governance in communal land-use settings.

### **Funding**

- The total allocated funding is R120 000/annum bursary funding and R50 000/annum to cover running costs for a three year period (2018-2021).

### **Application procedure**

All applicants need to submit:

- An updated CV;
- Certified copies of previous degree certificates;
- A short essay (no more than 3 pages, 1.5 line spacing) which gives a background to some of the key challenges of NR governance in communal land-use settings in the Eastern Cape of South Africa.

Please submit your application to **Rebecca Powell** ([rebeccajoub@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccajoub@gmail.com)) by **17h00 on Monday 9 April, 2018.**

### **Enquiries**

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