



The IASS is an international, interdisciplinary research institute located in Potsdam, Germany financed by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Federal State of Brandenburg. It is devoted to promoting science and research for global sustainability, particularly in the areas of climate change, the earth systems and social pathways to sustainability. The cluster "Global Contract for Sustainability (GCS)", under the responsibility of IASS Executive Director Prof. Dr Klaus Töpfer, focuses on the societal and political transformations that must take place if we are to achieve sustainability. As a part of the cluster's core work program, the IASS established the Global Soil Forum to provide a multi-stakeholder platform that promotes knowledge exchange, research and policy action on sustainable soil management and responsible land governance.

The German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) will initiate a global programme on large-scale soil rehabilitation for food security. Soil rehabilitation measures will be linked to efforts to increase tenure security of the intended beneficiaries of the programme. IASS' Global Soil Forum will be responsible for developing and implementing an accompanying research project in support of this programme. The three year transdisciplinary research project "Begleitforschung Bodenrehabilitierung" will (i) conduct a systematic analysis of existing approaches for land rehabilitation; (ii) conduct in-depth case studies in five countries on the implementation of pathways for land rehabilitation measures; (iii) facilitate knowledge exchange processes on the topic; (iv) consolidate the findings in a final publication.

The IASS is currently seeking applications for

Three Research Associate positions (m/f) **Ref-Nr. GSF-09**

Under the supervision of the coordinator of the transdisciplinary research project "Begleitforschung Bodenrehabilitierung" and in close cooperation with project partners, the successful applicants will be responsible for contributing to the success of the overall project as outlined above, in particular via **in-depth case studies in one or two of the project's partner countries (Burkina Faso, Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya and India)**. Specifically, the positions will entail the following activities:

- Develop a **systematic analysis** of existing approaches for land rehabilitation, their implementation pathways as well as of the relations between all relevant stakeholders in the project area in the respective partner country
- **Establish and maintain cooperation** with partners in the project area and with organizations at national, European and international level
- Support the development of a **participatory research agenda** on land rehabilitation and tenure security within the bilateral areas of action of the global programme
- Conduct a transdisciplinary process aimed at the **implementation** of the participatory research agenda
- **Feeding back of project findings** into the final publication as well as relevant local, national and international fora in order to support integration and upscaling of lessons learnt at national and international policy level



What we offer:

- A position in sustainability research that links science with decision-taking in civil society, national and international development policy
- The opportunity to work in a high-profile, international research project
- The possibility to conduct transdisciplinary research on the ground in collaboration with different partner organizations
- Excellent contacts to a range of national and international political and research organizations
- An innovative working environment within a dynamic team
- Remuneration for these positions are based on the TVöD (Bund) scale 13.

Requirements:

- Master or PhD in Development Studies, Environmental Governance, Geography, Political Sciences or related fields
- Experience in conducting participatory research and significant and demonstrable understanding of development issues in one or more of the project's partner countries
- Ability to work and communicate effectively, diplomatically and sensitively with a wide range of partners from science, politics, business and civil society at both the national and international level
- An in-depth knowledge of land rehabilitation, sustainable soil and land management and responsible land governance issues
- Working experience in carrying out transdisciplinary research projects in collaboration with international organizations and local partner organizations will be an asset
- Experience in and in-depth knowledge of stakeholder processes, dialogue processes and institutional analysis will be an asset
- Ability and willingness to travel several months per year and fitness for service in the tropics
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in both English (and French for the cases of Burkina Faso and Benin). Good working knowledge of German is a strong asset

These positions are to be filled as soon as possible and will run for a maximum until 31 December 2017. The interviews will take place on 23 and 24 February 2015.

Applications, including a cover letter and a full CV with two referees should be received no later than 15 February 2015 by e-mail to Ms. Judith von Pogrell Judith.vonPogrell@iass-potsdam.de

For further information and details on these positions please contact Ms. Judith von Pogrell. The IASS particularly encourages applications from female researchers; handicapped applicants will be given preference in case of equal qualifications.

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