

Post Doc Position: Sustainable Land Management and social-ecological systems modelling (3 years; 1 year extension possible depending on availability of funds)

The Research Unit, Sustainable Land Management is one of the two units of the Department of Integrative Geography (DIG) at the Institute of Geography, University of Bern (<http://www.geography.unibe.ch/>). The Unit focuses on sustainable management of land systems and natural resources. We draw on disciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches, linking Physical Geography with Human Geography to address sustainability problems both in the Global North and South.

One of our new research areas is the conceptual and methodological development and application of social-ecological system models in Sustainable Land Management in a context of agriculture, food systems, ecosystem services provision and global change, including climate variability and climate change.

Together with our team we expect you to

- conduct field research in the Global South (mainly Sub-Saharan Africa – e.g. Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria; additional regions possible) as well as in Switzerland
- lead and participate in scientific as well as policy oriented publications
- write a habilitation thesis (collection of papers) in Geography focussing on the general topic area which can be narrowed down in discussions with the Unit leader
- supervise and co-supervise students
- contribute to teaching of the DIG
- engage with regional and international networks in the field
- collaborate and lead fundraising of new research projects in the field

Requirements

- a PhD in integrative geography, environmental sciences, agricultural land management, or similar subjects related to soil and water conservation or nature conservation, land degradation, land use change and management
- Expertise in natural resources, land use and ecosystems research, and in the modelling of social-ecological systems
- Knowledge of system dynamics modelling or willingness to learn
- Experience in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research
- Willingness to publish regularly
- Interest and experience in teaching and co-supervision of students (BSC and MSC level)
- Willingness to plan and submit a habilitation thesis
- Strong team work skills with ability to work independently
- Language skills: preferably German but English is also possible; knowledge of German an asset; French and Italian are also possible but our working languages are German and English

Please submit your application in one pdf including a letter of motivation, a one page research plan, CV, list of publications (highlighting the most important in the context of the position – please send up to 3 examples of your best published work); description of previous research and current research interests; certificates and the contact information of three referees to Prof. Dr. Chinwe Ifejika Speranza (chinwe.ifejika.speranza@giub.unibe.ch).

The gross salary is fixed according to salary regulations of Canton Bern.

Applications from qualified women are warmly encouraged. The review of applications is ongoing and will continue until qualified candidates have been identified. However, the position will be filled by October 2016.