CALL FOR AFRICAN SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCHERS
Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Mali, Senegal, South Africa, and Tanzania

The Responsive Forest Governance Initiative – RFGI
A Comparative Natural Resource Governance Research Program

RFGI is a programme of:

The Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA)

International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)

Co-Directed by:
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with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
Call for Social African Science Research Candidates

Deadline: 10\textsuperscript{th} October 2011

RFGI is setting up multidisciplinary social science research teams on forest resource governance in several African countries. Members of these research teams work fulltime for the entire duration of their contracts.

RFGI invites social-science researchers with field research background in forestry, local governance, and rural political economy to apply to take part in an eighteen-month commitment to in-depth comparative research on the local democracy effects of forestry interventions. The RFGI program is seeking researchers in Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Mali, Senegal, South Africa, and Tanzania.

The RFGI program will involve: collaborative development of research on local democracy in forestry in ten countries in Africa. An overview of the program is available on line at http://www.codesria.org/spip.php?article1247&lang=en and a summary project description is available at the end of this call for proposals.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Researchers will be expected to:

1. Have an established track record of social science research in environmental governance in forestry.
2. Use their ongoing research as the basis of a research report to be used in a comparative research framework of the RFGI program. The successful candidates will be expected to begin engagement by 1 December 2011.
3. Revise the research proposal they submitted for their application based on comments by the RFGI core team ten days prior to the research methods meeting.
4. Read background materials for the research programme.
5. Prepare for a short period of field research if needed to supplement their existing knowledge of their field site vis-à-vis the RFGI research questions (arrange transport and make initial contacts so that field research can begin immediately following methods meeting).
6. Attend and present their proposal at a one-week research methods meeting tentatively scheduled in Dakar for 9-13 January 2012.
7. Revise their research proposal to integrate comments from fellow researchers and the core research team at the methods meeting—due 23 January 2012 (team leader comments will be provided based on revisions).
8. Conduct the necessary field research and write a full draft research report in the period from 1 February 2012 to 15 June 2012. Attend and present preliminary findings in a one-week mid-term research meeting in mid June 2012.

9. Integrate insights from the research meeting into their draft research report and into a revised research proposal that includes a work-plan for completion of the research, due two weeks after the completion of the mid-term meeting.

10. Finalize the research report during the two months following the mid-term research meeting. This research report will be written as a publishable quality research working paper that will, after peer review and revision, be published in a CODESRIA/IUCN/UIUC working paper series. This report will address the core questions of the RFGI research programme and the researcher’s own research hypotheses and preoccupations. Submit a peer-review ready research report in the form of a working paper to the RFGI Core Team by 1 September 2012.

11. Attend and present final working paper in a five-day research findings meeting in early November 2012.

12. Rewrite the working paper for submission to a peer reviewed journal by late Mid December 2012.

13. Present your findings at national and international policy forums and research meetings where appropriate.

14. Read and provide detailed comments on draft products of at least two of your co-researchers for each stage of the research programme (three meetings and for draft working papers and journal articles).

**REMUNERATION**

Researchers will be paid a lump sum of $20,000 for their participation. The first half of this sum will be paid in four installments: part at each of the three research meetings with the remainder paid at the delivery of a final approved peer reviewed working paper. Researchers will also be eligible to apply for funds for transport to and from field sites and to cover meals and lodging for up to four weeks of supplementary field research. Transport, meals and lodging for RFGI international meetings will also be covered by the programme.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Research applicants must:

1. Hold a master’s degree or higher.
2. Show a strong intellectual capacity for social science research and thinking.
3. Have conducted in the past in-depth field-based research on forestry governance. This research experience and field data should be sufficient to form the basis of the RFGI research report. The program cannot fund full-time researchers for this program, the research reports must build on the existing research of the researcher.
4. Have excellent writing skills.
5. Be fluent in either French or English.
6. Applicants must be from African.
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
Please provide an essay responding to the questions below (please use the outline as headings in your essay). Please carefully read the description of the RFGI research programme: http://codesria.org/IMG/pdf/RFGI_Summary_and_Introduction_All_clean.pdf, and the summary Research Program Description annexed below. Please also draw on any other literature available to you and reference that literature in your essay.

A. What do you see as the main research problems for RFGI (maximum 50 words)

B. How will you research ‘Choice’? (maximum 500 words):
   a. State your understanding of the meaning of choice in one or two sentences.
   b. State and justify:
      i. Your key research hypotheses
      ii. Your central research questions
   c. Develop operational questions (several questions that can be answered with specific data in order to respond to your key research questions/hypotheses – these are elements of your research questions)
   d. Describe the data will you need to answer your operational questions
   e. Describe the methods will you use to collect that data

C. How can you measure the degree to which local people are represented in natural resource decision making? (maximum 500 words):
   a. Give a short definition of representation
   b. Explain how you will measure that representation
      i. What variables will you measure?
      ii. What methods will you use to measure them?

D. Describe the research sites you would use for this project (maximum 800 words)
   a. Describe the sites
   b. Justify your choice of these sites
   c. Describe the work you have already done in these sites.

E. List works cited and list key documents you would draw on in your research (please cite literature from your country as well as relevant broader literature). Please also list here any reports and articles you have written based on this field site.

CRITERIA FOR APPLICATION REVIEW AND RESEARCHER
   a. Conceptual and expositional clarity of your essays;
   b. Relevance of hypotheses and research questions;
   c. Use of the literature in your essay;
   d. Your educational background;
   e. Your field research experience and its relevance to the RFGI objectives;
f. Letters of recommendation; and
g. Completion of all parts of the application.

F. Letters of recommendation from three referees – please ask your referees to address your skills as a social science researcher. We do not require research team members to have a background in the social sciences for this post, but we would like your reviewers to assess your potential as a conceptual and social thinker and as a social science researcher.

G. Please send
   a. A cover letter expressing your interest and availability.
   b. CV.
   c. Two writing samples (single authored articles or papers will be most helpful). Writing samples that are related to your field research background for this project are most relevant.
   d. The names and e-mail addresses of the three referees who you have asked to write letters of support.

H. Please ask three referees to send letters of recommendation directly to the address below.

I. To apply, please send your applications to:

   Responsive Forest Governance Initiative
   CODESRIA
   Av. Cheikh Anta Diop
   BP 3304, Dakar, SENEGAL
   Email: rfgi@codesria.sn
   Fax: +221-338241289

CLOSING DATE

All applications must be received by 10th October 2011. We suggest that you request your letter writers send their letters before 5th October. Letters received after 10th October 2011 will probably not be of use.

The application letters and other supporting documents of candidates should be submitted by e-mail to the following address: rfgi@codesria.sn with the following subject line: “RFGI Researcher Application”. When we receive your file, we will write you to acknowledge receipt. If you do not get a receipt assume we did not get your file. Please ask your recommendation writers to also use the same address and subject line provided above.

RFGI Program Description: http://www.codesria.org/spip.php?article1247&lang=en
Annex A: RFGI RESEARCH PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The research Phase of RFGI, years 1-3, is dedicated to understanding the democracy effects of climate-related forestry policies and projects such as UN REDD (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation) and climate adaptation support. The research should illuminate how these interventions strengthen or weaken local democracy. More specifically we will focus on how these interventions affect the representation of local populations in decisions about the management and use of resources they depend on.

The research will use what we call a ‘choice and recognition’ framework. Higher-scale intervening agents, such as governments, international agencies, and large NGOs, make many ‘choices’ about which local actors they will engage with and how they will engage with them. The choice by higher-scale intervening agents of the local institutions to ‘recognize’, that is to partner with or to empower them, shapes three dimensions of local democracy: representation, citizenship, and the public domain.

RFGI will study the logic behind local ‘institutional choices’ by these intervening agents so that we can best understand why they choose to support or circumvent local democratic processes. RFGI will study the effects of these choices – that is the effects of ‘recognition’ of different kinds of local institutions – so as to understand how those choices shape democracy outcomes. Knowing why particular choices are being made helps to us relate their outcomes back to the project and policy design process. Understanding their effects helps to identify approaches most likely to strengthen local democracy while serving the needs of local people and broader developmental objectives.

The RFGI research will be used to develop guidelines for the implementation of climate-related policies, such as REDD and adaptation interventions, that will have an effect in the forestry sector. In the later part of the RFGI, the research teams will help to develop the guidelines and to test their effectiveness as they are piloted by practitioners. Researchers’ main role in RFGI is to help us understand 1) the dynamics of decision making by those larger scale actors that are making and implementing forestry policy, and 2) the effects of these decisions on local representation in forestry decision making. The research phase of RFGI is two years. The first fourteen months is dedicated to the primary research on choice and recognition. The remaining ten months will focus on developing and testing of RFGI guidelines.

A full description of the RFGI programme is available at:

http://codesria.org/IMG/pdf/RFGI_Summary_and_Introduction_All_clean.pdf.