

VACANCY

The Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) is an interdisciplinary research centre of the University of Bern. Its overarching goal is to produce and share knowledge for sustainable development in cooperation with partners in the global North and South. CDE conducts research to develop innovative concepts and solutions for the sustainable use of land and water resources. It also offers a range of services for planners and decision-makers that are closely linked to research. One of CDE's central concerns is to foster dialogue between science and society while contributing to global debates on sustainability and development. CDE is seeking a:

Senior Research Scientist (80%) to support the Co-Chair of the Independent Group of Scientists drafting the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)

ABOUT THE GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) is a key component of the mechanism to follow up and review progress on the recently agreed 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is intended to strengthen the science–policy interface and provide a strong evidence-based instrument that supports policymakers in promoting poverty eradication and sustainable development. It will be made available to a wide range of stakeholders, including business and civil society organizations and the general public. A comprehensive, in-depth report will be produced every four years to inform the UN High-Level Political Forum under the auspices of the UN General Assembly. At the end of 2016, the UN Secretary-General appointed a group of 15 independent scientists, mandating them to draft the 2019 edition of the GSDR. Prof. Peter Messerli, Director of CDE, was appointed as co-chair of this group, which comprises experts from a variety of backgrounds, scientific disciplines, and institutions. In the context of this appointment, CDE is seeking a senior research scientist to join CDE's team on land-related science–policy issues. The task of this new team member will be to support CDE's Director in his role as co-chair and scientific contributor to the report.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The incumbent will collaborate with a small team to undertake the following duties and responsibilities:

1. To support CDE's Director in his role as co-chair of the independent group of scientists, by
 - Supporting the design, planning, and implementation of an interdisciplinary collaboration process among GSDR scientists and partners
 - Liaising with different individuals and organizations, coordinating processes and deadlines, organizing workshops, identifying and managing the use of appropriate knowledge management tools or platforms, and assisting the co-chair with other tasks as needed
2. To provide significant and high-quality scientific contributions, by
 - Reviewing and synthesizing scientific publications and other knowledge products in the fields of land system science and sustainable development, including on interactions between ecosystems,

- human well-being, economic development, agriculture, food security, climate change, etc.
 - Writing background papers and contributing to the drafting of texts, figures, and other illustrations for the GSDR
3. To network with scientific and non-scientific stakeholders of the GSDR to support consultation, collaboration, and communication, by
- Liaising and communicating with academic and non-academic partners and networks in Switzerland and at the international level;
 - Planning, facilitating, and supporting events and activities concerned with consultation, science–policy dialogue, and dissemination of the GSDR.

REQUIREMENTS

- Doctoral degree (PhD) in land system science, geography, environmental sciences, or related fields
- Profound knowledge in the fields of sustainable development; land systems, understood as social-ecological systems; global change; and international development
- Proven expertise in, and experience with, inter- and transdisciplinary methods, processes, and approaches of research for sustainable development
- Experience and interest in working in an intercultural context and, more specifically, with partners in developing countries and countries in transition
- Familiarity with the structure and processes of international development organizations and scientific institutions is an asset (UN agencies, ICSU, Future Earth, etc.)
- Proficiency in written and spoken English; additional languages are an asset, especially German.
- Skills in standard software applications, including web-based communication tools and graphic programs, as well as social media
- Strong skills in scientific analysis and writing, proven publication record and talent for presentations
- Flexible and motivated personality, strong interpersonal skills, ability to work under pressure and meet multiple deadlines, and experience in coordinating and managing small teams

WE OFFER

- Collaboration in an experienced, dynamic, and multidisciplinary team
- A stimulating working environment in a multinational and multicultural context at the interface of academic research and international development
- Employment conditions and remuneration in accordance with the standards of the University of Bern, Switzerland
- A part-time position with flexible working hours

DETAILS

Starting date: April 2017, or as soon as possible

Location: CDE, University of Bern, Hallerstrasse 10, Bern, Switzerland; www.cde.unibe.ch

Duration of employment: Until 31 December 2019

For further information: Please contact personaladministration@cde.unibe.ch or +41 31 631 88 22

Application deadline: 31 March 2017; open for international applications

Application materials: Please submit your application consisting of CV with certificates, a motivation letter, and three references in English and as a single PDF file to personaladministration@cde.unibe.ch.

The University of Bern is an equal opportunities employer and encourages applications by women.