PhD Position available in Global Land-Use Change and Telecoupling

- Are you interested in land-use change?
- Would you like to be trained in the telecoupling framework and be on the forefront of understanding processes and actors that influence land-use in an interconnected world?
- Would you like to become an expert in trans- and interdisciplinary concepts and methodologies?
- Are you interested in moving between science and practice in order to qualify for a successful career in research, consulting, industry or governance?
- Are you in the first four years of your research career, or will you graduate soon?

If yes, apply now for a PhD position in the research network "COUPLED – Operationalising telecouplings for sustainability challenges related to land use"!

The Centre for Development and Environment of the University of Bern Switzerland seeks highly qualified and motivated candidates for

1 PhD position (3 years) in

Characterisation and Visualisation of Telecouplings in Large Scale Land Acquisitions in Southeast Asia

starting from 01 July 2018. Funded by the European Commission under the Horizon 2020 Marie Sklodowska-Curie ITN Programme, GA agreement 765408.

+++ Closing date 1st of April, 2018 +++

Topic

In a globalized world, flows, feedbacks and spill-overs of material, goods and services, and respective drivers and impacts between local and distant land systems are the norm and not the exception. In some domains, such as trade-flows and supply chains, some aspects of interconnectivity of places can already be captured and visualized (e.g. www.trase.earth). The enormous increase of Large Scale Land Acquisitions (LSLA) in the last decade, mainly targeted at export oriented commodities (e.g. Oil Palm, rubber) lead to large changes in land system especially in the global South. While there is an increasing understanding of local impacts of such LSLA, there is a lack of approaches to capture, characterize and especially visualizing spill-overs and feedbacks with neighbouring or

distant places and systems (e.g. land use displacement effects of LSLAs to neighbouring or distant places).

On this backdrop this PhD aims at developing a system to capture, characterize and visualize feedbacks and spill-overs using LSLA cases in mainland Southeast Asia, likely Myanmar and/or Laos. The research will largely be based on various already available large data sets from different sources, but some fieldwork is envisaged. This research will lead to:

- Creation of knowledge of spill-overs and feedbacks in large scale land acquisitions (LSLA)
- Development of a framework and indicator set to capture and characterize spill-over and feedbacks related to LSLAs
- A (online) tool to visualize the interconnected flows and impacts of local and distant system in relation to LSLA.

The PhD will be jointly supervised by PD Dr. Andreas Heinimann (University of Bern, Switzerland) and Prof Dr. Peter Verburg (Institute for Environmental Studies, VU University Amsterdam, Netherlands). To enhance the relevance of the research for practise, a secondment is foreseen at the Forest Trust, TFT (www.tft-earth.org) in Nyon Switzerland.

Location
The University of Bern (UNIBE) is one of the leading universities in Switzerland, with 8 faculties, some 160 institutes and 8 Graduate Schools, almost 17,000 students, and close to 4,000 full time employees. The Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) is an interdisciplinary centre of excellence in research for Sustainable Development of the University of Bern. Its overarching goal is to produce and share knowledge for sustainable development in collaboration with partners in the global North and South.

We seek
A candidate with MSc in Geography, Sustainability Science, Environmental Science or related disciplines. We expect a strong interest in land use changes, human environment interactions and analysis of large data arrays and data visualization. Experiences and interest in data modelling and programming skills are an asset. Excellent written and spoken English skills are a prerequisite.

Contact
PD Dr. Andreas Heinimann, andreas.heinimann@cde.unibe.ch, www.cde.unibe.ch

Do you consider applying? Please go to http://coupled-itn.eu/recruitment/. Download and carefully read the Guide for Applicants for all specific information on the application and selection procedure.

We look forward to receiving your application!

European Commission | Horizon 2020 European Union funding for Research & Innovation