

# UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM

## INSTITUTE OF RESOURCES ASSESSMENT



### CALL FOR A PHD STUDY POSITION WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY OF DAR AS SALAAM UNDER THE 'Y-ENGAGE' RESEARCH PROJECT

The Institute of Resource Assessment (IRA) of the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) invites applications for one (1) 4-year full-time PhD study within the research project **"Young People's Climate Change Engagement in Tanzania (Y-ENGAGE)"**.

The research project is funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The successful candidate will be expected to start on May 1, 2022, or as soon as possible thereafter.

#### **The Y-ENGAGE Project**

Climate Change (CC) is one of the greatest threats facing humanity, and a defining issue of our time. Young people in sub-Saharan Africa are on the frontline of this crisis. They constitute both the largest and most vulnerable group to experience the harmful effects of CC. It is critical that we learn from and engage young people in the fight against the effects of CC. However, much current knowledge on young people's climate engagement reflects the experiences of young people in the global North. By generating insights from Tanzania, Y-ENGAGE seeks to diversify our understandings of young people's engagement with CC and galvanise the activism potential of young people in sub-Saharan Africa.

The Y-ENGAGE project thus draws on qualitative and participatory research methods, including photography, to explore: 1) young people's experiences, conceptions, struggles, and ways of coping with CC in Tanzania; 2) opportunities and challenges for young people to exert influence and transform climate-related practices; and 3) the role of teachers and schools in facilitating engagement with CC.

The project is a collaboration between Ardhi University, the University of Dar es Salaam, the University of Copenhagen, the Tanzania Youth Coalition and Save the Children.

## **The PhD Position**

The PhD will co-lead an empirical sub-study within the project looking to explore how a group of young people in different ways exert influence and transform climate-related practices, both at home and in their communities. The study will also explore the factors that shape their (in)ability to translate climate awareness into action. The study should aim to engage 24 young people (over the age of 18) through online ethnography. The young people will be given a bespoke WhatsApp-enabled camera-phone. Over a 4-month period, the PhD candidate will be expected to introduce bi-weekly exercises that solicit, and help young people capture 'in-the-moment' ethnographic reflections photographically. The young people should be invited into WhatsApp groups for both real-time (synchronous) and non-real-time (asynchronous) online group activities and discussions of selected photographs. A further 24 participants under the age of 18 will be given access to digital cameras and invited to take pictures, over a 4-month period, of the factors that enable or obstruct their climate change engagement. The PhD candidate would be expected to meet the young people monthly for critical dialogues about their photos and invite them to write stories about the photos they wish to include in the study and discuss further in individual and group interviews.

Specifically, the PhD candidate will be involved in the study design, training and research as follows:

### ***Design:***

- Support the recruitment of young people as co-researchers
- Formulate a recruitment strategy for young participants
- Develop topic guides and tools for data collection
- Work with the research team to develop strategies for disseminating photos and stories to local decision makers.

### ***Training:***

- Introduce the Y-ENGAGE methodology to local communities in open sessions,
- Train a group of young people to become co-researchers
- Support and train research assistants.

### ***Research:***

- Recruitment of study participants
- Pilot test the different methods used
- Conduct the research
- Thematically analyse data
- Write peer-reviewed articles that report on key findings in line with the study objectives.

Also, the candidate will as part of the PhD training at UDSM be expected to:

- Participate in dissemination of findings emanating from the project to stakeholders,
- Prepare quarterly and annual progress reports of the project,
- Support and manage administrative research tasks

- Participate in active research environments including a stay in another research environment. This project includes 2 x 13-week stays at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark.
- Write a PhD thesis

### **Essential qualifications**

The prospective applicant must have:

- A Master's degree in social psychology or sociology or anthropology or human geography or global public health or similar relevant qualification,
- Experience of working with qualitative methods,
- Practical experience of working with children and young people, either in public health, education or climate change contexts,
- Strong written and oral communication skills in both English and Kiswahili languages,

### **Desired qualifications**

- Experience of participatory research methodologies, such as Photovoice,
- Knowledge of climate change challenges in Tanzania,
- Experience of publishing peer-reviewed papers.

### **Additional Attributes**

In addition to the above qualifications, applicants should be able to demonstrate their interest in the project, as well as their ability to work independently, take initiative and be team players. The project is looking for a detail-oriented Tanzanian candidate with strong analytical skills, outstanding organizational skills and a drive to be part of a research project and the climate response. The candidate must be willing to travel to Copenhagen, Denmark, as part of their PhD training. The candidate should also be willing to register at the Institute of Resource Assessment (IRA) of the UDSM for the PhD studies.

### **Appointment Conditions**

The position is a full-time 4-year post and the candidate will be based at UDSM in Dar es Salaam. Please contact Dr. Catherine A. Masao ([ndeutz@yahoo.com](mailto:ndeutz@yahoo.com)) for a full description of the research project and more information about the position.

### **Application Procedures**

Eligible candidates should submit their application in English to Project Co-PI Tanzania, Dr. Catherine A. Masao ([ndeutz@yahoo.com](mailto:ndeutz@yahoo.com)) and copy to IRA Director (Dr. Joel Nobert - [nobert@udsm.ac.tz](mailto:nobert@udsm.ac.tz)).

**The deadline for submission of application is 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 midnight East African Time.**

Applications must include:

- Cover letter explaining a clear motivation for contributing to the project,
- Curriculum vitae – detailing experience in conducting qualitative research,
- Copy of relevant certificates,

- Names and contact information of three (3) referees, with associated letters of recommendation

Shortlisted applicants shall be required to write a more detailed protocol/project description and shall be invited to a face-to-face and/or Zoom interview on a date to be announced to them. Respective remuneration will be paid to the successful candidate for the time spent in the project in line with the project's set budget.

**Issued on 22 December 2021**