



**DANIDA
FELLOWSHIP
CENTRE**

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS MAARIFA PHD FELLOWSHIP 2024

Background

MAARIFA (Transformative Knowledge for People, Forests and Climate in Tanzania) is a new research project collaboration of interdisciplinary team (involving the *fields of ecology, political ecology, information technologies, political science, geography and anthropology*) from the University of Dar es Salaam, University of Dodoma and University of Copenhagen funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (MFA) through the administration of Danida Fellowship Centre. The project ***aims to examine the use of digital citizen science technologies on how and to what extent it can facilitate transformative and decolonial knowledge for climate-friendly development in Tanzania.*** Protection and restoration of forests ecosystems has potential to store carbon, reduce emissions and support human adaptation and resilience. However, forest management in the Global South often relies on knowledge systems inherited from colonial times. This ignores local communities and indigenous peoples as key actors if climate action is to be successful, sustainable and just. Digital citizen science technologies such as smartphones have been proposed as a means to enhance local involvement in knowledge production. But does it bring about actual transformative change in forest-climate initiatives or are they overhyped techno-fixes? Can they contribute to decolonizing climate knowledge production? This project brings together universities and community organizations in Tanzania to critically examine the use of digital citizen science in ongoing forest carbon and resilience initiatives. It investigates how and to what extent digital citizen science can empower citizens and local knowledge systems, and what the implications are for policy and practice. It will examine digital citizen science initiatives in **Iringa, Kilosa, Kilwa and Simanjiro districts.**

MAARIFA PhD Fellowships

As part of its innovations, MAARIFA offers collaborative doctoral training program in policy making and ecology (natural resources) at the University of Dar es Salaam. The aim is to investigate if and how digital technologies applied to forest ecosystem governance in Tanzania can decolonize forest management, improve forest governance, empower citizens and achieve better forest conservation outcomes. MAARIFA is going to recruit **2 PhD candidates** to conduct primary research on **policy making political ecology and knowledge production in relation to forest management, natural resource governance and forest-related climate change issues.** The candidates must be individuals capable and committed to finish their doctoral programs within the specified time frame. The

fellowship commences in **September 2024** and lasts for a period of **three** years. It is a full time program whereby candidates will conduct their researches, attend seminars and workshops, present their work in academic conferences, and write their final dissertations. They will also be provided with a study abroad at the University of Copenhagen for a period of six months divided in two cycles. The stay will include PhD training courses, self-study, writing time, meeting with Danish supervisors, etc. The first cycle will tentatively be between **October and December 2024** and the second cycle on their second to third year of their doctoral program.

The multidisciplinary MAARIFA PhD fellowship is open to members of participating institutions in Tanzania who are interested in conducting their PhD research on topics relevant to the broad fields of political science, policy analysis, anthropology of policy making, human geography, political ecology and similar fields in relation to forest management, natural resources governance, climate change adaptation, among others, as long as the research question aims to contribute to forest ecosystem governance in Tanzania. MAARIFA is committed to gender equity in access to the training programs. *Women are therefore particularly encouraged to apply.* Successful applicants will attend MAARIFA's inception conference (**Political Ecology Network – POLLEN**) in Dodoma, Tanzania in **September 2024**. They will also participate in three seminars on research design, data analysis and scientific writing.

Eligibility

- A Master's degree in a relevant field.
- Prior admission into a PhD program is not required for application but awards are contingent on such admission being obtained at the University of Dar es Salaam for **academic year 2024/2025**
- Applicant's PhD research proposal must be related to either policy analysis or climate change/ecology.
- Applicants must commit to participate in all activities of MAARIFA project.
- Applicants must be of the age not above 45 years.

Application procedure

1. Applicants must submit their applications and reference letters by **June 30, 2024**, to the contact person at the University of Dar es Salaam through the following email address: Dr. Suma Kibonde kibondesuma9@gmail.com and copied to Prof. Ida Theilade idat@infro.ku.dk Dr. Victoria Makulilo vmakulilo@yahoo.co.uk and Mikkel Funder mfu@diis.dk
2. Full application includes:
 - (a) Application letter
 - (b) A concept note not exceeding 10 pages. The note should provide a preliminary proposal for the applicant's proposed research topic for the PhD.

It should also be related to **Knowledge Production in Forest Governance**.

(c) An updated CV

(d) Reference letter

3. Nominated candidates will be invited for an interview by **20 July 2024**.
4. Final fellowship decision will be communicated to successful applicants by **the end of July 2024**.