



**UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY**

**INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT  
(Bonn, Germany)**

**PhD Researcher Niger Case Study**

- Organizational Unit** : United Nations University – Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), Bonn, Germany
- Reference Number** : 2010/UNU/EHS/PhDRes(CTC)/01
- Applications to** : Mrs. Beatrice O'Reilly, Recruitment Officer  
(HRApplications@ehs.unu.edu)
- Closing Date** : 17 February 2010

**United Nations University's Objectives:**

The UNU is an international community of scholars, engaged in research, postgraduate education, continuing education and training (CE+T) and dissemination of knowledge in furthering the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The mission of the UNU is to contribute, through research and capacity building, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems that are the concern of the United Nations and its Member States. Key goals are to serve as an international community of scholars; a bridge between the United Nations and the international academic community; and as a think-tank for the United Nations system; to contribute to capacity building, particularly in developing countries; and to serve as a platform for new and creative ideas.

**About UNU-EHS:**

During the past few years, UNU-EHS has developed into a leading international vulnerability research institute. It has been conceived and created to assess the vulnerability and coping capacity of societies facing natural and human-induced hazards in a changing environment. The Institute spearheads research, capacity building and policy-relevant advisory activities relating to the broad interdisciplinary field of 'risk and vulnerability'. The overall goal of its research is to raise public and political awareness and to assist Member States to implement the principles of "living with nature, living with risks" within the context of sustainable development. Next to environmentally-induced migration, vulnerability assessment, with particular emphasis on the social and environmental components, risk management and adaptation strategies to climate change and hazard events are the priority research areas of the institute. UNU-EHS has been engaged in PhD-level education since 2004.

For complete information about the organization, please visit the following websites:

[www.ehs.unu.edu](http://www.ehs.unu.edu), [www.vie.unu.edu](http://www.vie.unu.edu), [www.unwater.unu.edu](http://www.unwater.unu.edu), [www.ihdp.unu.edu](http://www.ihdp.unu.edu), [www.unu.edu](http://www.unu.edu).

## **The CLICO Project:**

CLICO, or 'Climate Change, Hydro-Conflicts and Human Security' is a three year research project funded by the European Commission. It takes an innovative multidisciplinary approach to fill knowledge gaps over the social dimensions of climate change. In particular the project is investigating whether hydro-climatic hazards such as droughts and floods exacerbate social tensions, intra- and inter-state conflicts in the Mediterranean, Middle East and Sahel, or if they provide a catalyst for cooperation and peace. Within the CLICO project UNU-EHS' tasks are, amongst others, to participate in the creation of the CLICO conceptual framework and the protocol for case studies that will frame case-study research design as well as in the development of an integrated theory on threats to security from climate change impacts on hydrological systems. In that regard UNU-EHS will also conduct two in-depth field research-based hydro-conflict case studies, one in Egypt, focussing on the Metropolitan Region of Alexandria and another one in Niger comparing two regions, Agadez (Northern Niger) and Tillabéri (Southern Niger).

Research focuses on the linkages between water resources degradation (or pressures), environmental and social vulnerability and, migration, all potentially leading to conflicts. Moreover formal and informal structures of water governance in the case study areas will be analysed and assessed with particular focus on their adaptive capacity to the impacts of climate change and their dispute settlement mechanisms and against national and international legal frameworks.

Within the frame of the CLICO project, UNU-EHS offers a 3-year PhD Scholarship.

## **Responsibilities:**

Under the authority and supervision of the Director of UNU-EHS / Vice-Rector in Europe, the successful candidate will carry out research linked to the Niger case study area. He/she will

- Investigate the existing and foreseen impacts of climate change on coupled socio-ecological systems in the Agadez (Northern Niger) and Tillabéri (Southern Niger) regions and the potential links to existing or future conflicts linked to degraded water resources. The results of the research will be instrumental to produce a "hydro-security" profile of the region of concern.
- An important part of the work will consist in field work in Niger to
  - (i) collect quantitative data of both sub-systems for vulnerability and adaptive capacity assessment,
  - (ii) conduct historical analysis (using archives or secondary literature), and
  - (iii) conduct stakeholder analysis and personal/group participatory interviews for identification of vulnerabilities / explanation of conflicts.
- Contribute to the development of a project-wide integrated theory on threats to security from climate change impacts on hydrological systems concentrating particularly on the concept of vulnerability.

This position belongs to the UNU-EHS Section on Environmental Vulnerability & Energy Security in close collaboration with other sections at UNU-EHS. The successful applicant will work with the Heads as well as with other scientists and students of these sections, as well as with other project partners.

## **Required Qualifications and Competencies:**

- Upper class MSc (or equivalent) in Geography, Environmental Sciences or Social Sciences but with good knowledge of water-related issues;
- Strong research and analytical skills;
- Excellent command of oral and written English;
- Good command of French;

- Willingness to conduct field research in remote areas of Niger in challenging environments;
- Strong interpersonal skills;
- Good leadership and team spirit;
- Proven interpersonal skills demonstrated by the ability to work in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity.

#### **Desirable Experience and Competencies:**

- Previous field work in sub-Saharan Africa.

#### **Remuneration:**

The scholarship of €1,100 per month (German tax-exempted) is available for a fixed, two year period, renewable for one additional year.

#### **Duration of Contract:**

Contracts for up to two years will be offered on a Consultant Contract (CTC) basis.

#### **Starting Date:**

The successful candidate should be able to start in March 2010 (negotiable).

#### **Application Procedure:**

Interested applicants should submit their application preferably by email to [HRApplications@ehs.unu.edu](mailto:HRApplications@ehs.unu.edu) attention to Mrs. Beatrice O'Reilly, Recruitment Officer. Submitting the following documents:

- a letter of application setting out how the qualifications and experience match the requirements of the position;
- a completed and signed UNU Personal History form, downloadable from United Nations University website ([www.unu.edu/employment](http://www.unu.edu/employment)). Please **do not submit your curriculum vitae**, and avoid using similar forms provided by other UN organizations);
- a list of publications and recent writing sample; and
- full contact information of three referees.

The application must also indicate the reference number of the vacancy announcement (2010/UNU-EHS/PhDRes(CTC)/01).

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted; unsuccessful applications can neither be acknowledged nor returned.