



## VACANCIES

The following two fixed term positions under Building Research Capacity for sustainable water and food security In drylands of sub-Saharan Africa (**BRECCIA**) project have arisen at the WaterNet Secretariat in Harare:

- i) **Research Officer in Agricultural Modelling**
- ii) **Research Officer in Water Quality and Extreme Weather Modelling**

### **BRECCIA Project**

Climate variability has an enormous impact on livelihoods across much of sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), where rain-fed agricultural production characterizes local subsistence and is the mainstay of most national economies (Shiferaw et al., 2014). Water security is also fundamental to attaining many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), as it is a constraint in meeting a range of challenges including food security, access to clean water, and resilience to hydrological hazards. At the same time, attaining food security is a national priority in SSA countries and is a key building block of development in the African Union's Agenda 2063 strategic framework (AU, 2015).

WaterNet is implementing a 4 year project, the Building Research Capacity for sustainable water and food security In drylands of sub-Saharan Africa (**BRECCIA**) funded by the Research Council of the United Kingdom (RCUK) under the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) programme. The GCRF Research Councils UK Collective Fund is 'one of the most ambitious international research programmes created with £225 Million being invested across 37 interdisciplinary projects to address a range of world problems. BRECCIA comprises 6 Universities located in 4 countries (Malawi, Kenya, Ghana and the UK), as well as partnerships with 8 international organizations and is being led by the University of Southampton, UK. The main project focuses on climate change and its social and environmental impacts on water and food security in the drylands of Ghana, Malawi and Kenya; and on building research capability and capacity in those countries. WaterNet is a partner mainly focusing on building research capability and upscaling local capacity for the SADC region.

WaterNet is, therefore, seeking to engage two highly self-driven, output-oriented Research Officers with excellent language and communication skills (both verbal and written) to work under BRECCIA with a proven experience in i) Agricultural Water Modelling and ii) Water Quality and Extreme Weather Modelling.

### **Eligibility:**

The candidates should be self-driven, disciplined, able to work in a dynamic team, and be able to set and meet their own deadlines. The two Research Officers will be appointed for a period of 9 (nine) months.

Interested candidates should possess the following:

- For the post of Agricultural Modelling, the prospective candidates should have at least an MSc degree in agriculture or related field and relevant experience
- For the post of Water Quality and Extreme Weather Modelling, the prospective candidate should at least possess an MSc degree in Biological Sciences, Integrated Water Resources Management or any other related field including relevant experience

### **General**

The two research officers will work closely with an interdisciplinary team of researchers at Natural Resources and Environment Centre (NAREC) at the University of Malawi and partner Universities in the UK (University of Southampton and Kings College London at the University of London), Ghana (University of Ghana), Kenya (Kenyatta University, University of Nairobi, Technical University of Kenya and Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology) and other International Institutions (Leadership for Environment and Development in Eastern and Southern Africa (LEAD-SEA), International Institute for Environment and Development and Agrhymet Regional Centre). The research officers will also liaise with stakeholders to develop and carry out research, write research reports and journal papers, and develop teaching and training materials. There could be opportunities to travel locally and internationally to participate in project meetings and workshops, and to develop knowledge and professional skills set in: Trans-, multi- and interdisciplinary research projects; collaborative and partnership working; policy-influence; and international development issues. As a capacity building project, the research officers will also be expected to broaden their experience and skills in research management by undertaking training courses within the project specifically about research management (not just research skills). The research officers will also supervise MSc students working on the same project.

The two research officers will be also required to assist with the following:

- Running of other WaterNet programmes which include Short Professional Courses, Research and outreach, especially the annual Symposium.
- Any other tasks as may be assigned by either the Executive Manager or the Programmes Coordinator

### **Financial Package:**

An attractive package is available to support the research officers whose position will run for 9 months. The positions are full-time based at the WaterNet Secretariat offices in Harare, Zimbabwe with the possibility of home-based arrangement within the SADC region.

### **How to Apply:**

An application letter clearly stating the position you are applying for, accompanied by a Curriculum Vitae. The application should be sent no later than 13 April 2021 to the WaterNet Executive Manager at [jmkileshye-onema@waternetonline.org](mailto:jmkileshye-onema@waternetonline.org) with a copy to [waternet@waternetonline.org](mailto:waternet@waternetonline.org). Short-listed candidates may be interviewed via telephone or Skype.

Application deadline: 13 April 2021. If the position is not filled, the call will remain open.