Postdoctoral fellowship on CBNRM and Community-based tourism in the context of Transboundary Protected Areas

with the

The Transboundary Protected Areas Research Initiative

[IUCN-South Africa

This is the second fellowship offered by the BMW Chair for Sustainability, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, and the Transboundary Protected Areas Research Initiative (TPARI). TPARI is funded by the Centre for the Integrated Study of the Human Dimensions of Global Change, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh and runs under the auspices of the IUCN-South Africa. TPARI’s association with the BMW Chair of Sustainability is based on a common interest in issues of sustainability in conservation and rural development and the broader theme of human adaptation to global environmental change.

The fellow will conduct a survey and assessment of CBNRM and community-based tourism initiatives in the GLTCA. The precise focus of the study will be developed in discussion with the fellow within the broader TPARI research framework. We are interested in obtaining further insights into funding flows, beneficiation and the ‘development effectiveness’ of these initiatives.

Also of interest is how these initiatives relate to local resource economies, land rights and local benefit from conservation investments. What are the outcomes of such initiatives? Are significant unintended consequences and/or omissions evident? Are they effective in contributing toward the social and political sustainability conservation practices? Are they useful in enhancing local adaptation to climate variability and change e.g. droughts and other climate stress? What are the policy implications?

The incumbent will have at his/her disposal a preliminary survey of CBNRM and community-based tourism initiatives conducted by TPARI staff over the last year. He/she will also have the opportunity of collaborating with another postdoctoral fellow who is conducting a survey of tourism investments in the GLTP region. He/she will also be able to develop exchanges with MA and PhD candidates doing case-studies of interest in the region, some of whom might be funded by TPARI. The budget for this research will depend on the methods used and is subject to further discussion.

The fellow will be based at the Wits Rural Facility in the Lowveld and have control over the TPARI office at that location (internet access, computer,
telephone available) with possible visits to Johannesburg and Maputo. Cheap, but good accommodation (circa R600/month) is available. In addition to the research activities described above, the fellow will act as field research mentor or facilitator for some visiting researchers working with TPARI. Any such responsibilities are limited as visiting researchers are given substantial logistical and other support by TPARI's Johannesburg office at the University of the Witwatersrand.

This 12 month fellowship commences any time before the beginning of August 2004, though the accepted candidate will be able to start earlier if he/she desires to do so. The Salary is R8000 per month. The incumbent will be appointed provisionally for a period of three months and continuation of the contract will be dependent on a review to be conducted at the end of this period.

The ideal (don’t be discouraged from applying if you don’t meet all of the requirements!) candidate will have the following characteristics:

- Experience in the southern African region, preferably in the GLTP;
- Completed PhD degree;
- Appropriate specialisations in anthropology, sociology, or development studies - or any related field with a demonstrable bearing on the subject matter;
- Practical experience in any of the following fields: development aid, community development planning and/or implementation, land reform/rights, gender and development, Community-Public-Private Partnerships, community-based tourism;
- An interdisciplinary background or experience with interdisciplinary research will be advantageous;
- A working knowledge of Portuguese will be advantageous;
- Self starter able to work independently and in teams;
- Valid drivers licence and own vehicle (essential);

The fellowship will remain open until a suitable candidate is found.

To apply, please send:
1) CV;
2) Short statement about possible synergies between your own research interests (past and present) and that proposed under the Initiative.

Only shortlisted candidates will receive a reply.
Once shortlisted you will be asked to submit the names and contact details of three referees.

For more information please visit our website at the Centre for Integrated Study of Human Dimensions of Global Change (http://hdgc.epp.cmu.edu/misc/TBPA.htm) or write to Conrad Steenkamp at cis@andrew.cmu.edu. Send all applications to Conrad Steenkamp as above.