

Job Opening

The **Wyss Academy for Nature** at the University of Bern brings together scientists, business leaders, policymakers, and communities to co-design innovative solutions to pressing, interconnected problems such as climate change, biodiversity loss, land use change, and rising inequality. Our vision is to achieve a just and sustainable world in which nature conservation and human wellbeing reinforce each other. To this end, our constantly evolving institution – comprising four regional hubs in Europe, South America, East Africa and Southeast Asia – connects innovative and creative minds to research, develop, implement and empower technical, social, economic, institutional and policy innovations at the interface of nature and people. With the aim of assessing the impact of global warming on the regional climate and water resources of the Ewaso Ng'iro North River basin in Kenya, the Research and Innovation team on Climate Scenarios for Sustainable Development and the East Africa (EAF) Hub of the Wyss Academy for Nature are inviting applications for a

Research Scientist in Climate, Land and Water Resources (80 to 100%)

Start Date: 1 December 2024 or by agreement

Contract: open-ended contract at the Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern

Location: Wyss Academy for Nature office in Nanyuki, Kenya

Apply by: Tuesday, 17 September 2024

Your mission

The successful candidate will contribute with their work and research to an interdisciplinary project in climate and biodiversity science aiming at addressing water scarcity issues in the Ewaso Ng'iro North River basin. The Research Scientist will be based in the Wyss Academy for Nature's EAF Hub in Nanyuki, Kenya, and will work jointly with another Research Scientist of the Research and Innovation team on Integrative Biodiversity Conservation Science.

This is an exciting opportunity that bridges the gap between theory and practice, ultimately making meaningful contributions to the field.

Your tasks

- Assess state and trends in climate, water resources, land cover and vegetation in the Ewaso Ng'iro North River basin using available observations, and co-develop hypotheses to advance understanding of emerging signals in water and biodiversity changes.
- Provide future projections of the regional climate of the Ewaso Ng'iro basin using available model projections by performing statistical downscaling and bias corrections, if necessary.
- Analyse climate change scenarios for hydrological and vegetation modelling.
- Support scientific collaborations with local partners (IGAD ICPAC, UoN, SEKU, CETRAD).
- Support other transdisciplinary research linked to incubators of the East Africa Hub.
- Supervision of PhD, MSc or intern students (if applicable) would be possible (no teaching requirements).

Your profile

The candidate we are looking for is creative, an excellent team player with a strong interest in conducting interdisciplinary and applied research that benefits both people and nature and supports systems

transformation. You have an in-depth understanding of the components of the Earth System, particularly the strong interconnections between climate, land and water, and have a broad understanding of how Earth System Models work. Your ability to process and analyse complex data and clearly communicate scientific findings to a non-scientific audience (policy makers, community groups) is particularly valuable. You feel comfortable working independently in a dynamic, flexible and nimble working environment, and have an open, creative, curious and culturally sensitive personality. Finally, you feel aligned with the organization values and are highly motivated to contribute to the Wyss Academy for Nature's mission.

Your qualifications

- PhD in Climate/Atmospheric/Earth/Environmental sciences or a related field (PhD degree to be completed or expected to be completed by the start of the position).
- Work experience in one of the following areas: 1) climate change and its impacts, particularly on vegetation or water resources, 2) global or regional climate modelling or statistical downscaling.
- Tools/methods (mandatory): Strong background in climate processes, proficient with data analyses (observations and climate models of various complexity), knowledge of statistical analysis, proficient with programming tools, such as Python or R.
- Tools/Methods (optional): Knowledge of African climate is a plus, experience with remote sensing data, experience with dynamical or statistical downscaling techniques, and bias correction methods, experience with Linux and High-Performance Computing systems.
- Very good skills in English (oral and written) are mandatory, Kiswahili is a plus.

What we offer

- A position based in Nanyuki, Kenya, employed by the local branch office.
- Inclusion into an agile organization that develops, tests, and scales up innovative solutions to the most urgent problems of our times, exploring new modes of collaboration between science, policy, and practice.
- Growth opportunities in a stimulating intercultural, international, multidisciplinary environment with a modern culture of collaboration across four world regions and the space for innovative approaches and creative thinking.
- Opportunities to increase your network and grow personally and professionally.
- Flexible working hours.

Applications

Applications must be written in English and include the following elements:

- A cover letter of no more than two pages that clearly describes your interest in the research area, the position, and your motivation to work with the research teams at the Wyss Academy for Nature
- A current curriculum vitae, including all relevant experience for this position and your publication record
- Contact details of two professional referees

We are looking forward to receiving your application via the online portal linked on our [career webpage](#) until **17 September 2024**.

For more information about this vacancy, please write to our selection team at hr@wyssacademy.org.

The Wyss Academy for Nature values diversity and equal opportunity. We welcome all applications from qualified individuals who meet the required criteria. Dossiers submitted through employment agencies will not be considered.