

**Call for Applications:  
Researcher/Senior Researcher**

**Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence (EXC 2052)  
Research Section: Ecologies**

**Position Overview**

The Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence (<https://www.africamultiple.uni-bayreuth.de>) is a major collaborative and transcontinental research institution in the field of African Studies. It is comprised of five Africa Multiple Research Centres (AMRCs), based at the University of Bayreuth, Germany; Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya; Rhodes University, Makhanda, South Africa; Joseph Ki-Zerbo University, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; University of Lagos, Nigeria. The AMRCs conduct their work via six Research Sections with members from all locations. To support the Research Sections in the organization of their tasks, the Africa Multiple Cluster seeks to hire Researchers/Senior Researchers who coordinate the work of the Research Sections while conducting their own research under the purview of the Research Sections.

Under the current call, we seek to recruit a Researcher/Senior Researcher to be affiliated with the Research Section **Ecologies** within the Africa Multiple Cluster. The successful candidate will pursue an independent research project aligned with the thematic focus of Ecologies while also serving as **Research Section Coordinator**, supporting the intellectual, organisational, and administrative functioning of the Research Section.

The Research Section Ecologies foregrounds African environments as multiple, relational, and reflexively dynamic socio-ecological systems rather than isolated natural phenomena. With the ambitious goal to reconfigure African Environmental Studies, the Section challenges inherited and dominant ecological science approaches rooted in Global North paradigms that separated nature from society. Instead, African nature-culture relations and ways of knowing, lived experience, social-ecological systems, and historical dynamics and innovations are positioned as essential to contemporary environmental and ecological research in Africa. Addressing these issues the section combines in its concepts and projects bio-physical data analyses with methods from Humanities not in an additive manner but in an integrative approach including non-academic knowledge within the research processes. For more information, see [https://www.africamultiple.uni-bayreuth.de/en/1\\_2-Research/Research-Sections/Ecologies/index.html](https://www.africamultiple.uni-bayreuth.de/en/1_2-Research/Research-Sections/Ecologies/index.html)

The Research Section Coordinator will report to the **Research Section Representative** and work closely with the Steering Committee of the Research Section as well as the Cluster administration.

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**Key Responsibilities**

**1. Research**

- Develop and conduct a research project in the field of interdisciplinary ecological studies.
- Contribute to collaborative research activities within the Research Section.
- Publish in peer-reviewed journals and contribute to joint publications.
- Participate in conferences, workshops, and Africa Multiple events.
- Engage in science communication and the dissemination of results to wider publics.

## **2. Research Coordination**

- Work with the Research Section representative and the Steering Committee to implement the research programme of the Research Section.
- Convene and coordinate regular Research Section meetings in collaboration with the Research Section Representative.
- Coordinate workshops, seminars, and collaborative research activities at the level of the Research Section.

## **3. Administration**

- Circulate meeting agendas, document discussions, and monitor follow-up actions.
  - Assist the Steering Committee in the distribution of funds allocated to the Research Section (e.g. events, conference travel, publication support), including administrative processes connected to the accounting for funds.
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## **Qualifications**

- PhD in Environmental Sciences, Physical Geography, Ecology, Climatology, Political Ecology, Environmental Humanities, Environmental Education and Learning, or related fields.
- Demonstrated expertise in areas related to the research of the Research Section especially in inter- and transdisciplinary research linking bio-physical methods and concepts with methods and concepts in Humanities and Social Sciences.
- Strong research and publication record appropriate to career stage, with a special focus on inter- and transdisciplinary topics.
- Experience in interdisciplinary and collaborative research environments.
- Excellent organisational and coordination skills.
- Fluency in English (additional languages used within the Cluster would be an asset).

## **Profile**

The successful candidate will demonstrate intellectual independence, collaborative capacity, administrative competence, and a commitment to ethical and reflexive research practices. The position requires both scholarly excellence and the ability to support the collective functioning of a transcontinental research environment.

## **Employment**

The Researcher/Senior Researcher will be employed at Rhodes University (Makhanda, South Africa). Annual payment is in the range of 668.000 ZAR (researcher) or 826.000 ZAR (senior researcher).

The contract duration will be 24 months, with a probationary term of six months and the possibility of extension until the end of the Cluster's funding period on December 31, 2032. As the Africa Multiple Cluster encourages exchange and mobility between its locations, it is intended to enable the Research Section Coordinator to spend up to three months at another Africa Multiple Research Centre.

## **How to apply**

To apply for this position, please submit the following documents:

- Cover letter
- Full CV
- Short description (max. 3 pages) of a potential research project to be pursued within the Ecologies Research Section
- Names and contact information of two references

The application deadline is June 30, 2026. The intended start date is September 1, 2026 or the earliest possible date thereafter. Please submit your dossier by email to the representative of the Research Section Ecologies, Prof. Dr. Cyrus Samimi, [cyrus.samimi@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:cyrus.samimi@uni-bayreuth.de).

In case of questions, please contact [cyrus.samimi@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:cyrus.samimi@uni-bayreuth.de).