



Campus Bonn



**Succow  
Stiftung**



**zef**  
Center for  
Development Research  
University of Bonn

**biosphere.center**



**DAAD**

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service

The Right Livelihood College (RLC) at the Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, offers a DAAD-funded PhD research scholarship on:

## **Sustainable development for improved livelihoods in Biosphere Reserves in Georgia**

### **Background**

The Right Livelihood College (RLC) is a global transdisciplinary research and education initiative of universities and the "Alternative Nobel Prize", known as the Right Livelihood Foundation (RLF). Supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Center for Development (ZEF) at the University of Bonn hosts one of nine RLC Campuses at universities worldwide ([www.rlc-bonn.de](http://www.rlc-bonn.de)).

In collaboration with the Michael Succow Foundation (MSF), founded by Prof. Michael Succow, who was awarded the "Alternative Nobel Prize" in 1997, we offer a 3.5-year PhD scholarship for candidates from Georgia or other countries in the Caucasus, to carry out an empirical PhD research project related to the topic "Sustainable development for improved livelihoods in Biosphere Reserves in Georgia". The Michael Succow Foundation is partner in the [biosphere.center](http://biosphere.center), a partnership aiming to strengthen Biosphere Reserves worldwide.

### **Research background**

Biosphere Reserves have been recognized by UNESCO since 1976 under the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme. Ever since a large number of Biosphere Reserves have been established worldwide to promote and demonstrate a balanced relationship between humans and the biosphere. Conserving landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation, and at the same time, fostering economic and human development which is socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable for people living in and around Biosphere Reserves is, however, challenging.

Given that especially the livelihoods of the rural poor depend on natural resources, many policies and strategies have been designed to improve local livelihoods in Biosphere Reserves. While Biosphere Reserves have been developed and largely implemented in many parts of the world, there are no Biosphere Reserves in Georgia so far. However, there are currently two Biosphere Reserves in Georgia in elaboration. To support their sustainable and integrated development, several research foci still have to be tackled with regard to Biosphere Reserves. This is, for example, an analysis of opportunities and challenges of pastoralism; an analysis of the potential of nature tourism, sustainable tourism and community-based tourism, or the development of

marketing chains and communication standards for local brands of organic and regional high-standard products.

The PhD research project is aimed at addressing some of these or related research foci and scientific knowledge gaps by empirically assessing the sustainable development for improved livelihoods in future Biosphere Reserves in Georgia in an interdisciplinary way together with Georgian and international partners.

Applicants have to develop an individual PhD research proposal narrowing the research scope and outlining a feasible methodology. The proposal has to be submitted together with the application.

### **The PhD scholarship call**

Qualified applicants should be citizens of Georgia or other countries in the Caucasus, and currently reside there. They should hold an excellent master's or equivalent degree in development studies, geography, environmental sciences, anthropology and other social sciences, or related disciplines, and have outstanding proficiency in empirical research methods. Experience in participatory field research and interdisciplinary methods is an asset. Fluency in English is mandatory.

The scholarship is funded by the DAAD for 3.5 years starting from August 1, 2021 (2-months preparatory online German language course included). It covers a Junior Researcher position at ZEF and respective costs for travel and research. In the first year, the candidate will participate in the ZEF Doctoral Studies Program in Bonn.

Your application should consist of:

- Signed DAAD application form with current date: [https://www2.daad.de/medien/deutschland/stipendien/formulare/forschungsstipendium\\_en.pdf](https://www2.daad.de/medien/deutschland/stipendien/formulare/forschungsstipendium_en.pdf)
- Personally signed and dated Letter of Motivation (1 page)
- Personally signed and dated CV in EUROPASS format – see template under: <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/documents/curriculum-vitae>
- Recommendation letter from your university; the letter must have a letterhead, signature and official stamp and must be of current date
- Certificate(s) of employment from the employer(s) that proof a minimum of two years of relevant working experience
- Optional: recommendation letter from your current employer; the letter must have a letterhead, a signature and official stamp and must be of current date
- Proof of language skills: English – IELTS or TOEFL (Note: The institutional TOEFL is not accepted)
- Copies of academic degrees (certified translation if necessary)
- Copies of academic transcripts, incl. grading-scale (certified translation if necessary)
- Short PhD research proposal narrowing the research scope (max. 5 pages)

All documents are to be submitted in English. Closing date for applications is April 15, 2021. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Please send your applications via e-mail to:

Dr. Till Stellmacher: [t.stellmacher@uni-bonn.de](mailto:t.stellmacher@uni-bonn.de)

RLC Programme Coordinator

Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn