



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
EXTERNAL JOB VACANCIES (PROJECT POSITIONS)

Applications are invited for the following position:

**POST DOCTORAL FELLOW SEARCH – AFRICAN CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT CENTRE –
FUTURE AFRICAN SAVANNAS (AFAS) PROJECT, ADVERT REF: AD/1/6/26, 1 POST**

The Project:

The African Climate and Environment Center – Future African Savannas (AFAS) is a DAAD-funded Global Centre for Climate and Environment hosted through a consortium of African and European universities, with joint bases in East and West Africa and additional partners in Germany. The Centre focuses on generating robust, evidence-based strategies to protect and sustainably manage African savanna ecosystems under increasing pressure from climate change and diverse land-use practices. Its work emphasizes nature-based solutions, climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and the strengthening of social-ecological resilience and human capacity. AFAS integrates science, policy, and practice to co-produce research and capacity-building outputs that are directly relevant and implementable for public and private sector decision-making, while building on and complementing existing regional expertise in climate, environment, and sustainable development research.

The Position:

The University of Nairobi seeks to recruit one full-time Post-Doctoral Fellow in Nature Based Solutions for a two-year contract, renewable once. The Fellow will be based at the Institute for Climate Change and Adaptation in Nairobi, with fieldwork in project areas, and will provide research and technical input to the AFAS Centre while also contributing to teaching and other academic functions within the Department of Earth and Climate Sciences in line with the University's 2017 Policy on Postdoctoral Training. The position offers a taxable salary and annual research support, subject to prevailing exchange rates, with supervision and research-related operational costs provided by the AFAS Centre. Eligibility is limited to candidates who obtained their PhD within the last five years, and the successful applicant will hold an affiliation with both the Institute for Climate Change and Adaptation and the Department of Earth and Climate Sciences, with additional roles, responsibilities, and benefits as stipulated in University policy.

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Assemble, review, and analyze existing data and literature on nature-based solutions in Kenya and across the wider East–West African savannah belt.

2. Design and conduct robust surveys to enhance understanding of the climate change–ecosystems–livelihoods–development nexus, with particular emphasis on nature-based solutions and the science–policy–practice interface.
3. Apply scenario analysis and risk assessment approaches to develop innovative and effective nature-based solutions that address climate change impacts and environmental degradation affecting ecosystems and livelihoods.
4. Contribute to the preparation and authorship of high-quality, peer-reviewed publications in leading academic journals.
5. Disseminate research findings through conference presentations, workshops, exhibitions, and other relevant forums, and by developing content for the project website and reporting to project sponsors.

Job Specification:

1. PhD degree or other equivalent qualifications recognized under approved academic regulations.
2. Have a solid knowledge base and demonstrated experience on sustainable development, climate change mitigation and adaptation in Africa's savannas
3. Strong on nature based solutions to counter the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, and links to livelihoods, ecosystems, policy and sustainable development
4. Experience of undertaking high quality research in decision-support systems, ecosystem service planning process, environmental sciences, conservation planning and sustainable development.
5. Interdisciplinary skills set balanced, yet strong, biophysical and social sciences quantitative and qualitative capacities.
6. Stakeholder engagement, data analysis and knowledge co-production experience.
7. Desire to learn and explore new intellectual territory
8. Motivation and ability to work collaboratively in a large transdisciplinary project including multiple disciplines, cultures, languages and environments
9. Willingness to undertake field and stakeholder-based research, and be based in Kenya for the duration of the Contract.
10. Evidence of appropriate level of scholarship, such as a relevant academic degree, recent contribution to relevant literature or professional practice
11. Willingness and ability to contribute to the academic programs and research profile of the University
12. Demonstrated strong communication skills, both oral and written
13. Ability to work with minimum supervision and to coordinate and oversee research assistants
14. Dissemination of research findings by presenting results at conferences, participating in workshops or exhibiting work at other appropriate events, and providing material for the project website and the sponsors.

Desirable:

1. Experience in the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) platforms in research
2. Experience in reporting and presenting research findings to a variety of audiences
3. Familiarity with multidisciplinary/transdisciplinary approaches to research
4. Experience in working with industry

Notes:

1. Applicants should submit by email a cover letter, a motivation statement of no more than 500 words aligned with the AFAS research themes (Water, Energy, Biodiversity, Agriculture, and One Health), a two-page curriculum vitae, certified copies of BA/BSc, MA/MSc, and PhD degree certificates, and contact details for two academic referees and one non-academic referee, including their telephone numbers and email addresses;
2. Applications and related documents should be forwarded addressed to the Director, Human Resource, University of Nairobi;
3. Applicants should state their current designations, salaries and other benefits attached to those designations;
4. The application letter must bear the reference code indicated in the advertisement;
5. Late applications will not be considered;
6. Applications should be emailed as one file in PDF to: recruit-pfafasdoeacs@uonbi.ac.ke

CLOSING DATE: JANUARY 29, 2026

THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

ONLY SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS WILL BE CONTACTED

WOMEN ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.