Research Fellow/Associate – Water, SEI Africa Centre

Duration: 2 years, with possibility of contract extension or development of permanent position (6 months’ probation period)
Salary range: Competitive salary and benefits package, commensurate with experience
Start date: September-October 2014
Location: Nairobi, Kenya
Application deadline: 1 August 2014
Open to: Both external and internal candidates

About the organisation:
The Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) is an independent, international research institute founded in 1989. Its mission is to support decision-making and induce change towards sustainable development around the world by providing integrative knowledge that bridges science and policy in the field of environment and development. SEI is ranked as the 2nd most influential environment think tank in the world in the Global Go To Think Tank Report, compiled by the University of Pennsylvania’s Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (www.sei-international.org).

SEI has about 180 staff members working at research centres in six countries around the world. The SEI Africa Centre has been hosted by the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) in Nairobi, Kenya. The centre currently focuses on four areas: (1) Reducing climate risk; (2) Sustainable energy transitions; (3) Transforming rural livelihoods; and (4) Managing urban change

About the position:
SEI’s Africa Centre seeks a Research Fellow or Research Associate (depending on experience) to work on issues related to water and ecosystem services. The successful candidate will be part of a small, dynamic team and will help shape a new agenda for action-oriented research and capacity-building on policies to effectively manage water resources and ecosystems services. (S)he will also engage with SEI colleagues from the other centres as well as national and international project partners. This position reports to the Centre Director as well as to managers of specific projects in which the Research Associate is involved.

Job responsibilities
• Work on existing and new projects as per general tasks;
• Lead/participate in development of new projects and programmes and obtain necessary funding;
• Lead/participate in planning and coordinating activities at SEI Africa related to water policy and politics, the water-energy-food nexus and ecosystems services;
• Support research, communication and outreach on water and ecosystem services at SEI; and
• Develop and maintain a contact network of researchers, decision-makers and partner organisations in Africa relevant to the SEI work on water and ecosystem services.
Essential qualifications

• Masters or Ph.D. in interdisciplinary water/environmental analysis, economics, applied sciences, or a related field (NOTE: a Master’s degree must be complemented by a number of years experience in a strong research or policy organization);
• Fluency in spoken and written English;
• Experience working in water and ecosystem services in Africa;
• Experience in policy-relevant and interdisciplinary research;
• Experience in working in international, multi-disciplinary research teams;
• Knowledge and capability to analyse water policies and programmes in the context of climate change, the water-energy-food nexus and management of ecosystem services;
• Ability to prepare articles, policy briefs, working papers and other publications;
• Ability to coordinate workshops, manage publications and supervise interns;
• Ability to represent SEI at conferences;
• Ability to work independently, without much instruction from the management, as well as being comfortable working in international teams in a virtual environment, both as team leader and as team member; and
• Excellent oral and written communication and presentation skills for both technical and public audiences.

Note: Applicants of any nationality are welcome, but applicants from Africa and/or with significant working experience in Africa will be given priority.

Desirable attributes:

• Fluency or working ability in Kiswahili and/or other relevant languages;
• Experience in fundraising for significant projects and liaising with funding agencies;
• Experience in capacity-building activities;
• Working knowledge of sustainability standards for water systems;
• Track record of publications on water and/or ecosystem services issues in peer-reviewed journals and/or scientific reports; and
• Comfortable with detailed analysis and fieldwork to support research.

How to apply:

Applications should be submitted in PDF format and should consist of a CV and a cover letter that includes the names and contact details of three referees. Applications should be written in English and sent as soon as possible but no later than 31 July 2014. They should be sent by e-mail to vacancies-africa@sei-international.org. Please use the subject line ‘Water Research Fellow - [Applicant’s Last Name] - [Applicant’s First Name]’. 
Research Associate – Energy, SEI Africa Centre

Duration: 4-6 months maternity leave cover, with possibility of development into long-term position

Salary range: Competitive salary and benefits package, commensurate with experience

Start date: 1 September 2014

Location: Nairobi, Kenya

Application deadline: July 23, 2014

Open to: Both external and internal candidates

About our organisation:
The Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) is an independent, international research institute founded in 1989. Its mission is to support decision-making and induce change towards sustainable development around the world by providing integrative knowledge that bridges science and policy in the field of environment and development. SEI is ranked as the 2nd most influential environment think tank in the world in the Global Go To Think Tank Report, compiled by the University of Pennsylvania's Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (www.sei-international.org).

SEI has about 180 staff members working at research centres in six countries around the world. The SEI Africa Centre is hosted by the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) in Nairobi, Kenya. It currently focuses on four areas of work: (1) Reducing climate risk; (2) Sustainable energy transitions; (3) Transforming rural livelihoods; and (4) Managing urban change.

About the position:
SEI’s Africa Centre seeks a Research Associate to join the research programme on sustainable energy. The successful candidate will be part of a small, dynamic team and will help shape a new agenda for action-oriented research and capacity-building on sustainable energy and climate policies. (S)he will also engage with SEI colleagues from the other centres as well as national and international project partners. This position reports to the Centre Director as well as to managers of specific projects in which the Research Associate is involved.

Job responsibilities

• Work on existing and new projects as per general tasks;
• Participate in activities at SEI Africa related to sustainable energy strategies, technologies and policies;
• Support research, communication and outreach on sustainable energy at SEI; and
• Support the SEI Africa Centre to develop and maintain a contact network of researchers, decision-makers and partner organisations in Africa relevant to the SEI work on sustainable energy.

Essential qualifications

• Masters in interdisciplinary energy/environmental analysis, economics, applied sciences, or a related field;
• Fluency in spoken and written English;
• Experience working in sustainable energy technologies and policies in Africa;
• Experience in policy-relevant and interdisciplinary research;
• Knowledge on energy’s role in supporting sustainable development;
• Experience in preparing articles and other publications;
• Ability to organize workshops, conferences and events;
• Ability to represent SEI at conferences;
• Ability to work independently, without much instruction from the management, as well as being comfortable working in international teams in a virtual environment, both as team leader and as team member; and
• Excellent oral and written communication and presentation skills for both technical and public audiences.

Note: Applicants of any nationality are welcome, but applicants from Africa and/or with significant working experience in Africa will be given priority.

Desirable attributes:

• Fluency or working ability in Kiswahili and/or other relevant languages;
• Understanding of key issues relating to multilateral instruments, such as CDM, REDD+, NAMAs;
• Working knowledge of sustainability standards for energy systems and/or biofuels;
• Knowledge on principles of climate accounting or carbon finance;
• Experience with renewable energy and/or energy efficiency policies and technologies in developing countries;
• Experience in assessments on the traditional biomass sector, including household energy and/or cookstoves; and
• Comfortable with detailed analysis and fieldwork to support research.

Applications:

Applications should be submitted in PDF format and should consist of a CV and a cover letter that includes the names and contact details of three referees. Applications should be written in English and sent as soon as possible but no later than 31 July 2014. They should be sent by e-mail to vacancies-africa@sei-international.org. Please use the subject line ‘Energy Research Associate - [Applicant’s Last Name] - [Applicant’s First Name]’.