Call for applications for 1 PhD Fellowship within Sustainable and Integrated Waste Management at Zanzibar.

Project Outline
The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Consultative Research Committee for Development Research (FFU) has granted the research project: Environmental sustainability of hotels on Zanzibar (EnSuZa) full support including funding for a PhD fellowship with a focus on non-chemical environmental control of mosquitoes at selected Zanzibar hotels and their immediate surroundings.

The project takes a point of departure in the synergy between sustainable tourism and innovation and will provide knowledge, skills and evidence-based and innovative ways of integrating Solid Waste Management (SWM), mosquito control and environmental practices that will contribute to strengthening the quality and competitiveness of tourism in Zanzibar.

Unsustainable SWM and the need to improve it has been identified as a major issue by the Government of Zanzibar (GZ). The main tourist attraction on Zanzibar is the pristine nature and unique ecosystems, but unsustainable SWM at hotels results in loss of ecosystems, adverse impacts on communities and negative reviews from tourists.

The major part of all waste on Zanzibar is generated at hotels and restaurants, but only 20% of this waste is currently collected for proper recycling; the rest is dumped untreated at unauthorized landfills or dumpsites. The GZ aims to collect 70% of this waste by 2020, but they emphasize that research into sustainable SWM on Zanzibar is urgently needed if this goal is to be achieved.

The clear majority of studies on SWM in Zanzibar has focused on municipal SWM in the capital area of Stone Town. Only two studies have focused on the tourism industry: one pilot study on SWM at four hotels, conducted under the BSU II (Building Stronger Universities) initiative, found no evidence of sustainable practices following the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycling) strategy recommended by the GZ. Another study sought to assess methods for improving SWM at hotels through development of improved bin systems for recycling. The GZ has stated that they do not have the capacity needed to handle SWM at hotels and has outsourced this responsibility to each individual hotel, leaving them in charge of the entire life cycle management of waste (Stakeholder Consultation, May 2016).

This project will support an evidence base for improving uptake of the 3Rs approach into SWM at hotels, through identification of different waste streams and assessment of integrated sustainable waste management (ISWM) interventions with three dimensions: i) stakeholder engagement; ii) waste flows and systems; iii) sustainability aspects.

The PhD fellow will conduct all fieldwork activities in close collaboration with hotel management and academic staff from State University of Zanzibar, as part of a larger team of regional and international researchers working on the EnSuZa project.

Qualifications
• The PhD stipends is for a period of 3 years
• The scholarship is open for candidates with a relevant master’s degree in environmental management, environmental science or with similar background
• Prior knowledge and local experience with solid waste management will be an advantage.
• Experience with fieldwork is considered essential
• Candidates must have strong communication skills in English, both oral and written
• Willingness to work in a multi-disciplinary and multicultural team is a requirement

The EnSuZa project is funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Danida) and administered by the Danida Fellowship Centre (DFC). The Project is headed by University of Copenhagen in collaboration with State University of Zanzibar (SUZA), Copenhagen Business School and Aalborg University.
Experience from an international research environment is considered an advantage

Application

Applications must include the following documents:

• Cover letter describing why you wish to undertake this fellowship and how this study may further your career (max. 1 page)
• Short concept note focusing on the subject of environmental management for mosquito control with particular focus on improving uptake of the 3Rs approach into SWM at hotels, through identification of different waste streams and assessment of integrated sustainable waste management (max. 3 pages, excluding references)
• Recent CV indicating previous and/or current employer(s) and position(s) held, as well as a list of peer reviewed publications (if any)
• Certified copies of academic transcripts and relevant certificates
• Letters of recommendation from two academicians including phone numbers and e-mail addresses

Please note that all shortlisted candidates are required to attend a selection interview and to give a presentation of the concept note as part of this interview. If necessary, these interviews may be conducted via Skype. The date of the selection interview will be communicated within 2 weeks of the application deadline.

Application deadline

Applications must be submitted before 17.01.2019 by email to Professor Arne Remmen, email: ar@plan.aau.dk and project leader Stig Hirsbak, tel: +45 2477 7003, e-mail: sth@plan.au.dk

Applications received later than this date will not be considered.

PhD enrolment and evaluation

The successful candidate will be enrolled at a University in the African region and offered a 3-year PhD scholarship covering university fees, research costs and a student stipend in accordance with national tariffs. The PhD supervision will be a joint effort between faculty at the University of enrolment and Aalborg University. The PhD fellow will have the opportunity to take advanced courses at both Universities. Evaluation of the progress of the PhD activities will be done according to current regulations at the University of enrolment.