

Lancaster University: Senior/Post-doctoral Research Associate – social scientist, economic geographer, critical accountant

An exciting opportunity exists for an environmental social scientist/ economic geographer/ critical accountant to contribute to a collaborative project in West Africa:



Salary: £30,619 to £43,155

Hours: Full time

Contract Length: 24 months

We are seeking a highly motivated and enthusiastic social scientist, economic geographer, critical accountant, or someone from an allied field, to contribute to a project critically investigating the governance and finance landscape of fishy food systems in West Africa. Working closely with researchers from Lancaster University, GreenPeace West Africa, DeSmog, FeedBack, and other collaborating organizations the project will develop a mixed methods approach to collect qualitative and quantitative data to critically analyse the finance landscape of fish food systems in West Africa.

Africa has been heralded as the last frontier of global capitalism, highlighting how intertwined the future of Africa and capitalism are. Indeed, West Africa's waters are the focus of increasingly global economic actors capitalizing on the productive fisheries of the region through industrial fishing, on-shore processing of small-pelagic fish, and of attempts to develop other sectors of the

maritime economy through 'blue growth' plans. These actors have a corporate form, and have rationales and ways of working, that reflect their operating context and finance base, which are a world away from that of the majority ocean resource users. The scale of these activities, made possible by increasingly opaque sources of finance, risk undermining both the sustainability of fish stocks and the food sovereignty of the entire region. West Africa's waters are thus in need of a transformation in oceans governance, towards a system that is more effective at ensuring the ocean economy reflects the values, priorities, capabilities, and existing rights of the majority ocean resource users: small-scale fish workers.

International finance in fishing, processing, and trade remains notoriously opaque despite driving these activities and the broader supply chain. This aim of this position is to improve transparency of investment and finance in West Africa's reduction fisheries by; 1) developing an understanding of the flow of finance into and from the small pelagic fishery and FMFO industry in west Africa; 2) identify 'Blackspots', where the flow of finance and patterns of investment are hidden and converge, 3) identify 'Keystone' economic actors who drive the exploitation of small pelagic fisheries. In doing so we will co-develop knowledge, commitments, principles, and platforms for actors (state, non-state, media, and civil society) to access information on fishing, finance, and trade and best advocate for limits to protect ecosystems and food sovereignty.

Citizens of ECOWAS nations are strongly encouraged to apply

Reading

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Galaz, V., Crona, B., Dauriach, A., Scholtens, B. and Steffen, W., 2018. Finance and the Earth system— Exploring the links between financial actors and non-linear changes in the climate system. *Global Environmental Change*, 53, pp.296-302.

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Jouffray, J.B., Crona, B., Wassénus, E., Bebbington, J. and Scholtens, B., 2019. Leverage points in the financial sector for seafood sustainability. *Science Advances*, 5(10), p.eaax3324.

Ouma, S., 2015. *Assembling export markets: The making and unmaking of global food connections in West Africa*. John Wiley & Sons.

Zu Ermgassen, E.K., Godar, J., Lathuillière, M.J., Löfgren, P., Gardner, T., Vasconcelos, A. and Meyfroidt, P., 2020. The origin, supply chain, and deforestation risk of Brazil's beef exports. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 117(50), pp.31770-31779.