

## **Call for PhD Scholarship Application**

### ***Violent Futures? Contestations along Carbon Frontiers in East Africa***

**Project:** CRC Project B03 Violent Futures? Contestations along Carbon Frontiers in East Africa

**Host Institution:** University of Bonn

**Application Deadline:** 21 June 2026 (EAT)

**Proposed Start Date:** August 2026

The University of Excellence in Bonn is an international research university that offers a wide range of degree programs. The University of Bonn, with some 31,500 students and more than 6,000 employees on the foundation of a 200-year tradition, is one of the leading universities in Germany and enjoys an excellent international reputation.

The Collaborative Research Center CRC-TRR 228 “Future Rural Africa. Future-making and social-ecological transformation” combines expertise from the University of Bonn and the University of Cologne to study newly emerging issues of social-ecological transformation and future-making in Africa.

### **1. Project Overview**

With the growing global urgency to address climate change, carbon credit schemes are increasingly promoted as market-based instruments to mitigate future environmental risks. Due to its rich natural resources and ecological diversity, Africa has emerged as a new “frontier” for carbon credit markets. The CRC Project B03 “*Violent Futures? Contestations along Carbon Frontiers in East Africa*” examines how future-oriented carbon credit projects shape social relations and conflicts in Kenya and Tanzania, using a frontier approach. This approach was conceptualized during the first phase of the CRC to explore the relationship between future-making and violent conflict and further developed in the second phase through studies on large-scale infrastructure and conservation projects.

### **2. PhD Fellowship at the University of Bonn**

The project invites applications for one fully funded PhD scholarship focusing on the impact of carbon credit projects in Tanzania and Kenya on conflict constellations. The PhD-stipend is endowed with a monthly allowance of 1.475 €.

The dissertation examines whether and how carbon credit projects mitigate or intensify existing conflicts related to nature conservation.

### **3. Your tasks**

- Conducting long-term ethnographic research on the impact of carbon credit projects in Tanzania and Kenya on conflict constellations
- Conception, preparation, and defense of a doctoral thesis on the above topic
- Writing project-related scholarly publications and presenting research results at academic conferences
- Participation in and contribution to regular team meetings in Cologne and Bonn

#### **4. Required Qualifications**

Applicants must:

- Hold an MSc/MA in Sociology, Anthropology, Environmental Studies, Economics, Geography, Political Science, Development Studies, Peace & Conflict Studies or a related field;
- Demonstrate strong interest in resource conflicts; resource conflicts, land right politics and rural development; climate finance;
- Possess solid academic writing skills and qualitative research methodologies;
- Be willing to conduct extended research in rural areas;
- Be able to work independently and within an interdisciplinary research team;
- Have knowledge of social science and anthropological theories, particularly in Peace and Conflict Studies, political ecology, land-use change, and pastoralism;
- Have strong English skills; knowledge of Swahili is highly desirable.

#### **Additional conditions:**

- Duration of PhD: **41 months**
- Monthly stipend: **1.475 €**
- Start date: **ideally 1 August 26**

#### **5. Submission of application documents**

Please submit **one single PDF file** until **21<sup>st</sup> of June 2026** to **crc228@uni-bonn.de** containing:

- A motivation letter (1–2 pages);
- A full curriculum vitae;
- A statement of research interest (1–3 pages) detailing how does it is related to carbon projects, climate finance and peace and conflict studies;
- Copies of academic certificates and transcripts;
- Names and contact details of two to three academic referees;
- One to three recent publications (if available), or a sample of academic writing.

#### **6. Interviews**

- Short-listed candidates will be invited to an online (and, if necessary, in-person) interview

#### **7. Further Information**

For further inquiries, please contact:

**Email:** emmanuel.sulle@aku.edu