



ADVERTISEMENT FOR TWO POST DOCTORAL POSITIONS IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The Copperbelt University (CBU) is a second largest public university in Zambia established through Act of Parliament No. 19 of 1987 with more than 9,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students enrolled at the four university campuses: Riverside Campus, Parklands Campus, Ndola Campus, Mukuba campus and Kapasa Makasa Campus.

In October, 2020, the University was awarded to host the OR Tambo Africa Research Chair Initiative (ORTARCHI) in Environmental Management (Thematic area Environment & Development) under the leadership of Prof. Stephen Syampungani. At continental level, this initiative aims to initiate a catalytic effect on the development of research infrastructure in recipient countries by supporting prominent researchers to undertake world-class research in priority areas and contribute to producing knowledge and advancing research skills in line with (i) the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the Science, (ii) Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024), and with (iii) the development needs of recipient countries. To attain these goals, funds have been made available to the CBU-ORTARCHI to support both postgraduate training and postdoctoral fellowships through the National Research Foundation (NRF) and the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) of South Africa in partnership with the Oliver and Adelaide Tambo Foundation, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada and National Science and Technology Council of Zambia.

Against this background, the Copperbelt University seeks to recruit two (2) highly motivated postdoctoral researchers with strong analytical skills in: **i) Pollution and**

remediation studies, and ii) Socio-ecological landscape studies under the CBU-ORTARCHI; to be stationed at its Riverside campus in Kitwe. These two thematic areas will mainly focus on developing models for restoration of mining generated landscape ecosystems in Zambia. In implementing this project, the Copperbelt University will work in partnership with a number of overseas and regional institutions namely; overseas institutions (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, USDA Forest Service (Rocky Mountain Research Station) and regional institutions (University of Witwatersrand, University of Pretoria and University of Lubumbashi). Being an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer, CBU encourages applications from women, differently abled persons and all others who would bring additional diversity, both in skill and knowledge to the university's research agenda. These positions are open to qualified applicants of all nationalities.

Responsibilities

Post-doc researchers will work with teams of researchers with various sets of expertise. Post-doc researchers will particularly be expected to;

- Help supervise postgraduate students, especially in the context of fieldwork, data handling and analysis as well as manuscript development
- Carryout their own research within the scope of the research chair
- Disseminate the results through high quality peer-review publications and presentations at conferences.
- Assist the research chair to develop study concepts

Position one: Pollution and remediation studies

The post-doc researcher will focus his/her research in understanding environmental pollution from mining activities and the various bioremediation techniques. The applicant with knowledge and skills in any of the following fields will be preferred: Environmental engineering, Ecological engineering, Ecotoxicological studies, Wasteland

geochemistry/pollution studies, and Plant-bacterial interactions. Specific studies will include:

- Bioaccumulation of heavy metals at different trophic levels and their impact on animal health
- Soil amendments
- Environmental risk assessment
- Plant rhizosphere bacterial morphology

Qualification and qualities:

- A PhD degree in any of the above disciplines
- Good publications reflective of the expertise needed
- Strong background in biostatistics
- Able to work in a multi disciplinary environment
- Team player
- Able to work independently
- Able to effectively communicate in english (both in writing and orally) their research to colleagues and the scientific community.
- Able to conduct field work in the scope of the research chair

Position two: Socio-ecological landscape studies

This post-doc research will focus on social and ecological studies. An applicant with a background in either vegetation ecology and land transformation of the African Savannas or both with strong statistics skill set will be preferred. Details of studies under this research area include:

- Coppice response to disturbance
- Coppice dynamics & water relations
- Coppice modelling
- Socio-economic studies
- Restoration of degraded landscapes (ecosystems)

Qualifications and qualities:

- A PhD and Master's degrees in any of the above disciplines
- Good publications reflective of the expertise needed
- Strong background in biostatistics
- Team player
- Able to work independently
- Able to effectively communicate in English (both in writing and orally) their research to colleagues and the scientific community.
- Able to conduct field work

Employment conditions and duration of the contracts

- The initial appointment is for 2 years and 6 months with the possibility of renewal for another 2 years and 6 months based on the performance.
- Remuneration will be in accordance with the Copperbelt University conditions of Service for post-docs
- The post-doc researchers will work under the supervision of the Research chair

Application Requirements

Applicants should have completed their PhD **no more than three years** before starting their fellowships. The applicants are expected to take up their positions by 1st March, 2021. To apply, please submit the following documents:

- i. Cover letter
- ii. A detailed curriculum vitae that includes a list of publications
- iii. Certified academic transcripts and certificates
- iv. A brief description of your research interests (1000 characters max.)
- v. A description of your scientific goals for the fellowship (5000 characters max.).
- vi. Two names of academic referees from credible institutions that can easily be contacted to provide reference for candidate.

The application should be addressed to the undersigned not later than 10th February, 2021:

The Registrar

The Copperbelt University

P.O. Box 21692

Kitwe, Zambia

The application should be emailed to **ORTARCHI@cbu.ac.zm** and copied to **mubembab85@yahoo.co.uk** with the subject area of the email indicating the position being applied for.

Contacts:

For questions and further details, contact **Prof Syampungani** (syampungani@cbu.ac.zm). However, do not forward your application to this email address. The application documents should be sent to the address given above.