



**Economic  
and Social  
Research Council**



## **Learning from community conservation in Ghana**

### **ESRC DTP Collaborative Studentship**

#### **University of Birmingham and Nature Conservation Research Centre, Ghana**

The Midlands Graduate School is an accredited Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP). One of 14 such partnerships in the UK, the Midlands Graduate School is a collaboration between the University of Warwick, Aston University, University of Birmingham, University of Leicester, Loughborough University and the University of Nottingham.

University of Birmingham as part of Midlands Graduate School is now inviting applications for an ESRC Doctoral Studentship in association with our collaborative partner Nature Conservation Research Centre (NCRC) to commence in October 2020.

This is an exciting opportunity to undertake a comparative study of community-based natural resource management in Ghana. CBNRM has been widely adopted across the world with the aim of sustainably managing natural resources and improving livelihoods. Achieving such 'win-win' outcomes is challenging and many initiatives struggle to deliver on both, or either, outcomes, and sustain efforts over time. The comparative study will focus on two examples of Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs), with each CREMA involving multiple communities that manage land and natural resources through a community-based governance structure founded upon existing community decision-making institutions.

The research will investigate how customary institutions are reflected in CREMA systems and practice, how engaged community members, particularly women and young people, are in CREMAs and why, and how CREMAs interact with local and national government and how such interaction has changed over time.

The PhD will involve ethnographic data collection, involving long periods of fieldwork of three to four months in each of two study site locations, as well as time in Accra with the collaborating organisation.

This project is a collaboration between the International Development Department and NCRC in Ghana. For many years, NCRC has been involved in supporting CBNRM in Ghana and other countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The collaborative project will generate evidence to inform their ongoing support to communities, non-governmental organisations and government in natural resource management and policy advocacy. The student will spend time with the NCRC to familiarise themselves with the work and ethos of the organisation, their relationships with communities, and with other actors, as well as prepare for fieldwork.

We welcome applicants with an excellent Masters' degree in a relevant subject, for example in environment and development, conservation or geography, with or without relevant social research training, as this can be provided as part of the studentship. Funding is also available to provide basic language training to support the fieldwork. Applicants with relevant work or volunteering experience are encouraged. Please include details of these in your personal statement. Applicants must be willing and able to spend extended periods of time in rural locations in Ghana, supported by NCRC.

### **Application Process**

To be considered for this PhD, please complete the Collaborative Studentship application form [available online here](#) and send this with a two page CV to Tricia Thomas, email: [gandspgr@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:gandspgr@contacts.bham.ac.uk). Shortlisted applicants will also be required to provide two references.

**Application deadline: Monday 2 March 2020**

### **Midlands Graduate School ESRC DTP**

Our ESRC studentships cover fees and maintenance stipend and extensive support for research training, as well as research activity support grants. Support is available only to successful applicants who fulfil eligibility criteria. To check your eligibility, visit: [www.mgsdtp.ac.uk/studentships/eligibility/](http://www.mgsdtp.ac.uk/studentships/eligibility/)

Informal enquiries about the research or the International Development Department prior to application can be directed to Professor Fiona Nunan, email: [f.s.nunan@bham.ac.uk](mailto:f.s.nunan@bham.ac.uk).