

CADI Fellowship: 2nd Call for applications 2018

Are you a scientist from Central Asia region doing research in conservation and sustainable use of temperate deserts? Are you interested in yet under investigated research topics on the specifics of temperate desert ecosystem, its species and dynamics? Do you have brilliant ideas or developed methods on how to overcome driving factors behind desertification processes, species decline or extinction, habitat destruction or poverty? Then you should apply for CADI Fellowship!

The Central Asian Desert Initiative (CADI)

The project **Central Asian Desert Initiative (CADI)** aims at preserving biological diversity and the conservation and sustainable use of one of the worldwide most unknown biome: the temperate deserts in Central Asia. The temperate deserts, spreading from northern Iran across Central Asia to Mongolia – are globally outstanding nature regions. They are an important migration area for birds and the last wild herds of ungulates, such as the Saiga antelope, and deliver a broad range of ecosystem services.

CADI is jointly implemented by the Michael Succow Foundation (Germany), the University of Greifswald (Germany) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Sub-regional Office for Central Asia (Ankara, Turkey). The project is funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. In close coordination with local partners these work packages shall be implemented:

1. Generation, application and dissemination of knowledge on ecosystem services, biodiversity, conservation status and land-use of temperate deserts.
2. Promotion of measures for improved management and establishment of protected areas in the desert biome.
3. Promotion of sustainable land management in desert biomes.

The experiences and implementation examples of **CADI** shall be mainstreamed into the national, regional and international dialogue and build the basis for the establishment of a Central Asian Desert secretariat. Further information about **CADI**: <http://cadi.uni-greifswald.de>

The CADI Fellowship

The **CADI** Fellowship contributes to one of the outputs of **CADI** – the generation, application and dissemination of knowledge on ecosystem services, biodiversity, conservation status and land-use of temperate deserts in Central Asia. The fellowship aims at scientists that have the support of their home countries institutions and a clear commitment to a career in their country of origin.

Target groups are post-graduate senior scientists, who preferably have at least three years of professional experience and preferably are not older than 40 years. The fellows are supposed to work on a subject of their own choice according to the project aim and related outputs, supported by the project partners. Within the frame of “Research for Development”, the project must also have a clear relevancy for the country of origin and should focus on the increase of sustainability or improvement of livelihoods in the region.

The fellowship program will be completed in Greifswald (Germany) at the Michael Succow Foundation in close cooperation with the University of Greifswald. Exceptionally – dependent on the research topic – even other places at German scientific institutions might be eligible if there is a clear synergy with **CADI** project aims.

The results of the stay and the research within the fellowship program are to be published in a peer-reviewed international journal.

What do we offer?

- Monthly grant of 1,000 € for a period of up to 12 month
- One-time travel allowance of 750 €
- Field-, laboratory equipment up to an amount of 2,000 €, upon approval based on a sound scientific justification
- Individual supervision
- Involvement into an international network of scientists and practitioners for the conservation and sustainable use of deserts

Who is eligible for application and what documents are needed?

Applications may be submitted by scientists with nationality and place of residence in one of the eligible countries: **China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.**

Please provide us with a description of your research topic, scope and a detailed research plan, including a description of the methodologies applied, schedule including fieldwork periods, financing plan (in-line with the fellowship announcement), potential supervisors, possible partnering institutions in Germany and an explanation why your research is unique and relevant for **CADI** (maximum of 1,200 words). Additionally, the following documents should be submitted:

- Curriculum Vitae
- University diploma in a field that is relevant to the project and its focus (f.e. Biology, Geography, Agriculture, Silviculture, Landscape Planning, Nature Conservation, Environmental Policy, Environmental Law – or other similar subjects relevant to temperate deserts)
- Two letters of recommendation who give proof on your scientific qualification
- Relevant certificates of your career
- Reference list of published papers
- Endorsement of application by current employer
- Proof of written and spoken upper-intermediate English language skills
- Scan copy of passport

All documents should be submitted in English. The endorsement letter can be written also in Russian.

How do we select the successful candidate?

Applications will be assessed based on a numeric scoring system:

1. Relevance for the practical implementation of **CADI** objectives and for the country of origin.
2. Scientific relevance.
3. Originality of the research topic and/or the method.
4. Possible implementation in the given period.

Besides these, the fellowship seeks a balance regarding the distribution of countries and regions, gender, and scientific background of the participants. In the second step, shortlisted applicants and their respective references may be contacted, in order to clarify any open questions and to receive more information on the applicant if needed.

Application deadline is 30th of June 2018. The CADI Fellowship starts 1st of October 2018.

Contact:

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INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE INITIATIVE (IKI)

