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Applications are invited for the following position:

CALL FOR GRADUATE AND POST-GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCHERS (1 POST)

THE ASSIGNMENT:

To Develop a Practical Guide for Intermediary Cities Cooperation to Enhance Urban-Rural Synergy through Food Flows and Territorial Resilience

The Centre for Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa (CURLA) was established in February 2023 by University of Nairobi and UN-HABITAT as a centre of excellence in the African region to provide an institutional environment conducive to innovative and multidisciplinary research. CURLA will outreach to society through capacity building, mentoring of students as well as supporting research informed policy making within a framework of integrating spatial, sectoral and territorial development efforts.

THE CALL

CURLA is recruiting a graduate or post-graduate student under **Mentorship Program** of the Centre to prepare a guide with selected case studies from East Africa and beyond as appropriate. The aim is to host short-term graduate or post-graduate student mentee interested to further explore specific aspects of areas of interest through research, publication and dissemination within the objectives, mission and vision of CURLA in collaboration with partners. The expected outcome of this assignment will be a **Practical Guide for Intermediary Cities Cooperation to enhance Urban-Rural Synergy through food flows and Territorial Resilience**. This is an open call for applicants from universities and research centres in and outside Kenya.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Duration of project: The term of the assignment is 3 months and the mentee will be answerable to CURLA project lead.

Purpose: The purpose of the guide is to provide local urban and county governments and stakeholders with practical, evidence-based strategies for cooperation between intermediary cities (ICs) and rural authorities and stakeholders. The strategies must address strengthening food value chains, conserving biodiversity in flows of goods, services, capital, and information and people the urban-rural continuum. The framework guide will be a contribution to deepen local resilience and adaptation to change, including the climate crisis.

OBJECTIVES

The guide will:

- Provide practical guidance based on existing experiences to stimulate networking and collaboration among diverse stakeholders, including local government agencies, civil society and farmers groups, private sector entities, academia, and local communities.
- Identify strategies to foster multi-stakeholder partnerships, knowledge-sharing, and capacity-building initiatives to advance the role of intermediary cities for stronger urban-rural linkages.
- Document evidence, cases and examples of inter-government cooperation to strengthen urban-rural linkages.
- Explore innovative financing mechanisms and investment opportunities to support sustainable development projects that enhance urban-rural connectivity between Intermediary cities and rural authorities.

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES FOR THE ASSIGNMENT

Research for the guide will include gathering information from other relevant reports and other sources as well as selected in-depth interviews supplemented by desk research. An initial framing of the guide will be provided by CURLA and UN-HABITAT. Work on the guide will be overseen by a group of advisors and peer reviewers.

PROCESS OF PRODUCTION OF THE GUIDE

Upon selection, there will be a first inception meeting with advisors to go over the outline, content and methodology of the guide. The first draft is expected within two weeks for a “writer’s workshop” with the author and advisors. The first draft will be comprised of detailed background information from different sources with evidence-based case studies and from selected experts. A “writer’s workshop” will support the author in developing evidence-based guidelines from the background information. A second draft comprised of synthesized guidelines will be expected in another two weeks for review by selected peer reviewers in advance of an expert group meeting in mid-April. The final draft of the guide will be due by mid-May.

Requirements:

The candidate is required to have writing, research; incorporation of feedback, attention to detail, deadline adherence and team collaboration skills in addition to expertise of the subject matter expertise is an added advantage.

- **Writing Skills:** Exceptional English language writing skills with a focus on clarity, coherence, and engaging content, ability to translate complex information into easily understandable and actionable guides, Strong organizational skills to structure guides logically and cohesively,
- **Research Skills:** Strong research skills to gather information from various sources and experts and ability to synthesize information to create comprehensive and accurate content.
- **Attention to Detail:** Meticulous attention to detail, ensuring accuracy and correctness in all written materials.

- **Team Collaboration:** Ability to work collaboratively with a team of advisors and peer reviewers and ability to collaborate with subject matter experts and stakeholders for content accuracy.
- **Incorporation of Feedback:** Willingness to receive feedback and make revisions to improve content and quality.
- **Adherence to Deadline:** Demonstrated ability to meet tight deadlines without compromising the quality of work.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Advanced degree in a relevant field (e.g., urban and/or rural development studies, economics, English, Communication, or a related discipline).
- Proven experience in technical or instructional writing, preferably in the form of practical guides or manuals for practitioners rather than academic audiences.

RENUMERATION

A stipend of USD 1500 will be paid for the assignment with 50% after submission of the first draft and 50% upon completion. The author will be invited to participate in the month of April EGM and present the work.

- Applicants should email their application letter, and curriculum vitae (CV) and a sample of their work (one page)
- Applications and related documents should be forwarded addressed to Prof. Isaac Karanja, the CURLA project Lead. Email: curla@uonbi.ac.ke

EXTENDED CLOSING DATE: MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2024

NOTE: *This is an extended deadline. Those who have already submitted their applications need not re-submit*

The selected candidates will be notified by email and invited to an inception meeting in the second week of February.