



Call for Applications:

The Centre for Rural Development in Berlin (SLE) is looking for an experienced team leader for a Joint International Research Project in Uganda 2026

Project Title: Paludiculture and peatland restoration for climate-resilient livelihoods in Uganda

Project Partner: In cooperation with GIZ GmbH in the frame of the project "Sustainable peatland management for people, climate and biodiversity – Peat 4People"

About the project

The Peat4People project operates in Rwanda and Uganda with the goal of promoting sustainable management and utilisation of peatlands. Peatlands are valuable ecosystems that play a critical role in climate regulation, water filtration, and biodiversity preservation.

The project aims to integrate sustainable peatland management into national policies, foster local livelihoods through sustainable peat use, and contribute to climate change mitigation efforts in both countries.

Peatlands are important carbon sinks. In Uganda, peatlands cover an estimated 6,878 km². With 1.3 to 3.1 GtC Uganda hold the third largest peatland carbon stock in Africa. However, peatland ecosystems are under threat due to agricultural drainage, fuel extraction, and unsustainable land use.

One central element of Peat4People is prioritizing the peatlands by improving the livelihoods of local communities in the peatlands. The demonstration site is located in Nabajjuzi wetlands, in Masaka in the southwest of Kampala. With local stakeholders and communities sustainable practices like eco-friendly agriculture, responsible peat extraction are tested and local governance of natural resources improved. The project involves training local stakeholders—including farmers, government bodies, and businesses—in sustainable land management and peatland conservation. Awareness campaigns also help raise understanding of the importance of peatlands. The project focuses on creating a framework for sustainable peatland management. This includes methods that protect peatlands from degradation while utilising them for economic benefit in a way that does not harm the environment.

This Joint International Research Project (JIRP) will employ a paludiculture capacity-building approach based on a potential assessment of paludiculture, business matchmaking and the development of peatland business models. The findings will directly contribute to Output 2 of Peat4People, titled 'Additional income and processed products from sustainably managed peatlands', and to the formulated objective: 'The sustainable value creation with paludiculture from restored peatland landscapes, with a focus on benefits for women in Uganda, has been demonstrated.' This objective has two indicators: 1) 50 households supplement their income with earnings from paludiculture at the demonstration site in Uganda by X in year 2 and X in year 3, and 2) Two small and medium-sized enterprises, one of which is female-led, will have launched one new or improved paludiculture product sustainably.



About the role

The SLE is looking for a qualified team leader to lead the research and implementation of this peatland business model development support and business matchmaking process.

In general, the team leader will be responsible for the planning, implementation and documentation (final study report) of the JIRP. The JIRP team consists of six interdisciplinary and international Young Professionals from the SLE Postgraduate Programme "International Cooperation for Sustainable Development" and a team leader (this position). Two Young Professionals from Uganda will be integrated into the team.

Key responsibilities

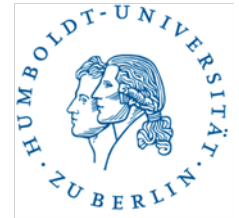
- Lead the business matchmaking process and business model development assessment in Uganda using a proposed methodology.
- Lead on developing the capacity building approach and materials, ensuring it aligns with local needs of peatland communities, in particular women.
- Conduct preparatory trip to Uganda (April 2026)
- Develop an inception report outlining the conceptual framework, methodology, and timeline (due July 2026).
- Oversee data collection and analysis, ensuring robust, evidence-based recommendations for policies.
- Coordinate with local and international experts and institutions, fostering strong partnerships and knowledge exchange.
- Contribute to the development of a methodology for the business model development and matchmaking assessments.
- Deliver a final study report that includes a capacity building approach and training materials for relevant paludiculture business models and policy recommendations in English (with an English and German summary).

Qualifications and experience:

- Advanced degree (MSc/PhD) in agricultural economics, environmental economics, agrobiodiversity, rural development or a related field.
- Proven experience in business model development, business matchmaking, value chain analysis, carbon finance or Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES).
- Experience with empirical research (incl. data analysis) and participatory methods at local level.
- Excellent leadership, stakeholder engagement and team management skills.
- Experience working in Uganda.
- Strong analytical, report-writing and presentation skills in English.

Team management experience and very good communication skills required:

The team leader bears a high degree of responsibility for team management, financial oversight, and the final content of the study. This process requires experience in guiding research teams, a confident and respectful attitude in a multicultural context, respect for and recognition of learning processes, high motivation and social competence, the capacity to work independently as well as within a team, experience in the preparation of publications and scientific rigour.



General information about the team leader position at SLE:

Team leaders of the JIRPS are expected to work independently with the Young Professionals from the SLE while receiving institutional support. The collaboration usually lasts 7 months. Results are to be documented in a study report as part of the SLE publication series and presented to partners from international cooperation. Team leaders are remunerated according to SLE honorary regulations (travel and subsistence expenses are reimbursed separately).

Team management includes the following areas of responsibility:

Content management of the project, guidance of the team members and monitoring of the group's learning process, communication with cooperation partners, ensuring organisation and logistics, financial management (budgeting and reporting), responsibility for the timely preparation of high-quality reports and presentations as well as joint quality control with the SLE review board.

The team leader will work with the team on the study concept and methodological approach from the beginning of June to the beginning of August 2026 and is expected to be present at SLE in Berlin. From mid-August onwards, the team leader will accompany the team during the field phase in Uganda, which will be carried out until mid-October. During this period, the first draft of the study will also be prepared. This draft will be revised together with the SLE review board by December and subsequently published. The results will be presented to the public.

Time commitment and on-site requirements:

We expect the **Team Leader** to be available **full-time** for the duration of the project (June-December). The role requires on-site presence during key phases, specifically:

- **Uganda (April 2026)** – the team leader will conduct a trip (1-2 weeks) to Uganda to prepare the project on the ground.
- **Berlin (June, July, August 2026)** – for preparation, team coordination, and methodology finalisation.
- **Uganda (August, September, October 2026)** – for field research, stakeholder engagement, and data collection.
- **Berlin (October, November, December 2026)** – for analysis, report writing, and project wrap-up

Applications should be sent in one PDF file to: Prof. Dr Markus Hanisch, Centre for Rural Development (SLE), Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Hessische Straße 1-2, 10115 Berlin, **please send an e-mail to hanischm@hu-berlin.de and in cc to sle@agrar.hu-berlin.de.**

Deadline for applications: January 31, 2026; interviews will take place shortly after the advertisement.