

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT: JUNE 2024

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**Title: Field Monitoring Team Leader**

**Supervisor: Executive Director**

**Job Location: Field work in Maasai Mara**

**Term: 3 months, starting Mid-July 2024.**

### 1. The Organisations

Ahueni AG [www.ahueni.net](http://www.ahueni.net) is a Swiss enterprise, acting as funder and supervisor of the One Mara Carbon Project in collaboration with The Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association (MMWCA) <http://www.maraconservancies.org/>

Ahueni AG is a company with non-profit statutes (no dividends to owners), with a mission to develop high integrity nature-based carbon projects under the UNFCCC framework.

The Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association (MMWCA) is a membership organisation of all the Mara conservancies, open to any existing or upcoming wildlife conservancy whose land is part of or integral to the greater Maasai Mara ecosystem. MMWCA is one of the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association's members (<http://kwcakenya.com/>), contributing to the growth and development of conservancies nationally. The Association serves to meet three primary objectives:

- i. Provide a convening space for open discussions, a hub for knowledge sharing and coordination across conservancies; a voice for advocacy; and driving policy in the interest of conservancies and conservation-related issues across the Mara.
- ii. Support the creation and development of conservancies and their neighbouring areas across the greater Mara ecosystem as a sustainable form of land use and provide mechanisms for equitable and value-based benefit sharing to sustain land under conservation.
- iii. Lead and/or implement development and conservation programmes across member conservancies to facilitate coordination, collaboration and synergetic action.

## 2. Overview and objectives

Ahueni and the One Mara Carbon Project deploys the Land Degradation Surveillance Framework (LDSF) in the Maasai Mara conservancies.

The Land Degradation Surveillance Framework (LDSF) is a comprehensive method developed by World Agroforestry (ICRAF) scientists, that provides a science-based field protocol for measuring land and soil characteristics, as well as vegetation composition and land degradation status over time.

LDSF was developed as a response to a lack of methods for systematic landscape-level assessment of soil and ecosystem health, using a robust and consistent indicator framework. The LDSF is designed to provide a biophysical baseline at landscape level, and a monitoring and evaluation framework for assessing processes of land degradation and the effectiveness of rehabilitation measures (recovery) over time. This is of particular importance for understanding land degradation processes, predicting changes in climate, prioritizing site-specific land management options and tracking the impact of interventions on the ground. Implemented by a range of partners in over 40 countries since 2005, the LDSF provides a consistent set of indicators and field protocol to assess the health of an ecosystem. Indicators measured with the LDSF include vegetation cover and structure, tree, shrub and grass species diversity, current and historical land use, soil properties (soil organic carbon stocks for assessing climate change mitigation potential, total nitrogen, infiltration capacity, texture, etc.) and soil erosion prevalence.

### **Scope of work:**

We require a team leader to lead a team of 4-6 individuals in conducting the field sampling required to inform the LDSF.

### **Key Skills Required:**

- Ecosystem monitoring experience.
- Botanical taxonomy and field identification of species.
- Understanding of land cover classification systems.
- Experience measuring biomass.
- Familiarity with soil sampling techniques including cumulative mass, soil surface characteristics and infiltration capacity.
- Ability to use a GPS.
- High attention to detail and dedication to accurate data collection.
- Intimate familiarity with navigation in the Maasai Mara conservancies.
- Prepared to work in a remote environment in close contact with wildlife
- Existing network of connections with conservancy management teams is desirable.

### **Other Requirements:**

- At least 5 years ecosystem monitoring experience (ideally in the Maasai Mara)
- Masters or higher level qualification specifically in Environmental Science
- Own vehicle is desired with valid Kenyan license
- Work permit or legal ability to work in Kenya
- Availability for fieldwork during the 3 months of engagement

### 3. How to Apply

Send an application to the Executive Director, Ahueni AG, to reach us by close of business on **Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> 2024**, to [gjermund.hansen@ahueni.net](mailto:gjermund.hansen@ahueni.net).

A complete application will have the following:

- i. A cover letter.
- ii. A detailed curriculum vitae highlighting relevant experience.
- iii. A daytime telephone contact, email address, and the names of three professional referees.