

Call for an MSc student in Environmental Studies

Assessing climate and non-climate related changes in small-scale fisheries.



Requisite: Student of the Master in Interdisciplinary Studies in Environmental, Economic and Social Sustainability (MEISAES, ICTA-UAB), fluent in English and in the local language of the study site.

Description: This call is offered within the framework of the ERC-funded project LICCI "Local Indicators of Climate Change Impacts. The Contribution of Local Knowledge to Climate Change Research". The main objective of this research project is to show the potential of indigenous and local knowledge systems to improve our understanding of local climate change impacts on physical, biological, and socioeconomic systems. As part of the LICCI project, a dedicated group of fisheries researchers have developed a specific protocol for fisheries. The goals of this protocol are: i) To obtain an assessment of fishing techniques, fishing grounds and target species in the field site, ii) to document changes in the marine environment and its species, iii) to identify the main factors driving these changes, iv) to assess adaptations performed by small-scale fisheries around the world.

Study site: Selected coastal communities in a specific study site (to be decided taking into account the student's interests).

Objectives: The proposed Master thesis will be based on the LICCI fisheries protocol (<https://licci.eu/research-tools/>), which uses semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions to explore changes in small-scale fisheries. Specifically, the student will conduct:

- (A) 30 semi-structured interviews aiming at assessing the diversity of fished species and types of fishing, and to document the locally observed changes in the marine environment over time and their drivers. A description of the local fishery and its historical development will also be collected at this level. Also, 20-25 pebble games will be played with the participants to explore catch and diet composition changes.
- (B) 4-6 Focus Groups dedicated to discussing aquatic changes and adaptations undertaken by the fishing community with different stakeholder groups.

The analysis of these data will constitute the core of the students' Master thesis.

Technical details: The thesis will be directed by Sara Miñarro and Petra Benyei, researchers at ICTA-UAB and the LICCI project. Other members of the LICCI team might provide further support. We expect that a revised version of the MSc Thesis will be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal for publication.

Opportunities: The MSc student will be part of a research team working on interdisciplinary social-ecological research at ICTA-UAB, benefitting from direct interactions with a number of highly qualified international researchers (<http://www.laseg.cat/en> and <https://licci.eu/>).

If you are interested on writing your MSc thesis on this topic, please contact

Sara.Minarro@uab.cat or Petra.Benyei@uab.cat

Deadline: 31st January 2020