



Agroforestry in Southern Africa - new pathways of innovative land-use systems under a changing climate (Project acronym: ASAP)

The ASAP project is a trans-disciplinary research project entwined with the complexities of land use decision-making in the face of the challenges of climate change, food security, ecological degradation and socio-economic uplifting (livelihoods) in multi-functional landscapes. It aims to investigate the ecosystem services and environmental benefits of AFS as an innovative, multi-purpose land-use management practice in southern Africa, with a special focus on the exploration of human-environment interactions within AFS and its benefits for rural livelihoods. As such, there is a need to apply appropriate socio-ecological methodologies to assess the implications and impacts of AFS for biodiversity conservation, livelihoods uplifting and food security.

Work Package 9: Policy and Socio-economic issues of Agroforestry

Work package 9 focuses on the social and economic implications of AFS on rural societies (e.g. employment, education, gender issues, health and diet) and their livelihoods. The aim is to study, first, the social and political impacts/ effects of AFS at local and regional levels and, second, the policy frames, institutions, ideas, instruments, and political contexts informing AFS at the national levels. The work package aims to assess the social, political, and economic contexts guiding the establishment of AFS policies at national level and the effects or implications of utilising trees within agricultural land. Thus, a multi-level analytical approach, which allows for a collaborative comparative analysis of the national contexts and regional implementation of AFS will be developed.

The outcome(s) of WP9 will be an important indication of the ability of AFS (or aspects thereof) to address the challenge of improving rural livelihoods, environmental (ecosystem) degradation and food security, especially in the face of changing climatic conditions. Results and outcomes will be of particular relevance to policy makers, researchers and practitioners as they seek ways to address these challenges. Therefore, disseminating findings through different methods will be paramount given the wide target audience of the project. The transfer of knowledge, results and experience to farmers (and other land users) is crucial for the project to have a tangible impact/significance.

Tasks of the Work Package

Task 1: Social, political comparative analysis of agroforestry political, institutional contexts: mainly IFP; however, different kinds of collaborations and cooperation with ongoing research project or regarding data collection are possible.

Task 2: Regional and local case studies: exploration of human-environment interactions; this is a core task of the Work Package and is based on a strong cooperation with partners and scientific colleagues.

Task 3: State of the art overview of agroforestry policies in southern Africa: A different presentation of the tasks to be implemented under WP9 and their relations among each other is given in the following picture.

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How to cooperate and participate in exchange?

Target group

Scientists, researchers, PhD candidates, MSc Students working on socio-economic topics related to the environment, agriculture, forestry with a focus on policies and implementation. There should be a clear link to the goals of the ASAP project in general and the Work Package 9 specifically.

Types of potential cooperation

We are seeking cooperation and exchange with partners on the following points:

- Publications in peer reviewed journals;
- Research cooperation for case study research under task 2;
- Independent research contributing to the overall objectives of the ASAP project in general and the Work Package 9 specifically;
- Cooperation in the supervision of Master or Bachelor theses;
- Research exchanges with University of Freiburg in the frame of the ASAP project.

Available Funding

The ASAP project can serve as a very fruitful tool for establishing, especially scientific, exchange and cooperation between researchers at the University of Freiburg (Chair of Forest and Environmental Policy) and researchers focused in southern African countries. A number of funding opportunities are available (e.g. regular opportunities with many different options for instance short term scientific missions and other partnerships opportunities).

Contacts for WP9

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Please contact us to discuss opportunities and synergies. We look forward to hearing from you.