

WHAT IS THIS PROGRAMME ABOUT?

Breaking the cycle of impoverishment of vulnerable communities in the drylands of Africa in the face of climate change is the ultimate goal of this new MA. This is of particular urgency not only because their geographical location puts them on the front-line of global climate change, but also because of the acute lack of understanding policy-makers have of the dynamics of local livelihood systems in these areas and the opportunities they offer for adaptation to climate change.

Policy making in many of these regions does not sufficiently benefit from the lessons of past failure or existing knowledge of the dynamics of human-ecological processes.

Nor does it benefit from the participation of local communities that have learnt over time how best to exploit the ecological and economic dynamics of their environments to lead sustainable livelihoods. The combination of inadequate understanding of local livelihood systems and the inability of local communities to influence the decisions that affect their lives and to hold government to account is undermining the broader development of these areas as well as their capacity to adapt to climate change.

These are failures of governance.

Building the capacities of both communities and their advocates to challenge prevailing misconceptions about their livelihoods and participate more effectively in decision-making to shape policy and realise their rights is thus critical for the future development of these areas. The MA on Drylands Policy and Climate Change Adaptation will contribute to this.

MA in Drylands Policy and Climate Change Adaptation

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 **kimmage DSC**
development studies centre

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Development





Photo: Andy Catley



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PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS (NORTH & SOUTH)

The MA will be offered through Kimmage Development Studies Centre, Dublin, Ireland. (www.kimmagedsc.ie). Kimmage will host the programme working closely within a consortium of four other partner institutes, namely: Mekelle University, Ethiopia; University of Nairobi, Kenya; Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania; and the International Institute of Environment and Development, UK. These five institutions have come together to offer a unique, collaborative programme based on their shared understanding that supporting adaptation to climate change in the drylands requires a radical rethinking of policy.

TARGET GROUP

Present and future policy makers in relevant central and local Government departments, development practitioners and staff within international agencies and donor communities- especially those involved with supporting dryland communities and people who are interested in pursuing a career working in the drylands.

COURSE OBJECTIVE

To contribute to the creation of a critical mass of decision-makers and practitioners who understand the challenges facing the drylands so as to ensure appropriate future policies in the context of a changing climate.

STUDY MODULES INCLUDE

- Climate Change and Development
- Drylands Policy, Economics and Governance
- Drylands Systems
- Political Economy of Development
- Gender in Development
- Project Cycle Management
- Research Methods
- Sociology of Development
- Conflict Management

VALIDATION

All degree programmes run at Kimmage are validated by the Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC) of Ireland. (www.hetac.ie). Validation of this award is in process, to be completed before programme commences.

MODE OF LEARNING, SCHEDULE & DURATION

The programme will use a combination of lectures, tutorials, and participatory research methods. Course work will take place from October to May at Kimmage DSC (one semester) and Sokoine University (one semester). Participants will then undertake research in a drylands area, with the support of one or more of the partner institutes of the consortium, for a dissertation to be submitted by the following March.

Further details regarding the programme, applications, tuition fees and other costs are available from:

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