



Terms of Participation MyCOE / SERVIR Initiative in West Africa



The MyCOE / SERVIR Initiative in West Africa is a 10-month fellowship program for undergraduate and graduate students in eligible countries in West Africa who are currently enrolled in any field at an institution of higher education with ideas and plans for research that address themes of **Women in Climate Change and Food Security** using geographic technologies. Students are invited to propose a research project and will be competitively selected on the basis of their long-term potential to contribute to these topics in the region.

This call for proposals is particularly interested in applications demonstrating linkages across *Three Generations of Women in Climate Change and Food Security*. The program will connect these teams of emerging researchers and their mentors with international pioneering female scientists and experts in climate change for inspiration and guidance. In turn, the most competitive MyCOE fellows' outreach activities proposed should include an integral educational component that reaches out to young girls in their countries, encouraged to consider careers in science. Selected teams may stimulate the interest of young girls by engaging them in their research and by sharing experience in secondary (preferred) or middle school level classrooms with which they propose to engage. Thus, this program will advance women's participation and contribution to Climate Change in Africa by linking **three generations: pioneer female scientists/mentors, university student fellows, and young girls in middle or secondary school**.

ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo

The MyCOE / SERVIR program will provide students with customized capacity training in GIS, remote sensing, GPS, and/or spatial techniques to help them enrich their research proposals. They will also receive professional development, have access to additional mentoring by international experts and engage in an online community with other fellows. Interested students must apply with a mentor who is willing to work closely with them throughout the duration of the program and attend the workshop. Up to 15 teams of students and their mentors will be selected for this West Africa Initiative. Over the life of the fellowship, they will have the opportunity to interact and exchange ideas with approximately 60 other teams from around the world that will be selected through MyCOE / SERVIR global initiatives. *Please note that to be eligible, all participants must be citizens of one of the eligible countries AND also be studying (students) or working (mentors) and residing in the same or another of the eligible countries.*

The official language for this initiative is English.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

The following activities are required for all student fellows and their mentors. Failure to complete any or part of an activity will result in forfeiture of participant benefits such as remaining funds or resources.

APPLICATION PERIOD

April 30, 2013: Online application due for MyCOE / SERVIR Initiative in West Africa

End of May 2013: Notifications begin to be sent to all applicants on Selection Status as MyCOE Student Fellow (selected MyCOE Student Fellows must turn in acceptance forms within one week after being notified)

PREPARATION PERIOD

May 2013-July 2013: Fellows should prepare a brief presentation of their research proposal to present to the other fellows and mentors at the capacity building workshop

July 21-31, 2013: Multi-day tailored capacity building and GIS training workshop in Accra, Ghana at CERSGIS

August 16, 2013: Revised research proposals due (improved from what was learned in the workshop)

RESEARCH PERIOD

August 2013-February 2014: Fellows conduct 3-6 months of research, supported by mentors

OUTREACH PERIOD

November 2013-February 2014: Fellows prepare and conduct a local public diplomacy or outreach activity, such as sharing project reports, student posters, team presentations to conferences, organizations, schools, embassies, science fairs, etc. to share their results with stakeholders or others in their community, particularly related to young girls or youth-serving audiences, as noted above

REPORTING AND EVALUATION PERIOD

March 1, 2014: Fellows submit final reports, proceedings and publications, data/metadata or any other materials created through their participation in this program via the programs online portals. In addition, Fellows will be expected to participate in program evaluations, put together joint reports or proceedings/publications as requested and engage with other MyCOE teams.

BENEFITS FOR MYCOE / SERVIR FELLOWS

- Free customized training/materials in the use of geographic technologies for Women in Climate Change & Food Security
- Professional development activities and resources
- Logistical support, airfare, hotel, and subsistence (group meals provided) to attend the capacity building workshop in Accra, Ghana; other personal expenditures are the responsibility of the participant
- A fellowship of a total of \$600 USD to be used to support the 3-6 months of research and/or fieldwork and outreach activities, paid in installments with half of funds provided upon completion of all program activities and reports
- Other benefits may include geospatial data, GIS software or GPS equipment, where warranted and available
- Networking support to provide additional mentoring by international experts and to connect their research results with relevant international stakeholder organizations
- A formal certificate of program completion from the MyCOE / SERVIR Partnership, signed by the Association of American Geographers, Esri, NASA, US Agency for International Development and CERSGIS in Ghana

MYCOE / SERVIR MENTORS

The role of MyCOE / SERVIR Mentor is to guide and advise the Fellow in the conduct of their research project, offer supervision of completion of requirements such as report writing and oversee the Fellow's participation over the course of the program, for which they will receive a stipend of a total of \$300 USD. Mentors are also expected to attend the capacity building workshop in Ghana and will receive logistical support, airfare, hotel and subsistence to attend. There, they will take part in the technical training sessions, and engage in discussions and resource sharing about successful mentoring practices. The mentor's home institution is considered to be the local host organization for the project and is encouraged to provide or assist in addressing extra needs related to the research, such as workspace, libraries, information, communication access or other relevant institutional resources wherever feasible.

CAPACITY BUILDING

A multi-day-long workshop will be held in Accra, Ghana, July 21-31, 2013 at the headquarters of the CERSGIS. Fellows and their mentors will travel to Accra by July 21, 2013 and will return to their hometowns starting July 31, 2013. Fellows and their mentors are responsible for meeting all visa and legal travel requirements, but we will arrange for your flights by electronic ticket, using the nearest major airport to you. The workshop will include training, presentations and a social event. The first day will consist of presentations from all Fellows (instructions to be provided later). We encourage you to prepare some preliminary work prior to the workshop in order to identify questions or learning objectives that best advance your work. Presentations should last no more than 10 minutes and aim to provide you with the opportunity to seek out feedback on your proposed research activities and improve your methodological plans. Additional workshop details will be provided at a later date. You will other meet the other MyCOE / SERVIR Fellow-Mentor teams.

RESEARCH PROJECT AND REPORTS

Your research project should be based upon the proposal or theme you submitted and that was accepted for inclusion in the program. We expect that the detailed activities and methodologies will be improved as a result of the capacity building workshop. In consultation with your mentor, you will provide a revised project plan no later than August 16, 2013, which incorporates feedback from the instructors and recommendations provided by the program. Project activities, including both research and outreach components, should last for at least three months but no longer than six months. This period may begin at any time after submitting your revised plan. All project activities, including a final report (according to the format specified by the program) must be completed and uploaded to our online portals no later than March 1, 2014.

OTHER INFORMATION AND LOGISTICS

The fellowships and stipends will be paid directly to you via bank transfer in two installments, once upon receipt of your bank account information (confirmation acceptance form to be turned in upon acceptance) and a final transfer upon submission of final report documentation as required of your participation. Travel support (airfare, accommodations, subsistence) to attend the workshop in Accra, Ghana will be arranged directly by the program. You will receive an e-ticket by email. You will be responsible for any additional lodging charges for dates beyond the workshop. The program will cover registration and travel related directly to the workshop, and meals will be included. Any other personal expenditures will be your own responsibility. Note that program communications rely heavily on e-mail and you are strongly urged to check and respond to e-mail regularly.