



Call for Fellowships Afrique One-ASPIRE

TTP2: Thematic Training Program on Brucellosis Control and Prevention

Ref: [TTP2-Brucellosis-MSc4](#)

Project Title: The role of wildlife in the transmission of brucellosis in humans and animals

Enrolment: The MSc fellow will be enrolled at SUA or NMAIST, Tanzania, University Félix Houphouët-Boigny, Côte d'Ivoire or EISMV, Senegal.

Project Description: Transmission of brucellosis in terrestrial wildlife occurs through spill-over of infection from domestic animals and endemic infection in wildlife species. Within wildlife species transmission has been shown to be dependent on species social behaviour. Social animals especially ungulates are reported to maintain high rates of transmission. In these animals, brucellosis is spread through direct contact with discharge from the vagina, aborted foetuses and per coitus. Wild ungulates also acquire infection by ingestion of contaminated pasture. Carnivores such as hyenas, jackals, and foxes are thought to be exposed through consumption of infected animals, placentas or aborted foetuses.

Transmission of *Brucella* spp. from wild animal species to man could be further facilitated by the consumption of meat products. Although this pathway is less frequently associated with infection (mainly because meat is not usually eaten raw) consumption of wild meat is a known practice among hunters and butchers. Muscle tissue usually contains low concentrations of *Brucella* while liver, kidney, spleen, udder and testis may contain much higher amounts.

This MSc fellowship will investigate the role of wildlife in the maintenance and spread of brucellosis to livestock mingling with wildlife and to humans involved in hunting and butchering of wild animals at the interface of human-livestock-wildlife in northern Tanzania. The project will work closely with hunting companies based in northern Tanzania.

Mentorship Team: Gabriel Shirima (NMAIST); Julius Keyyu (TAWIRI); Rudovick Kazwala (SUA); Inza Koné, Karim Ouattara, Gilbert Fokou and Bassirou Bonfoh (CSRS); Fabian Leendertz (RKI)

Qualifications: The candidate must be a citizen of an African country. Candidates with a BSc of veterinary medicine or wildlife management (or an equivalent qualification) will be considered.

Training: Training will be provided primarily in Tanzania, Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire with opportunities for further training within the Afrique One-ASPIRE consortium and with supervisory partners in the UK and US, depending on needs and internal budget considerations.

For more information, contact the Co-leads:

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