

## 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 (which comprise more than 43% of the inhabitable land in Africa) 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

# MA in Drylands Policy and Climate Change Adaptation

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International  
Institute for  
Environment and  
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](http://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.

**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.**

## **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.

## **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.

## **ACCREDITATION**

All degree programmes run at Kimmage are accredited by the Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC) of Ireland. ([www.hetac.ie](http://www.hetac.ie))

## **MODE OF LEARNING, SCHEDULE & DURATION**

The programme will use a combination of lectures, tutorials, and participatory research methods, and will initially be run at Kimmage DSC (one semester) and Sokoine University (one semester) with participants then doing their research work in their respective countries and with the support of one or more of the partner institutes of the consortium. Course work will be done in these two institutes from October 2010 to May 2011, and participants will then undertake research for a dissertation to be submitted by November 2011.

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

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