**Call for Participants**

**Reconfiguring Landscapes and Biocultural Frontiers in Eastern Africa**

**British Institute of Eastern Africa (BIEA), Nairobi**

**Friday 21st - Saturday 22nd March 2014**

**Convenors: David Anderson, Paul Lane, Liz Watson, Justin Willis**

Landscapes in Eastern Africa are currently undergoing very rapid processes of change as a result of the reconfiguration of relations between people and land, forests, animals and water. The role of the state, private enterprises and civil society in these processes is in flux and closer investigation of their changing forms, roles and impacts is both timely and important. Examining the changing landscapes involves re-thinking the binaries between society and nature, as well as understanding landscapes, and the bio-cultural relations that produce them in their local, national and international, political and historical context.

The purpose of the meeting would be to bring together scholars working on these themes from eastern Africa and from the wider community, in order to foster inter-disciplinary conversations and to scope out future research events and collaborations. This meeting will also launch the BIEA’s new strategic research plan, to be developed further from 2014-.

Papers presented at the meeting may be focused on, but not limited to, the following themes:

* Urban and rural natures and policies
* Landscapes, mobility, borders and territories
* Water – landscapes, competition and policies
* Domestic animal landscapes – changing pastoralist practices
* Wildlife in the landscape – competing land use systems
* New actors in landscapes – competing land use systems
* Landscapes and biocultural diversity
* Devolution, landscapes and nature
* State imaginaries and landscapes

Expressions of interest and abstracts should be sent to Liz Watson at eew1000@cam.ac.uk as soon as possible, and at latest by 31 December 2013.

BIEA has provided some funding for this symposium, and limited grants may be available to facilitate attendance. For further information, contact Liz Watson.