

African Climate & Development Initiative

Geological Sciences Building, 6th Floor, University of Cape Town
7701, Rondebosch, Cape Town, South Africa

Tel: +27 21 650 5598 | Fax: + 27 21 650 3783
www.acdi.uct.ac.za | info@acdi.uct.ac.za

VACANCY

Research Assistant / Senior Research Assistant: Global Goal on Climate Change Adaptation T1 fixed term 6-month post with possibility of renewal for a further 6 months

Application Deadline: 15 January 2023 or until position is filled

Call for Applications

The [African Climate and Development Initiative](#) is seeking a research assistant to join an interdisciplinary team of climate change researchers from social and biophysical sciences working closely with government negotiators from developing countries—especially Africa—to help build scientific and political consensus on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) during 2023 and 2024.

The Paris Agreement established the GGA to enhance collective action on adaptation to reduce risks from climate change, but there has been little progress on operationalising this goal. This research project will help build knowledge and consensus to operationalise the GGA, especially on the targets, metrics and indicators that will form core elements for tracking progress on the GGA helping guide adaptation action from national to global scales.

The research assistant work will be highly policy relevant, involving multiple interactions with policymakers and other researchers. Research will be focused on the rapid synthesis and analysis of existing data on climate change adaptation options and policies, tracking their feasibility and effectiveness, and support for adaptation (e.g., finance and capacity building) across human and natural systems (e.g., cities, food, health, ecosystems). This will likely be in the form of systematic reviews, meta-analysis, expert elicitation, policy document analysis, and/or integration of qualitative or quantitative data from social and environmental systems of climate change risks and adaptation (e.g., climate data, social surveys, interview data). The work could also involve synthesizing lessons learned from other international goal-setting processes (e.g., SDGs, Sendai Framework, Aichi biodiversity targets), from climate change mitigation.

Successful applicants will be highly motivated to work as part of interdisciplinary research teams to support Postdoctoral Research Fellows and other researchers to engage regularly with policymakers and work rapidly to collate and analyse data from the existing academic literature, policy documents, online datasets and interviews. Successful applicants may also write policy briefs or academic articles.

These research assistant positions are an excellent opportunity if you want to push forward the frontiers in climate change adaptation for people and ecosystems by doing actionable, solutions-oriented science in a diverse and fast-paced team environment.

Project research will address the following key objectives:

- (1) Synthesize qualitative and quantitative evidence on climate change adaptation options, their feasibility and effectiveness, and support for adaptation (e.g., tracking finance and capacity building).
- (2) Develop text and infographics for academic articles and policy briefs.
- (3) Help coordinate researchers from multiple disciplines (including those working remotely).
- (4) Engage with policymakers on research needs for the Global Goal on Adaptation

The Research Assistant will report to **Dr Christopher Trisos** and **Prof Mark New** at the African Climate and Development Initiative.

The monthly salary range is **R10 000 – R30 000** (depending on qualifications and hours per week worked)

Academic / experience criteria:

Required

- Completed Masters or PhD degree (or currently enrolled in PhD) with a specialisation relevant to climate change.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.
- Desire and ability to work in an interdisciplinary research team setting.
- Excellent literature search and literature review skills using search engines such as Scopus, Web of Science and Google.
- Experience of integrating multiple quantitative and/or qualitative datasets.
- Excellent computer literacy – advanced use of MS Word and Excel, Google Drive Apps, Zoom.
- Experience in Endnote or similar reference manager.

Desired

- Interest or experience in engagement with policy and decision-makers.
- Experience with climate change adaptation research and/or climate change policy
- Experience helping coordinate or project manage multiple researchers and/or practitioners.
- Experience and interest in public communication of science.
- Experience creating complex figures or infographics
- Experience working with *R* or other statistical coding software.
- Experience producing systematic literature reviews, meta-analysis, or other assessments of existing scientific data.

Conditions of award:

- Applicants may not previously have held a full-time permanent academic post.
- Working remotely is allowed, including from outside South Africa, but preference will be given to locally-based candidates.

To apply, Applicants should submit their application as a single PDF file attached to an email titled 'GGA Research Assistant' and sent to: rabia.karriem@uct.ac.za

Application requirements:

A single PDF file with (i) an application letter no longer than 1 page that includes a description of research interests, your expertise relevant to the job criteria, and suggestions for how you can work towards the project objectives; (ii) a CV including a publication list; (iii) copies of academic transcripts and/or certificates; (iv) an example of written work; (v) email addresses for two references who have been directly involved in your research work.

Selection process:

- All eligible and complete applications will be considered by the ACDI and we will communicate with short-listed applicants.
- Interviews will take place during January or February 2023 and the successful candidate is expected to start as soon as possible thereafter and ideally no later than March 2023.
- If you have not heard within two months of the deadline, please assume your application has been unsuccessful.

Closing date: Applications received by **15 January 2023** are guaranteed to be considered. Applications received thereafter may be considered if the position has not been filled.

Contact details for enquiries about the fellowship topic and ACDI: christopher.trisos@uct.ac.za

Additional information on ACDI and the Climate Risk Lab can be found at: www.acdi.uct.ac.za / www.climaterisklab.com

The University of Cape Town reserves the right to

- *Disqualify ineligible, incomplete and/or inappropriate applications;*
- *Change the conditions of the award or to make no awards at all*