



## Junior Research Fellow / Senior Research Fellow

### Climate Change Adaptation [Full time, 1 year contract]

### African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI)

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#### VACANCY

#### Research Fellow, Global Goal on Adaptation to Climate Change: Reaching Scientific and Political Consensus

Applications are invited for the post of Junior Research Fellow / Senior Research Fellow specialising in Climate Change Adaptation at the [African Climate and Development Initiative](#) (ACDI) and the [Climate Risk Lab](#) at the University of Cape Town.

The successful candidate will be responsible for co-leading a Gates Foundation funded interdisciplinary team doing research to build scientific and political consensus on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) to climate change. The post involves both research management and supervision, working closely with policymakers, organising and participating in workshops, as well as significant personal research on one or more of: climate change adaptation options; targets, metrics and effectiveness of adaptation; and climate change adaptation policy.

This Gates Foundation funded project involves researchers from social and environmental sciences working with government negotiators from developing countries—especially Africa—to help operationalise the GGA during 2023, focusing on adaptation targets, and the metrics and indicators to track progress on adaptation. The aim of the project is to use a synthesis research approach that performs rapid integration and assessment of existing data and knowledge on climate change adaptation to help build consensus on the details of the GGA in advance of CoP28.

Research will be co-developed with policymakers, and will involve synthesis and analysis of diverse existing data on climate change adaptation options, tracking adaptation 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 is a full-time, fixed-term appointment **for one year**.

#### Requirements:

- PhD degree in relevant subject related to climate change vulnerability, adaptation, risks or climate change policy.
- At least two years post-doctoral research experience in climate change and/or equivalent work experience with decision-makers focused on understanding and/or reducing risks from climate change.
- A strong publication record, commensurate with research experience.
- Skills and capacity to work in a highly interdisciplinary team research environment, and lead an interdisciplinary research team.
- Experience of collaborative research and engagement with policymakers, practitioners and/or local communities.
- Experience organising or facilitating meetings of interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary teams, such as project workshops.
- Experience of synthesizing existing data and knowledge, such as: systematic literature reviews, meta-analysis, expert elicitation processes, text and policy analysis, or other integration of data sets from diverse data sources.
- Proficiency with online collaboration tools, such as Zoom, Google Drive, and Slack.

#### Advantageous experience includes:

- Education, training and/or research experience that spans both the natural science and socio-economic science aspects of climate change.
- Research or work experience with monitoring and evaluation of climate change adaptation.
- Experience working with UNFCCC negotiators and/or analysis of UNFCCC negotiations.
- Experience with country reporting to UNFCCC (e.g., research or consulting on Nationally Determined Contributions or National Adaptation Plans).
- Research or work experience with setting targets and/or tracking progress in other sectors, such as the SDGs, Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction or biodiversity targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity.



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- Research project management or coordination.
- Previous research experience in Africa.
- Experience working in a research team on rapid synthesis and assessment of existing data and knowledge, such as IPCC, IPBES, or other research synthesis processes.

#### Responsibilities include:

- Research management, with support from the project Principal Investigator, which includes: (i) design of research, (ii) overseeing implementation of research, (iii) leading on interactions between researchers and policymakers, (iv) project reporting and internal knowledge management for the project.
- Research, including: (i) synthesis, analysis and assessment of diverse existing data and knowledge on climate change adaptation, (ii) working with team members to write research papers.
- Actionable knowledge communication, including: (i) working with team members to write and edit policy briefs, (ii) planning and facilitating workshops with policymakers, (iii) scientific support for government negotiators.
- Research communication, including: work with communications staff in conceptualizing, designing, providing content for, and reviewing, communications products.
- Supervision and mentoring of junior researchers, including: (i) postdoctoral fellows; (ii) research assistants.
- Note that extensive travel will be expected to attend workshops with government negotiators to UNFCCC.

The annual remuneration package (for 2023) is between **R670 000 – R 845 000**. The remuneration will be dependent on the level of appointment and experience of the candidate.

**To apply**, Applicants should submit their application as a single PDF file attached to an email titled 'GGA Research Fellow' and sent to: [rabia.karriem@uct.ac.za](mailto: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](mailto:christopher.trisos@uct.ac.za)

**Additional information on ACDI and the Climate Risk Lab can be found at:** [www.acdi.uct.ac.za](http://www.acdi.uct.ac.za) / [www.climaterisklab.com](http://www.climaterisklab.com)

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