

## African Climate & Development Initiative

Geological Sciences Building, 6<sup>th</sup> 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

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### VACANCY

#### Two Postdoctoral Researchers, Global Goal on Adaptation to Climate Change: Reaching Scientific and Political Consensus

**Application Deadline: 15 January 2023 or until position is filled. Intended start date in February 2023**

The [African Climate and Development Initiative](#) and the [Climate Risk Lab](#) are advertising for two Postdoctoral Research Fellows to join an interdisciplinary team of climate change researchers from social and biophysical sciences working closely with government negotiators to UNFCCC 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 scientific knowledge and political consensus to operationalise the GGA to support UNFCCC processes, especially on the targets, metrics and indicators that will form core elements for tracking progress on the GGA, so as to help guide adaptation action from national to global scales.

This Gates Foundation funded research work will be highly policy relevant, involving multiple interactions with policymakers. Research will be co-developed with policymakers, and will involve synthesis and analysis of diverse 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). 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, and developing new policy or conceptual frameworks for adaptation action at sub-national to global scales.

Successful applicants will be highly motivated to work as part of interdisciplinary research teams, engage regularly with policymakers, unleash new insights by integrating a diversity of existing quantitative and/or qualitative data on social and environmental systems, communicate their findings clearly to policymakers and the public, and generate peer-reviewed publications. Additionally, there is the opportunity to attend CoP28 and/or other workshops on the GGA to support UNFCCC negotiators.

These Postdoctoral Research Fellowships 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.

Successful applicants will be advised by **Dr Christopher Trisos** and **Prof Mark New** at the African Climate and Development Initiative and will be based at University of Cape Town (although some remote working can be considered).

#### Value, tenure and other conditions:

- The value of the fellowship is **ZAR 400,000–420,000 per year**, with renewal for a second year based on satisfactory performance.
- Application for tax exemption of the fellowship stipend will be made by the University.

The ACDI is a university-wide initiative at UCT that supports collaborative research and training in climate change and development.

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### Academic / experience criteria:

We intend to hire two Postdoctoral Fellows, one social scientist and one natural scientist or with a suitable mix of social and natural science training.

#### Required

- A PhD, awarded within the previous four years with a focus on a climate change related topic.
- Demonstrated ability to produce peer-reviewed research articles in international journals.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.
- Ability to work well in an interdisciplinary research team.
- Proficiency with online collaboration tools, such as Zoom, Google Drive, and Slack.
- Experience working with or communicating research findings to policymakers and/or the public.

#### Several (but not all) the following skills and experience would be highly desirable

- Experience collating and analysing existing quantitative and/or qualitative data (e.g., systematic literature reviews, expert elicitation processes, meta-analysis, text analysis, or other synthesis and analysis of large data sets from diverse existing data sources)
- Research or work experience developing or implementing climate change adaptation strategies in human and/or natural systems.
- Research or work experience with monitoring and evaluation of adaptation effectiveness or support for adaptation in human and/or natural systems.
- Research or work experience in Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Experience with target setting and progress tracking in other areas (e.g., Sustainable Development Goals, Sendai Framework and/or targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity).
- 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).
- Experience writing policy briefs.
- Experience planning or facilitating interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary workshops.
- Technical ability to code in *R* or other statistical programming language, including analysis of climate, biodiversity or other geospatial datasets.

**To apply**, send a single PDF file of your application as an attachment to an email titled 'GGA Postdoc' to [adiela.floris@uct.ac.za](mailto:adiela.floris@uct.ac.za)

### Application requirements:

Applicants should submit as a single PDF file: (i) an application letter no longer than 2 pages that includes a description of their research interests, a description of their expertise addressing the desired criteria, and suggestions for how they 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 of two references who have been directly involved in their PhD and/or previous postdoctoral research.

**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.

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Contact details for enquiries about the topic and ACDI: [christopher.trisos@uct.ac.za](mailto:christopher.trisos@uct.ac.za)

Additional information on ACDI and 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)

### Selection process:

- All eligible and complete applications will be considered for selection.
- Interviews will take place during January and February 2023 and the successful candidate is expected to start as soon as possible thereafter.
- If you have not heard within two months of the deadline, please assume your application has been unsuccessful.

### Conditions of award:

- Applicants may not previously have held a full-time permanent academic post.
- The successful applicant will be required to register as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Cape Town and will be expected to commence the required research at a mutually agreed date that is ideally **no later than end of February 2023**.
- The successful applicant will be required to comply with the university's approved policies, procedures and practices for the postdoctoral sector.

Postdoctoral Research Fellows will be given the necessary resources for their work: desk and office space, IT and communication infrastructure and may participate in the Emerging Researcher Programme (ERP) and other supportive training at University of Cape Town for early career researchers.

*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*