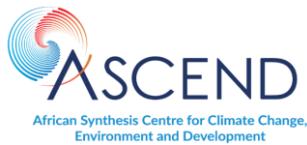




UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD



African Climate & Development Initiative
University of Cape Town
7701, Rondebosch, Cape Town
South Africa Tel: +27 21 650 5598
www.acdi.uct.ac.za | info@acdi.uct.ac.za

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Climate Change Attribution Communication

Deadline: 10 March or until position is filled

About the position:

The African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI) is recruiting a postdoctoral research fellow (PDRF) in climate change communication, with a specific focus on impacts attribution. The PDRF will be a member of a Wellcome Trust funded research project AFRIVERSE, which aims to build African capacity and digital tools for attribution of health impacts to climate change and will use these tools to undertake a range of climate-health impact attribution studies.

The attribution communication PDRF will undertake research on impactful communication approaches for climate impacts and attribution studies. They will work closely with associated communications and knowledge translation experts based at [ASCEND](#) (UCT's African Synthesis Centre for Climate Change, Environment and Development) and [CDKN](#) (Climate and Development Knowledge Network) in developing their research in ways that supports and addresses practical questions on real-world climate change communications needs.

The research activities could include a review of success and failure in existing climate change attribution communication approaches (e.g., for climate hazards and impacts), interviews with actors from different audiences (public, media, advocacy, policy, practice) to understand information needs on attribution and how to effectively frame and tailor attribution messages to these different audiences and decision/use contexts, development of prototype communication products related to climate-health impact attribution, and testing products with audience focus groups. The PDRF will interact closely with AFRIVERSE's communication partners and multiple research teams to inform the development of communication strategies and outputs using insights and prototype products generated through the PDRF's research. The PDRF is also expected to publish and share their findings widely to advance climate change communication approaches.

The PDRF will also be part of a larger cohort of PDRFs and researchers at ACDI and ASCEND working on climate change and development-related topics. The PDRF will participate in career development activities organised by ACDI and ASCEND to develop transdisciplinary skills, share knowledge on what works for actionable research, and foster interdisciplinary collaboration.

The PDRF will be mentored by Professor Mark New and Associate Professor Chris Trisos (ACDI/ASCEND) and knowledge brokering experts at the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN).

Value and tenure:

The value of the fellowship is ZAR 450,000 - 480,000 per year, tax free, for three years, renewable annually, subject to performance. Application for tax exemption of the fellowship stipend will be made by the University of Cape Town.

Academic / experience criteria:

Required

- A PhD, awarded within the previous three years or currently under examination, in climate services, media studies, science communication, or a similar topic.
- Experience in the design and implementation of key-informant interviews and focus-groups.

- Demonstrated interest and/or experience in policy and practice engagement.
- Keen interest and/or experience in creative science communication and public communication of science.
- Demonstrated ability to produce peer-reviewed research articles.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.

Desired

- Experience of testing of science communication products, such in focus groups
- Familiarity with climate change science, and especially climate impacts and/or attribution science.
- Excellent data visualisation skills and experience in data-based communications methods.
- Experience in working in a virtual and interdisciplinary research team setting.
- Fluency in one or more languages spoken across Africa (other than English)

Conditions of award:

- Applicants may not previously have held a full-time comprehensive academic post.
- The start date for the fellowship must be in the period 1 April - 31 June 2025.
- The PDRF will be required to register as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Cape Town.
- The PDRF will be required to comply with the university's approved policies, procedures and practices for the postdoctoral sector.

Application requirements:

Applications should be submitted online at: <https://forms.gle/DF2o8648L5Ddr3Du9>. The application should be as **single PDF** and contain:

- (i) An application letter no longer than 2 pages that includes, a description of research expertise and background, how their expertise and skills match the job criteria, and explanation on how they can work as part of the transdisciplinary team in line with the project objectives described above.
- A CV including a publication list (published, accepted and submitted publications) and other relevant science communication works (e.g., blog posts, news articles, videos, data visualizations, social media posts, and media interviews).
- (ii) Email addresses of two references who have been directly involved in their PhD and/or previous postdoctoral research.

Short-listed applicants may be required to provide further information, such as academic transcripts, and undertake a skills evaluation.

Closing date:

Midnight (GMT) on Monday 10 March 2025 or until the position is filled.

If you have not heard from ACDI within one month of the deadline, please assume your application has been unsuccessful. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted directly.

Contact details for enquiries about the PDRF and Afriverse: mark.new@uct.ac.za

Contact details about ASCEND: christopher.trisos@uct.ac.za

Additional information on ACDI and ASCEND can be found at <https://acdi.uct.ac.za> and <https://ascendclimate.org>.

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.