



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

ACDI Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Climate Change and Biodiversity: Impact Attribution and Prediction for Enhancing Adaptation Action

Application Deadline: 03 March 2024 or until position is filled

Call for Applications

The [Climate Risk Lab](#) in the African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI), at the University of Cape Town is seeking a Postdoctoral Research Fellow (PDRF) for in climate change risks to biodiversity.

The PDRF will be highly motivated to work as part of an interdisciplinary research team, grow their research expertise, engage with climate and conservation decision-makers, and generate peer-reviewed publications.

Project research will address the following key objectives:

- (1) Attribution of impacts on biodiversity to human-induced climate change, with a view to developing a tool to enable near real-time impact attribution;**
- (2) Predict climate change impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems 1–10 years into the future to enable near and medium-term adaptation planning and action, as well as improved monitoring for future impacts.**

The overall aim of the project is to link these key objectives in order to provide improved forecasting to decision-makers (including national park agencies and national governments) about current climate change impacts and near-term risks to biodiversity. Candidates will be encouraged to develop their own research ideas within the goals of the project.

The PDRF is an excellent opportunity for those who want to push forward the frontiers in biodiversity, ecology, and climate change research. And for those interested in co-producing policy-relevant research with decision-makers. Research will exploit existing global, African, and/or South African data on land and ocean biodiversity and climate including, but not limited to, high-resolution species range maps, species trait datasets, decadal climate forecasts and other climate data.

The PDRF will be advised by **Dr Christopher Trisos** at ACDI. The PDRFs will also be part of a larger team including **Prof. Mark New** at ACDI, and researchers from University College London, University of Connecticut, and Barcelona Supercomputing Center, among others. The PDRF will be based in the Climate Risk Lab at ACDI, with funding for travel to international meetings and for work with collaborators. The PDRF will also be part of a team of PDRFs and senior researchers in the Climate Risk Lab working on climate change risks and adaptation for biodiversity, health, education, food security, and sport where interdisciplinary work is encouraged.



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The PDRF 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.

Value and tenure:

- The value of the fellowship is ZAR 410,000–475,000 per year for up to 2 years.
- Application for tax exemption of the fellowship stipend will be made by the University.

Academic / experience criteria:

Required

- A PhD, awarded within the previous five years, in a related discipline (e.g. biodiversity, climate change, conservation biology, ecology, evolution).
- Demonstrated ability to produce peer-reviewed research articles in international journals.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.
- Desire and ability to work in an interdisciplinary research team setting.
- Experience of handling large datasets.
- Excellent technical ability to code in *R*, *Python*, and/or other statistical programming language, including analysis of biodiversity, climate, or other geospatial datasets.

Desired

- Experience in machine learning.
- Species distribution modelling and/or climate data analysis.
- Interest and experience in engagement with decision-makers, including in conservation.
- Experience in giving oral presentations and interest in public communication of science.
- Experience of source control of computer code and working in collaborations using *GitHub* and *RStudio*.
- Excellent data visualisation skills.

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 April 2024**.
- The successful applicant will be required to comply with the university's approved policies, procedures and practices for the postdoctoral sector.
- Working from ACDI is strongly preferred but more flexible remote work options can be discussed.

Application requirements:

Applicants should submit as a single PDF: (i) an application letter no longer than 2 pages that includes a description of research interests, research expertise, and suggestion for how they can work towards one or more of the broad project objectives; (ii) a CV including a publication list; (iii) copies of academic



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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.

Selection process:

- Only eligible and complete applications will be considered for selection.
- Interviews will take place during March/April 2024 and the successful candidate is expected to start as soon as possible thereafter.

Closing date: Applications received by midnight on **03 March 2024** are guaranteed to be considered. Applications received thereafter may be considered if the position has not been filled.

Contact details for submission of applications: mira.blumberg@uct.ac.za Please type “Postdoc Biodiversity 2024” as the email subject line.

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

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

Selection process

Eligible and complete applications will be considered by the ACDI and we will communicate with short-listed applicants. If you have not heard within two months of the deadline, please assume your application has been unsuccessful

The University of Cape Town reserves the right to

- *Disqualify ineligible, incomplete and/or inappropriate applications;*
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ACDI Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Climate Change Impacts on Education and how to Adapt

Application Deadline: 04 March 2024 or until position is filled

Call for Applications

The [Climate Risk Lab](#) in the African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI), at the University of Cape Town is seeking a Postdoctoral Research Fellow (PDRF) on climate change risks to education.

The PDRF will be highly motivated to work as part of an transdisciplinary research team, grow their research expertise, engage with decision-makers in the education and climate sectors, and generate peer-reviewed publications.

Project research will address the following key objectives:

- (1) Detection and attribution of impacts from climate change on education outcomes, education infrastructure, and other aspects of education systems;**
- (2) Forecast climate change impacts and risks for education to enable adaptation planning and action for vulnerable regions and population groups, as well as improved monitoring for future impacts;**
- (3) Develop improved understanding of future climate change risks, including exposure, vulnerability, and the feasible and effective adaptation responses for education;**
- (4) The role of climate change literacy for enhancing climate action (adaptation and mitigation).**

The overall aim of the project is to link these key objectives in order to provide improved understanding of climate change risks and options for adaptation to decision-makers. Candidates will be encouraged to develop their own research ideas within the goals of the project and this can be across a variety of education-related factors. Research is focused on education at all levels in South Africa, Africa, and globally.

The PDRF is an excellent opportunity for those who want to push forward the frontiers in climate change risk and adaptation research for a sector of major importance globally. And for those interested in producing policy-relevant research with decision-makers. Research will exploit existing data but may also include fieldwork and data collection.

The PDRF will be advised by **Dr Christopher Trisos** in the Climate Risk Lab at ACDI and will also be part of a larger research team including **Dr Nicholas Simpson** (ODI and ACDI) and international collaborators. The PDRF will have access to funding for travel to international meetings and to work with collaborators. The PDRF will also be part of a team of PDRFs and senior researchers in the Climate Risk Lab working on climate change risks and adaptation for biodiversity, health, education, food security, and sport where interdisciplinary work is encouraged.



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The PDRF 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.

Value and tenure:

- The value of the fellowship is ZAR 410,000–475,000 per year for up to 2 years.
- Application for tax exemption of the fellowship stipend will be made by the University.

Academic / experience criteria:

Required

- A PhD, awarded within the previous five years, in a related discipline (e.g. education, climate change, economics, sociology).
- Demonstrated ability to produce peer-reviewed research articles in international journals.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.
- Desire and ability to work in an interdisciplinary research team setting.
- Experience of handling large datasets.

Desired

- Experience with research on education and climate change.
- Interest and experience in engagement with decision-makers.
- Experience in giving oral presentations and interest in public communication of science.
- Technical ability to code in *R*, *Python*, or other statistical software including analysis of climate datasets. Applicants may also demonstrate ability and commitment to learn rapidly.
- Experience with data visualisation.

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 April 2024**.
- The successful applicant will be required to comply with the university's approved policies, procedures and practices for the postdoctoral sector.
- Working from ACDI is strongly preferred but more flexible remote work options can be discussed.

Application requirements:

Applicants should submit as a single PDF: (i) an application letter no longer than 2 pages that includes a description of research interests, research expertise, and suggestion for how they can work towards one or more of the broad 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.

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

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ACDI Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Climate Change and Health: Impact Attribution and Prediction for Enhancing Adaptation Action

Application Deadline: 04 March 2024 or until position is filled

Call for Applications

The [Climate Risk Lab](#) in the African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI), at the University of Cape Town is seeking a Postdoctoral Research Fellow (PDRF) on climate change risks and health.

The PDRF will be highly motivated to work as part of an interdisciplinary research team, grow their research expertise, engage with climate and health decision-makers, and generate peer-reviewed publications.

Project research will address the following key objectives:

- (1) Attribution of impacts on health outcomes, health systems, and other aspects of health to human-induced climate change, with a view to developing a tool to enable near real-time impact attribution;**
- (2) Predict climate change impacts on health 1–10 years into the future to enable near and medium-term adaptation planning and action, as well as improved monitoring for future impacts.**
- (3) Improve understanding of the feasibility and effectiveness of adaptation options for health.**

The overall aim of the project is to link these key objectives in order to provide improved forecasting to decision-makers (including government agencies) about near-term risks to health and strengthen adaptation action. Vector-borne diseases are of interest, but candidates will be encouraged to develop their own research ideas within the goals of the project.

The PDRF is an excellent opportunity for those who want to push forward the frontiers in climate change and health research. And for those interested in co-producing policy-relevant research with decision-makers. Research will exploit existing global, African, and/or South African data, but may also include fieldwork.

The PDRF will be based in the Climate Risk Lab and advised by **Dr Christopher Trisos** at ACDI. The PDRFs will also be part of a larger team with collaborators in Africa, UK, EU, and USA. The PDRF will have funding for travel to international meetings and for work with collaborators. The PDRF will also be part of a team of PDRFs and senior researchers in the Climate Risk Lab working on climate change risks and adaptation for biodiversity, health, education, food security, and sport where interdisciplinary work is encouraged.



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Value and tenure:

- The value of the fellowship is ZAR 410,000–475,000 per year for up to 2 years.
- Application for tax exemption of the fellowship stipend will be made by the University.

Academic / experience criteria:

Required

- A PhD, awarded within the previous five years, in a related discipline (e.g. health, climate change, economics, ecology, evolution).
- Demonstrated ability to produce peer-reviewed research articles in international journals.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.
- Desire and ability to work in an interdisciplinary research team setting.
- Experience of handling large datasets.
- Excellent technical ability to code in *R*, *Python*, and/or other statistical programming language, ideally including analysis of health data, as well as climate and/or other geospatial datasets.

Desired

- Experience in machine learning.
- Interest and experience in engagement with decision-makers, including in health.
- Experience in giving oral presentations and interest in public communication of science.
- Experience of source control of computer code and working in collaborations using *GitHub* and *RStudio*.
- Excellent data visualisation skills.

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 April 2024**.
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ACDI Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Climate Change Impacts on Sport and how to Adapt

Application Deadline: 04 March 2024 or until position is filled

Call for Applications

The [Climate Risk Lab](#) in the African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI), at the University of Cape Town is seeking a Postdoctoral Research Fellow (PDRF) on climate change risks to sport.

The PDRF will be highly motivated to work as part of an transdisciplinary research team, grow their research expertise, engage with decision-makers in the sport and climate sectors, and generate peer-reviewed publications.

Project research will address the following key objectives:

- (1) Detection and attribution of impacts from climate change on sport events, athlete performance, health, and other sport outcomes, with a view to developing a tool to enable near real-time impact attribution;**
- (2) Forecast climate change impacts on sport to enable adaptation planning and action, as well as improved monitoring for future impacts;**
- (3) Develop improved understanding of future climate change risks to sport events and participants, including exposure, vulnerability, and the adaptation response options available.**

The overall aim of the project is to link these key objectives in order to provide improved understanding of climate change risks and options for adaptation to decision-makers. Candidates will be encouraged to develop their own research ideas within the goals of the project and this can be across a variety of sports, including football, surfing, and cricket, among others. Research is focused on sport events and participants at all levels from amateur to professional.

The PDRF is an excellent opportunity for those who want to push forward the frontiers in climate change risk and adaptation research for a sector of major economic and cultural importance globally. And for those interested in producing policy-relevant research with sport and climate decision-makers. Research will exploit existing data but may also include fieldwork and data collection.

The PDRF will be advised by **Dr Christopher Trisos** and will be based in the Climate Risk Lab at ACDI. The PDRF will also be part of a larger international research team. The PDRF will have access to funding for travel to international meetings and to work with collaborators. The PDRF will also be part of a team of PDRFs and senior researchers in the Climate Risk Lab working on climate change risks and adaptation for biodiversity, health, education, food security, and sport where interdisciplinary work is encouraged.



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Academic / experience criteria:

Required

- A PhD, awarded within the previous five years, in a related discipline (e.g. sport, economics, health, education, climate change, statistics).
- Demonstrated ability to produce peer-reviewed research articles in international journals.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.
- Desire and ability to work in an interdisciplinary research team setting.
- Experience of handling large datasets.

Desired

- Experience with research on sport and climate change.
- Interest and experience in engagement with decision-makers.
- Experience in giving oral presentations and interest in public communication of science.
- Technical ability to code in *R*, *Python*, or other statistical software including analysis of climate datasets.
- Experience with data visualisation.

Conditions of award:

- Applicants may not previously have held a full-time permanent academic post.
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