

African Climate & Development Initiative

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POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP in Comparative Analysis of Scenario Processes

Closing Date: 14 December 2016

Background:

From January 2014 to October 2018, the African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI) is leading a multi-partner, CAD\$ 13.5 million research project, ASSAR (Adaptation at Scale in Semi-Arid Regions). ASSAR is part of a larger multi-consortium research programme, CARIAA (Collaborative Adaptation Research in Africa and Asia) funded by IDRC and DFID. The project has a three-phase research program: a *regional diagnostic phase*, a *regional research program phase*, and a *synthesis phase*. The purpose of ASSAR is to carry out interdisciplinary research experiments with a view to generate new stakeholder-driven knowledge on vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in semi-arid regions, develop innovative communication approaches for effective knowledge sharing on climate change vulnerability and adaptation, and strengthen capacity for adaptation in research, policy and practice domains. In three of the ASSAR regions, the project is employing a modified collaborative Transformative Scenario Planning (TSP) ([Kahane, 2013](#)) approach to support stakeholders in the development of effective adaptive strategies for enhancing resilience to climate variability, climate change and extreme events.

Call for application:

The ACDI invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for a postdoctoral research fellowship (PDRF) to lead a comparative analysis of the Transformative Scenario Planning processes that are being undertaken in the ASSAR project. He/she will play a lead role in the development of a framework to analyse the TSPs that are occurring in ASSAR case study locations in Namibia, Botswana, Ghana, Mali and India. The PDRF will also play a lead role in research design that can be applied across multiple research sites, coordination of activities with regional research teams, advising of members of the regional teams that are implementing the research design in individual research sites. A key part of the research project will be to synthesise research results across different sites, through journal articles, and more accessible products aimed at those working in adaptation policy and practice. Potentially, the PDRF will play a role in other areas of comparative analysis across the four ASSAR regions.

Academic conditions:

- A PhD, awarded within the previous five years, in a relevant academic discipline (or disciplines) such as development, psychology, anthropology, sociology, ideally with a focus relevant to evaluating scenario or related social learning and participatory processes
- Demonstrated ability to produce peer-reviewed research articles
- Ability to apply social science and other appropriate research methods to critically analyse and evaluate the TSP processes, learning and outcomes
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English

Additional skills and experience that will be advantageous:

- Written and verbal communication skills in French
- Working / researching with local institutions and communities

- Experience, or a desire to build experience, in communicating research to diverse non-expert audiences

Conditions of award:

- Applicants must have completed their doctoral degrees within the past 5 years and may not previously have held a full-time permanent professional or academic post.
- No benefits or allowances are included in the Fellowship.
- As part of his/her professional development, the successful candidate may be required to participate in a limited capacity in departmental activities, such as teaching, student supervision, etc.
- The successful applicant will be required to register as a Postdoctoral fellow at the University of Cape Town immediately and will not be considered a UCT *employee*.
- The successful applicant will be required to comply with the university's approved policies, procedures, and practises for the postdoctoral sector.

Value and tenure:

- The value of the fellowship is ZAR 260,000 tenable for two years, with the second year renewal contingent on satisfactory academic progress.
- The Fellowship includes additional funds for fieldwork visits and coordination with ASSAR regional partners, as well as funds for attendance of ASSAR's annual meeting and one/two international conferences per year.

Application requirements:

Applicants should submit (i) an application letter that includes a short description of their expertise and research interests, and how these relate to the position, (ii) a CV including a publication list, (iii) copies of their academic transcripts, and (iv) email addresses of at least two references who been directly involved in their doctoral and/or previous postdoctoral research.

Applications should be emailed to: nomabelu.somatube@uct.ac.za **before 14th December.**

Selection process:

- Only eligible and complete applications will be considered by the selection committee.
- Interviews will take place the week of 19th December and the successful candidate is expected to start the week of 9th January 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Closing date:

Applications that are received before **14th December, 2016** are guaranteed to be considered. Applications received thereafter may be considered in the absence of suitable candidates.

Contact details for submission of applications: Noma Somatube at nomabelu.somatube@uct.ac.za

Contact details for enquiries about the fellowship topic and ASSAR: lucia.scodanibbio@uct.ac.za

The University of Cape Town reserves the right to disqualify ineligible, incomplete and/or inappropriate applications. The University of Cape Town also reserves the right to change the conditions of the award or to make no awards at all.