



1 March 2022

## **Postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Cape Town: Transdisciplinary research into interventions and tools for community-level adaptation to global change**

A postdoctoral research fellowship hosted by the [Marine Ecology and Fisheries research group](#) at the University of Cape Town is available as soon as the position is filled. Tenure will be for one year, with renewal for a second year subject to satisfactory progress. Specifically, this postdoctoral fellow will contribute to the NRF project “Building adaptive capacity to ocean change at multiple scales through promoting ecosystem-based adaptation and community engagement (Eco-ACE)”. This project is a 3-year transdisciplinary project being undertaken in collaboration with the University of Cape Town, the University of the Western Cape, and Nelson Mandela University. The PIs for the project are Prof Lynne Shannon, Dr Louise Gammage and Dr Kelly Ortega.

The Eco-ACE project aims to facilitate and improve the adaptive capacity of vulnerable groups in coastal communities along the west and south coast of South Africa by following a co-design and collaborative research approach that uses multiple methods. We take a community-based research approach to co-design and develop interventions and tools with stakeholders to improve adaptive capacity at the local level. At the same time, decision-makers will be engaged to identify and implement interventions to promote ecosystem-based decision-making. Furthermore, we will integrate social and ecological knowledge into ecosystem models using a participative modelling approach. Through these various interventions, we will also facilitate science and stakeholder engagement concerning climate change and variability and the effects thereof. By defining and outlining a field-tested approach, our project will directly contribute to strengthening the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities and create awareness of climate change at the local level, strengthen existing ecosystem models of the southern Benguela through the integration of local knowledge and contribute to the promotion of ecosystem-based management approaches in South Africa through capacity building at larger scales and policy recommendations.

To aid the implementation of this project, we are seeking a postdoctoral researcher to **“facilitate and coordinate the Co-design of interventions and tools for community-level adaptation to global change.”**

This project aims to build capacity at the local level through co-design and collaboration. Specifically, the project will explore with coastal communities (knowledge co-production) various interventions and tools (for example, causal mapping and mental models, scenarios, audio projects and photovoice narratives of change) that can be implemented at the community level to facilitate better decision-making to increase the adaptive capacity of small-scale fishers and their communities in South Africa. This study will use a community-based participatory research (CBPR) approach to co-design tools and interventions to address the adaptive capacity of coastal communities whilst facilitating conversations and interactions between fishers and a diverse array of researchers, including ecosystem modellers. These interactions will facilitate

i) the inclusion of local and indigenous knowledge on small scale fishing in ecosystem models and ii) communication of modelled scenario outputs to users to increase awareness of the potential impacts of change at the local level. These scenarios will make an important contribution to the tools that can be used to build adaptive capacity within these communities.

We seek a candidate with a background in Environmental Science, Sustainability Science, Geography, Sociology, or a related field. Being conversant with the South African fisheries landscape and marine context is preferred. The successful candidate should have some experience with and document interest in conducting mixed-method research – in particular, they need to be conversant with participant-led research and methods. They should have a passion for working with diverse people and working independently and collaboratively. Candidates must be willing and able to spend extended periods in the field working with coastal communities as embedded researchers. Working knowledge of Afrikaans would be advantageous but is not crucial.

A fellowship will support the candidate to the annual value between ZAR 200,000 and ZAR 300,000 for 2022, depending on experience and satisfactory progress, reduced pro-rata to the remainder of the year. In addition, the candidate needs to be eligible for enrolment as a Postdoctoral research fellow at UCT, as detailed [here](#).

Applications should be sent in pdf format and consist of a motivation letter, CV with publication list, university transcripts, and the name of two or three referees. They should be sent in a single email to [louise.gammage@uct.ac.za](mailto:louise.gammage@uct.ac.za) and [kelly.ortegacisneros@uct.ac.za](mailto:kelly.ortegacisneros@uct.ac.za). Applicant screening will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. More information about our group can be found at [www.eafsa.uct.ac.za](http://www.eafsa.uct.ac.za). Questions about the fellowships can be directed to Dr Louise Gammage or Dr Kelly Ortega.

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