



November 2021

Postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Cape Town: Marine system-based stakeholder processes

A one-year postdoctoral research fellowship hosted by the [South African Research Chair in Marine Ecology and Fisheries](#) at the University of Cape Town is available from 1 January 2022. 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 in 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 marine system models using a participative modelling approach. Through these various interventions, we will also facilitate marine science engagement and stakeholder awareness concerning climate change and variability and the effects thereof. By defining and implementing a field-tested approach, Eco-ACE 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 **“Identify, enable and implement system-based stakeholder processes which will set the groundwork to facilitate co-development of adaptation options in three coastal communities in the southern Benguela.”**

The fellow will be required for the co-convening stage of the project - specifically for identifying and mapping various stakeholders in the selected communities and governance structures and engaging with them to identify their needs and aspirations. The postdoctoral fellow will also collaborate with the various students working on the project.

We are seeking a candidate with a background in marine social sciences and/or policy planning, with documented experience in actively engaging with diverse groups of people. Interdisciplinary research experience across the social- and natural sciences will be an advantage. A driver’s license is required, as is the willingness to conduct fieldwork in the Western Cape and parts of the Eastern Cape bordering the Benguela Large Marine Ecosystem.

A fellowship will support the candidate to the annual value of between ZAR 300,000 and ZAR 350,000 for 2022, depending on relevant experience. It should be noted that this amount will be reduced pro-rata to the remainder of the year from the date of registration. The candidate needs to be eligible for registration 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 and kelly.ortegacisneros@uct.ac.za. Applicant screening will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. 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.