



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow on Co-production of Climate Services in Africa
Faculty of Environment



Salary: Grade 7 (£33,797 – £40,322 p.a.)

Reference: ENVEE1414

Fixed-term until 31 January 2024 due to external funding

We will consider job share / flexible working arrangements

Research Fellow on Co-production of Climate Services in Africa

School of Earth and Environment, Faculty of Environment

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have a background in climate services? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a researcher to conduct research on the co-production of climate services in East Africa. This position is funded by Horizon 2020 as part of the project 'Co-production of Climate Services in East Africa' (CONFER).

CONFER aims to co-develop dedicated climate services in East Africa for the water, energy and food security sectors with stakeholders and end-users to enhance their ability to plan for and adapt to seasonal climate fluctuations.

This post will be based at Leeds and will involve coordinating and managing, together with the PI, a work package whose aim is to facilitate and support the co-production of climate services and enhance preparedness to climate risks in three priority sectors in the region - energy, water and food security. You will be working with stakeholders and end-users in the region as well as CONFER scientists. Your activities will include engaging with a range of stakeholders in the region through qualitative and participatory methods, conducting literature reviews, guiding and supporting the various stages of co-producing new climate services in the region with project partners and stakeholders as well as its co-evaluation and exploring the potential for upscaling and using the services developed with other organisations in the region.

The post-holder will be based at the Sustainability Research Institute at the University of Leeds and will be part of the research group on Climate Change Adaptation, Vulnerability and Services. There will also be opportunities to interact with the Priestley International Centre for Climate at the University of Leeds.

What does the role entail?

As a Research Fellow, your main duties will include:

- Coordinating and managing, together with the PI, a work package whose aim is to facilitate and support the co-production of climate services and enhance



the preparedness to climate risks in the three priority sectors in the region – energy, water and food security;

- Preparing and running participatory workshops and webinars as well as conducting interviews;
- Carrying out other empirical work including literature reviews;
- Analysing and interpreting the results of research;
- Preparing project deliverables and presentations in a timely manner;
- Preparing papers for publication in leading international journals and disseminating research results through other recognised forms of output;
- Presenting at national and international conferences and similar events;
- Generating and pursuing, with guidance from the PI, independent and original research ideas in the appropriate subject area;
- Working both independently and as part of a larger team of researchers, engaging in knowledge-transfer activities where appropriate and feasible;
- Maintaining your own continuing professional development and acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues as appropriate;
- Contributing to the training of both undergraduate and postgraduate students, including assisting with the supervision of projects in areas relevant to the project;
- Balancing the competing pressures of research and administrative demands and deadlines;
- Ensuring satisfactory compliance in your work with respect to health and safety, ethical requirements etc;
- If COVID-19 travel restrictions ease and international business travel is allowed by the University, you will be required to travel to Africa for up to 5 days at a time. There are expected to be 14 visits to Africa, primarily to Kenya.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.

What will you bring to the role?

As a Research Fellow you will have:

- A PhD or near completion - i.e. the initial thesis needs to have been handed in at the point of application - in environmental and/or social sciences or a closely allied discipline;



- A strong background in co-production, climate services, stakeholder engagement, conducting research in Africa;
- Good experience in implementing qualitative and participatory research methods;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including a demonstrated capacity to undertake research and write it up in publishable form and an ability to write clearly and accessibly in English for academic and policy audiences;
- A proven track record of peer-reviewed publications in high impact factor journals and presentations at international conferences;
- Experience of working well both individually and cooperatively in a multidisciplinary team;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines, manage competing demands and work effectively under pressure without close support;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development;
- The ability and willingness to travel to Africa in order to work.

You may also have:

- Existing collaborations with organisations and networks of interest in Africa/East Africa;
- Experience of pursuing external funding to support research.

How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information page. Applications should be submitted by **23.59** (UK time) on the advertised closing date.

Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

[Dr Marta Bruno Soares](#), Met Office University Academic Fellow

Email: m.brunosoares@leeds.ac.uk



Additional information

Find out more about the [Faculty of Environment](#).

Find out more about our [Sustainability Research Institute](#)

Find out more about our [Research and associated facilities](#).

Find out more about [Equality in the Faculty](#)

A diverse workforce

The Faculty of Environment has received a prestigious Athena SWAN silver award from [Advance HE](#), the national body that promotes equality in the higher education sector. This award represents the combined efforts of all schools in the Faculty and shows the positive actions we have taken to ensure that our policies, processes and ethos all promote an equal and inclusive environment for work and study.

Working at Leeds

Find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area on our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

Candidates with disabilities

Information for candidates with disabilities, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at disclosure@leeds.ac.uk.

Criminal record information

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

A criminal record check is not required for this position, however, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

Any offer of appointment will be in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records information](#).

