



The African Climate Change Fellowship Program – Phase III

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

10th December 2014

Call for Applications: African Climate Change Fellowship Program

Date 10th December 2014

Deadline for submission of proposals: 30th January 2015

ACCFP offers experiential learning, education, and research and training opportunities to African professionals, researchers and graduate students to build their capabilities for advancing and applying knowledge for climate change adaptation in Africa. ACCFP is jointly administered by the Institute of Resource Assessment (IRA) of the University of Dar es Salaam and START International, Inc. (START). The ACCFP Secretariat, based at IRA, is pleased to announce a Call for Proposals for fellowships on climate change adaptation in Africa

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1.0 Background and rationale

Advancing climate change adaptation requires innovative learning; that has been a challenge for developing countries. Despite various initiatives to advance climate change adaptation knowledge, many problems remain. Given the great complexity of the climate change problem and the problems that society is facing, climate change capacity building programs must adopt more integrated view of the role of climate change in the natural environment around us. Therefore, the advancement of climate change adaptation science must undergo a paradigm shift away from imparting a narrow set of basic climate change impacts and adaptation assessments to consider the complex uncertainties associated with managing and adapting to climate change. The African Climate Change Fellowship Program (ACCFP) offers experiential learning, education, and research and training opportunities to African professionals, researchers and graduate students to build their capabilities for advancing and applying knowledge for climate change adaptation in Africa.

2.0 Overall goal, objectives and structure

The ACCFP, which was initiated in 2008 and is now in its third phase, aims to advance understanding and support research on key thematic climate issues to inform policy and practice in Africa. This third phase of the program (ACCFP III) emphasizes a particular focus on water resources, gender dynamics, green growth and economic analyses of adaptation. By way of this Call for Proposals and the competitive process that follows, the ACCFP will provide grants and train 30 young African scholars, researchers and professionals to conduct climate change adaptation research during 2015. The 2015 ACCFP Fellowships will be awarded as follows:

- 12 Adaptation Policy Fellowships
- 18 Adaptation Science Fellowships

2.1 Adaptation Science Fellowships

The ACCFP Adaptation Science Fellowship aims to address the climate change impacts and adaptation across spatial scales, based on case studies from across the African continent. Science fellows are expected to build on the already established knowledge on climate change adaptation science and address the current and future adaptation needs. In addition to their original research questions Adaptation Science fellows should address at least one of the following questions;

- How do we integrate quantitative and qualitative aspects of climate change impacts and adaptation in addressing societal needs?
- How does adaptation science evolve in a changing world?

- How do we balance local scale adaptation knowledge with adaptation across scales and the associated uncertainties?
- What new approaches are available to enable learning and understanding the complexities associated with climate change impacts and adaptation?

Science fellowships will be provided to a total of 18 individuals in 2015. Approximately 7 of these will be awarded to Post-Doctoral scientists who are based in African institutions and who are working on relevant research. Approximately 7 will be awarded to doctoral scientists and approximately 4 to Masters students, both of which must be enrolled in and conducting research related to climate change and adaptation as part of a Doctoral and Master's Program at an African university.

Adaptation Science Fellows will be matched with an African Host Institution, where they will reside for at least part of their Fellowship experience. Postdoctoral and doctoral stage Fellows will receive up to USD 14,000 to conduct research for up to a year, while Masters stage Fellows will receive up to USD 10 000 to conduct research for up to a year. An administrative fee of no more than USD 2,000 will be provided to host institutions to support recovery of administrative costs.

Please note that Fellows are not required to request the maximum amount available, but rather should justify the scale and duration of the proposed work relative to the research objectives. The appropriateness of the proposed budget to the proposed work plan will be considered in the review and selection process.

2.2 Adaptation Policy Fellowships

The aim of the Adaptation Policy Fellowships is to contribute to a greater awareness about climate change and climate change adaptation issues in African decision making processes and begin to engage relevant policy makers on the subject. Policy Fellowships are redesigned in ACCFP III, with an emphasis on face-to-face training sessions and practical assignments that are linked to fellows' ongoing decision-oriented or policy work. This change is expected to help target the right audience of applicants for the Fellowships, with the longer-term goal of engendering greater influence in decision and policymaking.

In 2015, ACCFP will support 12 Adaptation Policy Fellows. Fellowships will begin with a two-week intensive training institute on integrating research and methods into the mainstream of climate change policy making in African countries. Following the training event, Policy Fellows will implement activities such as policy dialogues, workshops, policy briefs in addition to desk based research at their home institutions. The ACCFP will bring together Policy Fellows again, at the end of their

projects, to share their results and experiences.

The 12 Adaptation Policy Fellowships are expected to be offered to:

1. Policy makers;
2. Professionals from government ministries; or
3. Researchers who have active and existing links with the policy environment and policy actors.

Fellows' will receive full travel support from the ACCFP for participation in the training institute (i.e., round-trip economy airfare, accommodations, meals and incidentals). Each Fellow will then be awarded up to USD 1,500 to conduct desk-based research and initiate the process of engaging policy makers in various ways over a four month period, under the supervision of a mentor. Policy Fellows will be brought together again for a one week consolidation period where they will present their work and finalize on it with their mentors, before they return to their Home institutions to produce a final report within a month. An honorarium of USD 1,000 will be given to Fellows on successful completion of their projects. Please, remember that Policy Fellows do not have hosts- they do their projects at their Home Institutions

3.0 Priority Themes

ACCFP III has four priority research themes, as identified and described in the sections that follow. All ACCFP Adaptation Science and Adaptation Policy Fellowship projects are required to advance and/or apply knowledge for climate change adaptation in Africa with respect to at least one of these priority themes:

3.1 Climate change and water

Africa's water resources, as in many other regions of the world, are facing many challenges including climate change. Achieving water and food security for everyone is one of the greatest challenges the world is facing today. At the community level, small scale agriculture and better management of water resources could help address water resources challenges. At the national level, investments in land, water and energy have to be weighed against each other. At the regional and global levels, trade, climate and energy policy are important policy arenas that need to be considered for development of resilient water sector. This ACCFP III theme aims to address water resources challenges in the context of climate change adaptation, to support discovery of solutions in implementing sustainable approaches at different scales, and to better understand how these scales are linked with one another through synergies and trade-offs. ACCFP III is

particularly keen to support research on;

1. Exploring uncertainties in assessing climate change impacts on water resources and water development infrastructure;
2. The role of policies, regulations, knowledge tools and technologies in enhancing efficiency and equity of water services and
3. Climate change impacts on African deltas and wetlands and the role of African Deltas in enhancing climate change adaptation in the water sector.

3.2 Climate change and gender

While the impacts of climate change are felt by all people across the continent, climate change does not affect everyone in the same way. Since men and women are affected differently, responses to the impacts of climate change also differ, especially in the context of safeguarding food security and livelihoods ([CCAFS-FAO 2011](#)). As such, ACCFP III will support Science and Policy Fellowships that investigate:

1. How marginalized groups could be supported to better make decisions on how to adapt to climate change.
2. How social differentiation and changing gender relations are both expected to play a major role in the development and transformations of societies for climate change adaptation.

3.3 Climate change and green growth

Natural resources are the foundation of many developing countries' economies and a source of livelihood for millions of people. But the sustainability and productivity of these resources – water, energy, land, forests, and biodiversity – are threatened by rising demands associated with population and income growth, as well as by climate change. Sustainable development means transitioning to an economy that better appreciates the contributions of natural capital to welfare and economic growth, while avoiding lock-in to unsustainable patterns of consumption and production (Dercon, 2011). This calls for growth that creates new opportunities, greener jobs and practical ways for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable populations to adapt to change, including climate change, in ways that improve efficiency in the use of natural resources, protect ecosystems and avoid irreversible damage to the environment (OECD, 2011; Worldbank, 2012). In this thematic area, ACCFP III will support projects under the broad categories of:

1. Research that assesses the contribution of Green Growth in strengthening the sustainable management of natural resources and improve the efficiency of

resource use.

2. Research on the effects on Green Growth of the activities of the local private sector in developing countries and how these might be enhanced.

3.4 Economic Analysis of Adaptation Options

The changing climate increases the vulnerability of societies around the world. Besides mitigation efforts, adaptation measures are needed to counteract the impacts of climate change. Scientific literature on adaptation focuses on impacts, vulnerability and constraints to adaptation ([Adger et al., 2007](#); [Smit and Wandel, 2006](#); [Smit et al., 2001](#)). Decision-makers are faced with the challenge to implement economically efficient and effective adaptation policies and measures. Despite significant research that has been conducted on economic analysis of adaptation options, there is need for further research on the costs and benefits of adaptation to climate change, particularly at country level ([Adger et al., 2007](#)). It is apparent that costs of and investments for adaptation is still poorly understood, and there exists a need to step up efforts in this regard. The assessment of the financial flows gives an overview of what level of resources and measures would be needed for successfully financing the international response to climate change, for making future climate change policies a success and ultimately, for implementing adaptation measures. Further, a wide range of adaptation measures have the potential to reduce the impacts of climate change by amounts in excess of their costs, especially when non-economic objectives such as environment and equity are taken into account ([Leichenko et al., 2011](#)).

Under this theme, ACCFP3 seeks to support:

1. The exploration and further development of economic assessment methods to support decision-making in adaptation to climate change
2. Efforts that provide evidence of costs and benefits of adaptation options to facilitate decision-making, and
3. Improved understanding of Investments and financial flows for climate change adaptation.

4.0 ACCFP Eligibility

To be eligible to receive an ACCFP Fellowship, applicants and applications must meet the program's general eligibility criteria as well as the eligibility criteria that are specific to the respective Fellowship type. General and Fellowship-specific eligibility criteria are outlined in the sections below. ACCFP program staff will pre-screen all applications to ensure that eligibility criteria are met. Applications that do not meet all eligibility criteria will not receive

further evaluation.

4.1 General eligibility criteria

All ACCFP applications must meet the following general eligibility criteria:

1. Applicant must be a citizen of an African nation;
2. Applicant must be age 40 years or less as of 31 December 2014;
3. Proposed Fellowship project and activities must be clearly related to, and likely to advance, climate change adaptation in Africa within the thematic focus area selected; and
4. All application materials must be complete and received by the ACCFP Secretariat on or before the application deadline.

4.2 Fellowship-specific eligibility criteria

ACCFP applicants must also meet the criteria specified below for the Fellowship type that they select.

Prospective Adaptation Policy Fellows must:

1. Have a Master's or Doctorate degree OR a Bachelor's degree plus 2 or more years professional experience related to policy, planning or management of climate sensitive resources, sectors, systems or livelihoods.
2. Be working (currently) in an organization that influences or has the potential to influence policy and decision-making in climate-sensitive sectors in Africa; and
3. Submit an Institutional Support Form (part of the application materials – see below) that confirms the applicant's Home Institution's formal endorsement of his or her participation in the ACCFP and its commitment to involve the applicant in climate change related work after the Fellowship experience.

Prospective Adaptation Science Fellows must:

(For Post-Doctoral Scientists)

1. Have completed a PhD degree by 31 December 2014
2. Clearly describe plans for work following the Fellowship experience that will enable them to expand, improve and make more effective their personal contributions advancing climate change adaptation in Africa

(For Doctoral Students)

1. Be enrolled in a doctoral program at an African university;

2. Have successfully defended his or her dissertation proposal and be actively involved in dissertation research that is related to climate change risks and adaptation at the time of this application;
3. Clearly define the specific component of the research that will be supported by the ACCFP Fellowship and explain how the supported activities improve the overall scientific quality of the research and the utility of the research for climate change adaptation;
4. Propose work to be carried out in partnership with a Host Institution that is not the candidate's Home Institution (i.e., Fellowships may not be used to support work that is done at the university at which the applicant will earn the doctoral degree); and
5. Submit an Institutional Support Form (part of the application materials – see below) that confirms the applicant's Home Institution's formal endorsement of his or her participation in the ACCFP and its commitment to involve the applicant in climate change related work after the Fellowship experience.

(For Masters applicants)

1. Be registered for a relevant Master's degree and have 2 or more years professional experience related to climate risk assessment and adaptation or more broadly, adaptation to environmental change;
2. Be employed by and currently working in an institution or organization where climate change risk, vulnerability and adaptation research is conducted;
3. Propose a research project based on clearly defined and targeted tasks that can be completed within the Fellowship period;
4. Propose work in partnership with and in residence at an appropriate ACCFP Host Institution that is not the candidate's Home Institution (i.e., Fellowships may not be used to support work that is done in residence at the candidate's current institution); and
5. Submit a signed Institutional Support Form (part of the application materials – see below) that confirms the applicant's Home Institution's formal endorsement of his or her participation in the ACCFP and its commitment to involve the applicant in climate change related work after the Fellowship experience

5.0 Application Assessment and Fellow Selection

All ACCFP applications that meet general and specific eligibility criteria will subsequently be evaluated against the following criteria:

1. Appropriateness of stated objectives and methodology
2. Technical merit of the proposed work
3. Qualifications and capabilities of the applicant

4. Appropriateness of the proposed budget
5. Appropriateness of proposed Host Institution
6. Benefits to Home and Host Institutions, where applicable

All Fellows should demonstrate in their proposal how they will disseminate their findings by engaging their Ministry and how their work will benefit their country and institution.

5.1 Project concept note (5 pages maximum; attach as PDF or Word doc):

At this stage, a brief concept note is required that describes the proposed work to be supported by an ACCFP Fellowship. Applicants for the Adaptation Science Fellowship must present an original research project. Applicants for the Adaptation Policy Fellowship must explain their plans for follow-on project activities.

Please prepare and submit, a project concept note that describes the following:

- (a) Title of the project;
- (b) Objectives and rationale that describe the goals and purpose of the project;
- (c) Methodology describing how the research or follow-on activity will be conducted and what methods will be used;
- (d) Statement on who the research or follow-on activity is expected to impact and how the research results will be linked to potential users of the information;
- (e) Expected outcomes and outputs of the proposed project;
- (f) Work plan outlining the activities to be completed, including a clear timeline that indicates the proposed Fellowship period (i.e starting and ending dates) and project milestones;
- (g) The budget should outline all project related costs in relation to, for example, travel for data collection; materials and supplies; and facilities & administrative costs, as appropriate. Please adhere to budget maximums for your Fellowship type, as described in the Call for Applications.

For the Adaptation Science Fellowship, applicants selected to receive an ACCFP Fellowship award will be required to submit a full proposal with budget narrative, agreed upon by the Home and Host Institutions' Supervisors, before the Fellow takes up their Fellowship.

6.0 Host institutions

In 2015, ACCFP Adaptation Science Fellows, who come from institutions across Africa (i.e., their "Home Institutions"), will be hosted at ACCFP "Host institutions" where they will travel and reside in order to collaborate with carefully selected mentors to implement their individually designed Fellowship activities. ACCFP allows flexibility with regards to the period of residence at Host Institutions – the most useful and productive duration of residency will be determined by the Fellow, Home and Host supervisors. However, the applicant must clearly show how he / she is going to effectively utilize the time spent at

both Host and Home Institutions and effectively maintain active collaboration between the Host and the Home Institutions. Host Institutions are expected to support Fellows by providing supervision and mentoring, evaluating Fellows' performance and providing appropriate workspace. Additional support may include engaging Fellows in the work of the Host Institution; involving Fellows in institution's and research projects and in projects with Host Institution partners; facilitating involvement of Fellows with civil society, government and private sector organizations; providing access to relevant institutional facilities (e.g., computing, data and laboratory facilities); and/or providing specialized training, such as participation of Fellows in graduate courses or seminars.

For ACCFP III, applicants will propose their Host Institution(s) of choice as part of the application process. To help facilitate Fellow and Host matching, the ACCFP has identified a number of "pre-approved" Host Institutions that it believes to have the necessary capabilities and commitment to provide valuable Fellowship experiences in a variety of subject areas. Prospective Fellows who are interested in matching with one of the pre-approved Hosts should contact the institution(s) and have their approval before submitting their applications. The list of ACCFP pre-approved Hosts, with contact information, is available on the program website at www.accfp.org. Applicants may propose Host Institutions that are not included in the list but must submit letters of support from those institution(s) as part of their application materials.

7.0 Application materials

Applications to be an ACCFP Fellow will not be considered complete until all required materials are received by the ACCFP Secretariat. A complete ACCFP application consists of the following:

1. An online **ACCFP Application Form**, including upload of a **project concept note** and **project budget table** (required for Science fellows applicants);
2. **Institutional Support Form** (optional for Post-Doctoral Scientists applying for an Adaptation Science Fellowship; required for all other applicants);
3. **Two (2) Professional Reference Forms** (required for all applicants); and
4. **Letter of Support from proposed Host Institution** (for Science Fellows only)

All application materials are available in both English and French, and applications may be submitted in either English or French.

Applicants are encouraged to adhere strictly to all word limits stipulated in the ACCFP forms. Failure to do so will be interpreted as lack of ability to identify essential information and write concisely and will be judged unfavorably in the application review process.

8.0. How to Apply

All applications must be submitted using the online ACCFP application process. To access the online application system, please visit www.accfp.org. Applicants must choose either the **English** or **French version** of the application, depending on their preferred language.

On the online application window that appears, the new candidate will be required to register in order to be able to login and access the application form. Then click on Application form and complete all fields accordingly.

All applicants will be required to complete the following online steps and tasks.

Step 1: Completion of full online Application

Task 1: Uploading the Proposal

Project proposals are required from all ACCFP Fellowship applicants, regardless of Fellowship type. The proposal must be typewritten in Arial font 12. The proposal may be written in English or French.

For science fellows, an Excel budget workbook was created especially for this call: it is available in the [Resource folder](#) of the online application platform. A description of the allowable budget categories (personnel, data collection, equipment, international travel, training, research expenses) is available on each respective category in the excel workbook. All parts of the budget form will have to be completed.

Task 2: Uploading Letter(s) of Support from the appropriate institutions(s) and referee(s). Signed letters of support from appropriate people associated with this proposal must be uploaded, by respective individuals. For the Institutional Support Form and Professional Reference Forms, fill in the contact details of the respective person/institution and an email with the directives on how to submit the online recommendation letters will be sent automatically to respective email addresses

- The Institutional Support Form should be completed by an appropriate representative of the applicant's Home Institution and should be submitted by the Home Institution (i.e., not the applicant) directly to the Secretariat.
- Professional Reference Forms should be completed by two (2) suitable referees and submitted by each referee directly to the Secretariat.
- Letter(s) of commitment from prospective Host Institutions, where applicable, may be submitted by the Applicant or a representative of the relevant institution.
- **Note that it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that his or her Home Institution and two referees have submitted the letters in time.**

Task 3: Uploading high quality products high quality products, such as certificates should be uploaded separately.

9.0 Communication of results

Once the ACCFP selection process is complete, the ACCFP Secretariat will notify successful applicants of award decisions. It is expected that the results of the selection process will be communicated via email by 10th March 2015 to the Applicant indicated in the proposal.

10.0 Permission for use and disclosure of information

Relevant departments and individuals of the ACCFP Secretariat and its partners, the International Development Research Centre, will have access to all information related to the proposals submitted for this fellowship, including the full applications, and the ranking and rating lists of the review committee. Individual applications are otherwise considered confidential until they are approved for funding, at which point the abstract, objectives, and budget of the approved proposals will be in the public domain. By way of submitting an application under this call, the applicant consents to the disclosure of the documents submitted by the applicant to the reviewers involved in the selection process, both within the ACCFP secretariat , IDRC and externally. The applicant further consents to the disclosure of the name of the applicant, and the title of the proposed project, in any announcement of selected proposals.

For further information about the ACCFP and/or this Call for Applications, please contact the ACCFP Secretariat at: accfp2@gmail.com or accfp@ira.udsm.ac.tz