



# THE AFRICAN CLIMATE CHANGE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

## **2008 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

Applications are invited for the inaugural round of **African Climate Change Fellowships**. The African Climate Change Fellowship Program (ACCFP) aims to support African professionals, researchers and graduate students to undertake activities that will enhance their capacities for advancing and applying knowledge for climate change adaptation in Africa. The program is jointly administered by the global change SysTEM for Analysis, Research and Training (START), the Institute of Resource Assessment (IRA) of the University of Dar es Salaam and the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), with financial support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada.

This Call for Applications is extended to researchers, scientists, and academics working in fields related to climate change and climate change adaptation *as well as* professionals and practitioners with experience and responsibilities related to policy, planning or management of climate sensitive resources, sectors, systems or livelihoods.

A variety of Fellowship types are offered to support projects, research, and other activities that advance adaptation in Africa. The Fellowships range in duration from 2-18 months, and award amounts range from USD \$5,000 - \$36,000, depending on Fellowship type. Eligibility is limited to citizens of member states of the African Union who are 40 years of age or younger.

The timing of when Fellowships may begin and end is flexible within the following constraints. No Fellowships may begin before 15 January 2009, and all Fellowships must be completed no later than 15 September 2010. Post-Doctoral Fellowships, which can be up to 18 months in duration, should start no later than 15 March 2009, with preferred start dates of 15 February 2009 or earlier.

Instructions and guidelines for preparing and submitting an application to be an ACCFP Fellow are provided in this document. All application materials must be submitted no later than **17 September 2008**.

## **1. DESCRIPTION OF THE FELLOWSHIPS**

The ACCFP is awarding Fellowship grants that will enable Fellows to visit other institutions (referred to as "Host Institutions") to undertake a project or activities that will increase their knowledge, capabilities, and experience for advancing climate change adaptation in Africa. While in residence at a Host Institution, Fellows will execute a Fellowship project of their own design. A wide range of projects can be supported, including, for example: (i) learning what others are doing to manage climate risks and adapt to climate change, how they assess and prioritize climate risks, current practices for designing and implementing adaptation projects, and approaches for integrating adaptation with program planning and policy; (ii) undertaking research that supports adaptation decision-making; and/or (iii) developing and implementing curricula for integrating climate change and climate change adaptation into graduate level education. Following the Fellowship experience, most Fellows are expected to return to their current employer or university (referred to as "Home Institutions"), where they will play a role in integrating climate change adaptation into the work of the Home Institution.

Four types of Fellowships are available: 1) Policy Fellowships; (2) Doctoral Research Fellowships; (3) Post-Doctoral Fellowships; and (4) Teaching Fellowships. Descriptions of each Fellowship type are provided below.

**(1) Policy Fellowships** will be awarded to approximately 24 early to mid-career candidates who are resident in Africa and are currently working in organizations that play a role in or have the potential to influence policies and decision-making in climate-sensitive sectors in Africa. Policy Fellows will receive an award that will enable them to visit a suitable institution to participate in activities and execute a project, of their own design, that will prepare them to improve the management of climate risks, advance climate change adaptation, and shape and communicate climate change positions and policy. Policy Fellowships will last 6 months or less.

**(2) Doctoral Research Fellowships** will be awarded to approximately 12 students who are studying in a doctoral program and conducting research related to climate change risks and adaptation at an African university. Doctoral Fellows will receive an award that will enable them to visit a suitable Host Institution for training in innovative methods, models or analytic tools; to participate in supervised research; and/or to access data, models, or tools that would raise their capabilities as a researcher and significantly improve the quality and value of their dissertation research. The Fellowship experience should be designed so that it supplements the training and education being received from the Fellow's Home Institution (i.e., their university). The Home Institution, not the Host, will grant the doctoral degree. Doctoral Fellowships will last for 12 months or less.

**(3) Post-Doctoral Fellowships** will be awarded to approximately 15 Africans with doctoral degrees in fields relevant to climate change and climate change adaptation. The aim of the Post-Doctoral Fellowships is to enable recipients to participate in research and teaching under the supervision of a more established mentor and to become more productive researchers and teachers in fields that will

contribute to improved management of climate risks and climate change adaptation. Post-Doctoral Fellows will receive an award that will enable them to visit a suitable institution to work with an established, highly qualified researcher/teacher on a well-defined problem. Post-Doctoral Fellows will also mentor and help to supervise other ACCFP Fellows placed at their Host Institution. Post-Doctoral Fellowships can last for up to 18 months.

**(4) Teaching Fellowships** will be awarded to approximately 10 educators from African universities. The aim of the Teaching Fellowships is to enable recipients to develop and implement new Masters-level courses on climate change related topics or to integrate climate change topics into existing courses. Priority will be given to design and development of interdisciplinary courses and those that fit logically within and add value to existing Master's programs. Teaching Fellows will be awarded a grant that will enable them to develop new courses by, for example, traveling to other teaching institutions; bringing other educators to the Fellow's campus to collaborate on course curricula and/or be guest lecturers; training; purchasing teaching materials; purchasing release time from teaching duties; and supporting teaching assistants. Teaching Fellowships will last for 2 months or less.

## **2. ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA**

Fellowship applications will be screened for meeting **eligibility criteria** for participation in the African Climate Change Fellowship Program (ACCFP). Eligible applications will then be evaluated by the ACCFP based on **selection criteria**. The eligibility and selection criteria are described below.

Highly rated applications will be selected by the ACCFP as prospective Fellowship Award recipients. Those applications will then be circulated to the relevant Host Institution(s) for their evaluation. Applicants must be approved by both the ACCFP and a Host Institution for a Fellowship award to be made. Host Institutions may use criteria that are different or additional to those listed below for their evaluations (e.g. relevance of the proposal to the specific interests of the Host, availability of a supervisor with appropriate expertise to mentor a particular applicant).

### **Eligibility criteria**

To be eligible for an award, Fellowship applicants must meet general criteria that are applicable to all fellowship types as well as criteria that are specific to the type of fellowship for which application is made.

#### ***General Criteria for Eligibility:***

All applicants for Fellowships must meet the following general eligibility criteria:

1. Applicant must be a citizen of a member state of the African Union;
2. Applicant must be age 40 years or less as of 31 September 2008;
3. The proposed Fellowship project and activities must be clearly related to and likely to advance climate change adaptation in Africa; and

4. Applications must be complete and received on or before the application deadline.

### ***Special Criteria for Each Fellowship Type:***

In addition to the general eligibility criteria, the following eligibility requirements apply specifically to each Fellowship type:

#### Policy Fellows

1. Applicant must have a Masters degree **OR** a bachelors degree plus 2 or more years professional experience related to policy, planning or management of climate sensitive resources, sectors, systems or livelihoods;
2. Applicant is currently employed by or otherwise substantively and actively involved with an institution in Africa that has an important role (active or potential) in policy, planning and management of climate sensitive resources, sectors, systems or livelihoods; and
3. A signed *Institutional Support Form* (part of the application materials – see Section 5) must be submitted that confirms the applicant’s Home Institution’s formal endorsement of the applicant’s participation in the Program and its commitment to involve the applicant in climate change adaptation related work after the Fellowship experience.

#### Doctoral Research Fellows

1. Applicant must be enrolled in a doctoral program at an African university;
2. Applicant must have successfully defended his/her dissertation proposal and be actively involved in dissertation research at the time of this application;
3. Dissertation research must be clearly related to climate change risks and adaptation;
4. The proposed Fellowship project and activities must relate to the applicant’s dissertation research such that they would improve the scientific quality of the research and the utility of the research for climate change adaptation;
5. Fellowships must be conducted at a Host Institution that is not the Fellow’s home university (i.e., Fellowships may not be used to support work that is done at the university at which the applicant will earn his/her doctoral degree).
6. A signed *Institutional Support Form* (part of the application materials – see Section 5) must be submitted that confirms the applicant’s Home Institution’s formal endorsement of the applicant’s participation in the Program and its commitment to involve the applicant in climate change adaptation related work after the Fellowship experience.

#### Post-Doctoral Fellows

1. Applicant must have completed a PhD degree by 31 September 2008;
2. Applicant must have conducted research or worked professionally on issues related to climate change risks and adaptation; and

3. Applicant agrees to help supervise and mentor Policy Fellows, Doctoral Research Fellows, and Teaching Fellows who may be placed at the same Host Institution as the Post-Doctoral Fellow.

**Note:** Post-Doctoral Fellows are not required to submit an *Institutional Support Form* with their application but are encouraged to do so if it is relevant to their situation (e.g., if they have a Home Institution to which they plan to return following the Fellowship experience; if they are linked to an institution at which they have been teaching assistants, junior lecturers, etc. and that institution is willing to support them during their Fellowship, as outlined in the Form). Post-Doctoral Fellowship applicants, particularly those who do not submit an *Institutional Support Form*, are expected to clearly describe in their application their plans for work following the Fellowship experience that would enable them to contribute to climate change adaptation in Africa.

### Teaching Fellows

1. Applicant must be employed as regular or adjunct faculty at an African university and have taught at least one graduate level course within the past 2 years;
2. The proposed Fellowship project and activities would result in teaching one or more new courses within a Masters or doctoral degree program at their Home Institution that is related to climate change risks and adaptation, or in substantial revision of one or more existing graduate level courses to include extensive new material on climate change risks and adaptation; and
3. A signed *Institutional Support Form* (part of the application materials – see Section 5) must be submitted that confirms the applicant’s Home Institution’s formal endorsement of the applicant’s participation in the Program and its commitment to involve the applicant in climate change adaptation related work after the Fellowship experience.

**Note:** Teaching Fellows are not required to have a formal Host Institution for their Fellowship projects because, due to the nature of the ACCFP Teaching Fellowships, not all Teaching Fellows are expected to require travel to another institution for project implementation. If the proposed Fellowship activities of a Teaching Fellow *do* include visiting another institution, a letter from a collaborator at the institution to be visited should be included with other application materials.

### **Selection Criteria**

Applications that meet all relevant eligibility requirements will be evaluated by the ACCFP based upon the criteria listed below. Weights given to each criterion are shown in parentheses.

- **Quality of the proposed Fellowship project and activities.** Are the objectives of the proposed Fellowship project stated clearly, are they ambitious yet feasible, and are they appropriate for the African Climate

Change Fellowship Program? Are the specific activities clearly described, are they appropriate and sufficient for achievement of the objectives, and are they well planned? Are the methods clear, appropriate, and feasible? Is the project innovative? (20%)

- **Potential for advancing climate change adaptation.** Is execution of the Fellowship likely to advance climate change adaptation in Africa by, for example, increasing scientific knowledge, raising awareness, communicating knowledge, engaging stakeholders, supporting decision-making, or applying knowledge to decision-making? Will the Fellowship project benefit vulnerable populations such as the poor, women, livelihood groups dependent on climate sensitive resources, and populations of Least Developed Countries? (20%)
- **Qualifications and capabilities of the applicant.** Does the applicant have educational preparation and/or professional experience that will enable successful execution of the proposed Fellowship project and activities? Do past activities and achievements of the applicant indicate a commitment to climate change adaptation and a strong likelihood for advancing climate change adaptation at his/her Home Institution? Does the written proposal demonstrate knowledge of the subject areas relevant to the proposal and good writing and communication skills? For Post-Doctoral Fellows, does the applicant have capabilities to supervise and mentor Policy Fellows and Doctoral Research Fellows? (20%)
- **Appropriateness of proposed Host Institution.** Is the selection of the proposed Host Institution(s) clearly explained and adequately supported? Do the proposed Host Institutions have appropriate capabilities and facilities to supervise the Fellowship applicant and enable successful execution of the proposed Fellowship project and activities? (10%)
- **Benefits to Home and Host Institutions.** Are there clearly identifiable benefits for both the Home and Host Institutions? Will the Fellowship project help to increase the engagement of the Home and Host Institutions in climate change adaptation related work? Will the Fellowship project create or strengthen linkages between the Home and Host Institutions? (10%)
- **Increase capacity in underserved regions and countries.** Will the Fellowship contribute to capacity development in regions and countries of Africa that have been underserved by climate change science, capacity building and adaptation programs (e.g. Central Africa and Least Developed Countries)? (10%)
- **Appropriateness of the requested budget.** Does the budget conform to the maximum award amount for the type of Fellowship? Are all line items clearly explained, relevant to performance of the proposed work, and appropriate in amount? (10%)

In addition to the above criteria, consideration also will be given to achieving geographic and gender balance among the applicants selected for Fellowship awards, attaining a mix of disciplines and professional backgrounds, inclusion of Fellows working on critical sectors/systems (e.g., water; agriculture and food; rural and urban livelihoods; ecosystem goods and services; biodiversity; human health;

natural hazards; environmental policy; and climate modeling, downscaling and prediction), and matching Fellows with Recommended and other Host Institutions.

### **3. HOST INSTITUTIONS**

In their applications, prospective Fellows will identify and rank up to three (3) suitable Host Institutions at which they would like to execute the Fellowship projects and activities that they propose. To help facilitate this process, the ACCFP has identified a small number of Recommended Host Institutions that it believes to have the necessary capabilities and commitment to provide valuable Fellowship experiences in a variety of subject areas. In turn, these institutions have indicated a desire to host Fellows and provide appropriate supervision. Ideally, the Program would like to place multiple Fellows at each of these Recommended Host Institutions so as to provide opportunities for synergy and encourage the development of sustainable relationships between Fellows' Home Institutions, Hosts, and the Program.

Eleven African institutions have been identified as Recommended Host Institutions for this first round of ACCFP Fellows (*listed alphabetically*):

1. **Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR),**  
*Regional Offices for West and Central Africa – Burkina Faso and Cameroon*
2. **Egerton University,**  
*Kenya*
3. **Institute of Resource Assessment (IRA), University of Dar es Salaam,**  
*Tanzania*
4. **International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT),**  
*West and Central Africa Region – Mali and Niger*
5. **Makerere University,**  
*Uganda*
6. **Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel (OSS),**  
*Tunisia*
7. **University of Cadi Ayyad,**  
*Morocco*
8. **University of Capetown,**  
*South Africa*
9. **University of Cheikh Anta Diop,**  
*Senegal*
10. **University of Ghana,**  
*Ghana*
11. **University of Kwazulu Natal,**  
*South Africa*

All of the Recommended Host Institutions are willing to accommodate all types of ACCFP Fellows (i.e., Policy, Doctoral, Post-Doctoral, and Teaching).

ACCFP applicants are permitted to propose alternative institutions at which they would like to tenure their Fellowship experience. While priority will be given to those applications that propose a project to be executed at one of the recommended institutions, the Program is willing to consider applications that identify other institutions that they believe to be better suited to host, supervise, and mentor the proposed Fellowship activities. These institutions will be vetted using the same criteria used for the selected host institutions above.

To learn more about each of the Recommended Host Institutions and the opportunities that they offer, applicants are encouraged to view a proposal from each institution that outlines its capabilities for and commitment to being a Recommended Host. Viewing these proposals may help applicants to identify Host Institutions that are best suited to their needs and to develop ideas for Fellowship projects. Institutional contact information is also provided if applicants wish to obtain additional information.

Recommended Hosts' proposals can be accessed and downloaded from the Pan-African START Secretariat's website at:

<http://accfp.pass-africa.org>

Please note that the ACCFP Executive Committee will approve final selection of all Host Institutions.

#### **4. FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Maximum award amounts and duration for each Fellowship type are as follows:

- **Post-Doctoral Fellowships** - \$36,000 USD for an 18-month fellowship
- **Doctoral Fellowships** – \$16,500 USD for a 12-month fellowship
- **Policy Fellowships:** US\$8,000 for a 6-month fellowship
- **Teaching Fellowships:** \$5,000 for a 2-month fellowship

Fellowship awards must be used to cover the expenses of project implementation (as outlined in the applicant's Fellowship Proposal) as well as living expenses and travel to the Host Institution (round-trip, economy class airfare). Any direct institutional costs incurred as a result of the Fellowship and its activities (e.g., course registration fees) must also be paid via Fellows' award funds, as negotiated with the Program.

Prospective Fellows are required to submit a proposed budget as part of their application materials.



## **5. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND DEADLINE**

Please read this Call for Applications and its eligibility requirements carefully to decide if it applies to you. If you have questions, please contact the Pan-African START Secretariat (PASS) at [pass@ira.udsm.ac.tz](mailto:pass@ira.udsm.ac.tz) or the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) at [p.jeconiah@aasciences.org](mailto:p.jeconiah@aasciences.org).

An application to be an ACCFP Fellow will not be considered complete until **all** required materials are received by the Pan-African START Secretariat. The checklists below outline the application materials required for each Fellowship type:

### Policy Fellowships:

- \_\_\_ Application Form
- \_\_\_ Institutional Support Form
- \_\_\_ Two (2) Professional Reference Forms
- \_\_\_ Letter of Endorsement from Host Institution (*if preferred Host is not included in recommended list*)

### Doctoral Research Fellowships:

- \_\_\_ Application Form
- \_\_\_ Institutional Support Form
- \_\_\_ Two (2) Professional Reference Forms
- \_\_\_ University Transcript
- \_\_\_ Letter of Endorsement from Host Institution (*if preferred Host is not included in recommended list*)

### Post-Doctoral Fellowships:

- \_\_\_ Application Form
- \_\_\_ Two (2) Professional Reference Forms
- \_\_\_ Copy of PhD Certificate
- \_\_\_ Institutional Support Form (*optional*)
- \_\_\_ Letter of Endorsement from Host Institution (*if preferred Host is not included in recommended list*)

### Teaching Fellowships:

- \_\_\_ Application Form
- \_\_\_ Institutional Support Form
- \_\_\_ Two (2) Professional Reference Forms
- \_\_\_ Letter from Collaborator at an institution to be visited (*where applicable*)

The ACCFP **Application Form**, **Institutional Support Form** and **Professional Reference Form** are available for download on the Pan-African START Secretariat's website at:

<http://accfp.pass-africa.org>

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

Applicants should download and complete the ACCFP **Application Form**. In doing so, please adhere strictly to all word limits. 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 review of your application. 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 (not the applicant)

directly to the Pan-African START Secretariat. Two Professional References should each complete a **Professional Reference Form** and submit it directly to the Pan-African START Secretariat. Note that it is the applicant's responsibility to assure that his/her Home Institution and two Professional References have completed and submitted the appropriate forms on his/her behalf by the application deadline.

All application materials should be submitted via email to the Pan-African START Secretariat at [pass@ira.udsm.ac.tz](mailto:pass@ira.udsm.ac.tz). The title of the relevant form and the applicant's family name should appear in all email subject lines.

All application materials must be received by the Pan-African START Secretariat no later than **17 September 2008**. Applications that are incomplete or received after the deadline will not be reviewed. Prospective Fellows are encouraged to have all materials submitted to the Secretariat as early as possible.

Once the selection process is completed, all applicants will be notified of award decisions by the Program organizers. It is expected that the selection process will be completed by 31 October 2008.

## **6. CONTACT INFORMATION**

For further information about the ACCFP and this Call for Applications, please contact Dr. Richard Kangalawe ([kangalawe@ira.udsm.ac.tz](mailto:kangalawe@ira.udsm.ac.tz)) or Ms. Madaka Tumbo ([madaka.tumbo@ira.udsm.ac.tz](mailto:madaka.tumbo@ira.udsm.ac.tz)) of the Pan-African START Secretariat (located at IRA-University of Dar es Salaam) or Ms. Patriciah Jeconiah ([p.jeconiah@aasciences.org](mailto:p.jeconiah@aasciences.org)) of the African Academy of Sciences.