

# Climate Adaptation Research Programme (CARP)

## CARP Tier 1: Early Career Research Award

### OVERVIEW

The aim of this call is to support the research of early-career and aspiring academic professionals/students associated with the PERIPERI-U Network. The research focus is on localized climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies on the African continent. The Tier 1 call is for young researchers and postgraduate students from the 12 African universities that make up the PERIPERI-U Network.

A core goal of this call is to provide policymakers, governments, and donor agencies with improved scientific and research-driven knowledge on climate adaptation and risk mitigation that can inform public decision-making.

Research grants of up to USD 20,000 will be awarded to Early-Career Faculty/Research Staff or up to USD 10,000 for masters/doctoral level postgraduate students.

Successful applicants will have opportunities to share their insights and challenges with a broader CARP community of researchers, practitioners, and policymakers. Young researchers will have access to a wide range of researchers and experts from across Africa and beyond that can provide technical assistance and advice on issues related to the individual projects. The CARP community encourages peer-development and support, allowing researchers to learn from one another. Information on the CARP community platforms will be made available to successful applicants.

### TIMELINE

Call for proposals opened	16 January 2023
Call for proposals closed	28 February 2023, 12:00 CAT (Central Africa Time)
Proposal application review	March 2023
Notification of acceptance	30 March 2023
Project duration	1 May 2023 to 30 April 2024
Final project submission	1 May 2024

Several online webinars and three in-person workshops in Africa will be held during the project. These dates and details will be announced in 2023 once successful applicants have been identified and the awards have been issued.



forward together  
sonke siya phambili  
saam vorentoe

## **PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES**

The Climate Adaptation Research Programme (CARP) promotes a new generation of applied climate adaptation research with a focus on its impacts and implications for disaster risk reduction policies and strategies. The programme is guided by the following objectives:

1. Support localized research on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in Africa.
2. Enhance the research capacity of early career professionals and young researchers in Africa focused on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
3. Foster a research environment in which senior researchers from member universities of the PERIPERI U Network can mentor and nurture a new generation of university researchers and postgraduate students.
4. Provide policymakers, development organizations, and donor agencies with improved scientific and research-driven knowledge on climate adaptation and risk mitigation that can inform public decision-making and development programming.
5. Develop an international community of professional scholars, policymakers, and practitioners that advance the understanding of climate change adaptation as a disaster risk reduction strategy across Africa.

CARP is supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through its Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance and is co-managed by the Humanitarian Assistance Technical Support initiative at the University of Arizona with the Centre for Collaboration in Africa and the PERIPERI-U secretariate at Stellenbosch University.

## **RATIONALE**

While most of the globe is vulnerable to climate change and its associated impacts, African countries are disproportionately more at risk than most to a diverse range of hazards that are induced or exacerbated by changing climatic conditions. The increasing threat of climate change and increasing frequency and magnitude of climate induced hazards continue to undermine hard-earned gains in livelihoods and human well-being improvements, placing millions of vulnerable people and communities at increasing risk of harm and hardship.

While African governments and development agencies widely acknowledge the need to invest in strategies and actions that mitigate the impacts of changing climatic conditions, they are constrained by a lack of data and knowledge generated locally. Consequently, it is critical that research and knowledge creation on climate change and disaster risk reduction at local and regional levels be prioritized and supported. Such knowledge will provide policy and decision makers and the wide array of development actors analyses, information, and recommended options needed to enhance climate change adaptation, resilience, and sustainability.

CARP recognizes the many young and emerging researchers and professionals working across fields related to climate change, disaster risk, and resilience, and seeks to promote this new generation of applied scholarship. Many of them can benefit from opportunities to apply scientific research and local knowledge generation toward African development increasingly threatened by the impacts of climate change. These young professionals are a critical resource in for tackling climate change-induced challenges, and CARP constitutes an effort to mobilize this potential and empower this emergent generation of researchers.

## **CARP TIER 1: EARLY CAREER RESEARCH AWARDS**

### **ELIGIBILITY**

The Early Career Research Award is available to young, early career researchers and postgraduate students (masters and doctoral) associated with member universities of the PERIPERI-U network<sup>1</sup>. The project aims to support both short research applications and postgraduate research which can be completed in no longer than 12 months. Those seeking to apply for this award may apply as an individual researcher or as a small team (no more than 4 researchers). In the case of postgraduate applications, the team must consist of the student and at least the senior advisor/supervisor.

Proposals must adhere to the following eligibility criteria to be considered for this Tier 1 award:

- The lead applicant of the proposal must be a researcher or senior postgraduate student of a higher education institution that is a member of the PERIPERI-U Network. The lead applicant will be the focal point in all interactions with the CARP management team. In the case of a masters or doctoral postgraduate student, the student's advisor must be a collaborator and a letter of endorsement from the student's advisor is required.
- The lead applicant researcher (not postgraduate student) must have less than seven years of experience as a career researcher at the member institution and less than 40 years of age. This career researcher must have a masters degree or higher.
- Female researchers, researchers underrepresented in African higher education institutions, and postgraduate students are encouraged to apply.
- Applicants must be a citizen of a recognized African state.
- Applicants applying for funding through CARP Tier 1 award cannot simultaneously apply for the CARP Tier 2 award.

### **ELIGIBLE RESEARCH TOPICS**

The University of Arizona and Stellenbosch University will consider proposals that focus broadly on topics related to local or regional climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in localized and regional contexts in Africa. Research teams are encouraged to engage these research topics at a local/sub-national or national perspective. The list of research topics included under this theme includes:

- Agriculture and rural livelihoods
- Water resource management
- Climate and population displacement
- Climate and conflict
- Gender topics in disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation
- Urban development, services, and critical infrastructure
- Public health risks related to climate change
- Economic and livelihood impacts of climate related hazards and disasters
- Multi-hazard early warning systems against climate-based risks
- Hazard and vulnerability mapping against climate related risks
- Humanitarian assistance in the context of climate change
- Disaster risk governance and climate diplomacy

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<sup>1</sup> List of PERIPERI U Partners: <http://www.riskreductionafrica.org//partners-and-programmes-1.html>

## **PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND OUTPUTS**

The primary deliverable of this project will be a **Final Research Project Report** to be submitted to the CARP management team on **1 May 2024**. This report will include a description of the research question and its relevance, a summary of the research methodology, analyses, and findings, as well as key recommendations for action.

Core to this award is the intent that each of the research projects have significant impact on the field of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Applicants will need to identify and develop an 'impact plan' which describes in detail the activities research teams will undertake to increase the impact and reach of their work, how it may be presented and communicated to strategic stakeholders to influence and change policy. For example, awarded proposals are encouraged to disseminate their research progress at various events and platforms, such as conferences, seminars, workshops, etc. Research can also be disseminated to relevant stakeholders through either podcasts, radio or television, and social media.

The funding will be managed through Stellenbosch University and distributed in tranches to the PERIPERI-U member institution as specific milestones are documented. These short milestone reports will be included in the annexes of the Final Research Project Report. The distribution and milestone documentation strategy will be negotiated with the successful teams and the institution.

## **PROPOSAL FORMAT**

Grant proposals should be single-spaced, in 11-point Arial font with 1-inch-wide margins and submitted as a pdf file. The submitted research proposal must adhere to the following structure:

- Title page with the following information (1 page):
  - Research title
  - Name, status, affiliation, gender, and articulated responsibilities and contributions of each team member to the project
  - Proposal summary articulating the research aims and objectives (150 words)
- Project narrative that includes the following (no more than 2 pages):
  - A description of the research problem indicating the knowledge gaps that this research will address
  - The principal research questions that will guide the project
  - The context of the research problem
  - A full description of the research methodology, including research design, tools, and analytical approach
- Impact plan with the following information (1 page):
  - Intended outcomes and impacts of the research
  - Proposed pathways of to achieve this impact, including specific activities
  - Dissemination and communication strategy, including the key stakeholders to be engaged
- Project workplan, timeline, and milestones (1 page)
- Budget with the following expenditure categories (1 page):
  - Research/fieldwork costs
  - Travel and per diem
  - Capital costs, field equipment, etc. (not to exceed 15% of the total budget)

- Costs of dissemination (including conferences, etc.)
- Any institutional levies, such as administrative or indirect costs
- For postgraduate students, a letter of endorsement from the supervisor is required
- Include CVs/resumes for each team members as an annex

### **BUDGET INFORMATION**

All applications must include a detailed budget for their proposed research. Research grants of up to USD 20,000 will be awarded to Early-Career Faculty/Research Staff or up to USD 10,000 for masters/doctoral level postgraduate students. See eligibility for more information.

CARP funds are intended to cover the costs of implementing the research activities, necessary training, and dissemination of findings. Monies from this award are to be used exclusively for payments for services and activities directly related to research (such as fieldwork, data collection, report writing, etc.). Limited funds may be used for relevant training that will enhance the research process and costs associated with the dissemination of the research (such as attending conferences, etc.). In most cases, funds are not to be used to supplement researcher salaries or postgraduate student stipends, but the hiring of field staff is anticipated in this proposal. No more than 15% of the project budget can be allocated to capital goods, such as technology, computers, programming, etc.

### **PROPOSAL EVALUATION**

Submitted proposals will be reviewed by an international Application Review Committee of applied scholars and practitioners working on climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Each proposal will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

Presentation of a relevant and significant applied research problem related to the topics of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.	20 points
Comprehensive research methodology and workplan.	20 points
Expected knowledge outcomes and the relevance to climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction scholarship, policymaking, and development practice.	20 points
Proposal for meaningful engagement with stakeholders.	20 points
Feasibility of project to be completed within the proposed budget and timeline.	10 points
Quality of the writing and clarity of the proposal. Proposals must adhere to international standards of original research and appropriate citation.	10 points

### **SUBMISSION PROCESS**

By 28 February 2023 at 12:00 CAT (Central Africa Time), lead applicants should submit application materials [HERE](#). Note that there are a few questions in the submission form that will take 10-15 minutes to complete. Please plan your submission accordingly.

For any queries or clarification about the award or proposal process you may contact Alberto Francioli <[albertofrancioli@sun.ac.za](mailto:albertofrancioli@sun.ac.za)> and Corrie Hannah <[corrieh@arizona.edu](mailto:corrieh@arizona.edu)>.