

Job Description

Research Associate in climate change adaptation

Theme: Climate Change

Location: Nairobi

Reports to

Dr Joanes Atela

Context

We are looking for a highly skilled researcher to make the next step in their career in an exciting programme exploring the politics of knowledge and measurement in climate adaptation. The post-holder will form the core research team with the project leads CO-PI, Dr Joanes Atela, and post-doctoral counterparts in London and Nepal on a new UKRI project: Urgency with inclusion in global climate adaptation finance: why measurement matters. The project explores how measurement practices, knowledge and expertise shape the implementation of adaptation policies and programmes at multiple scales. It involves multi-sited research analysing the role of adaptation programmes in East Africa and South Asia, national government processes, UN negotiations and international climate finance. The project draws on theoretical approaches from Human Geography, International Relations and Science and Technology Studies. The postholder will work closely together with the postdoctoral researcher at UCL in London and Practical Action Nepal in Kathmandu and will also report regularly to Dr Susannah Fisher as project lead.

We can offer you a stimulating professional environment working on a new and high-profile project as part of a dynamic international team with multiple opportunities for academic and policy leadership. You will have the opportunity to contribute to academic conversations as well as having an impact on a dynamic and important national and international policy area. You will enjoy the challenge of bringing together novel ideas and empirical contexts to build new understandings and working together in diverse teams in a supportive and inclusive working environment. The researcher will have opportunities for international travel for research, academic conferences and policy events, funds for professional development, opportunities to present

findings from the project and to author academic and policy publications. The postholder will receive specialised support for their continuing professional development and will be supported to gain an academic affiliation for the duration of the project if desired. Support will be given to make sure postholders remain connected to academic communities.

The Africa Research & Impact Network (ARIN) is a leading research-impact platform of over 200 researchers and policymakers with national focal points across 36 African countries. ARIN also draws from a database of over 3000 stakeholders from universities, think tanks, the private sector, and governments. ARIN's mission is to promote research excellence and dialogue on best research and impact practices, by providing platforms for science-policy interface in Africa, building on evidence. ARIN recognizes that Africa is endowed with diverse researchers, innovation, and best policy practices that are not in the public domain yet are invaluable in the research and the development agenda of the continent. The postholder will benefit ARIN's peer review platform where best research and impact practices from different African contexts, are shared, profiled, and leveraged to inform transformative policy action. The post is based at ARIN headquarters in Nairobi.

Main purpose of the job

The Research Associate will lead qualitative research and analysis exploring how a specific set of institutions and actors have influenced adaptation measurement approaches and the resulting impacts of measurement on national and international norms, policies and practices. The postholder will lead research into national adaptation planning processes in Kenya and other countries in the region. This will involve leading and designing semi-structured interviews, developing theoretical frameworks, observing national and international policy processes and adaptation programmes, analysing documents and engaging with a range of policy stakeholders. The

postholder will need to collaborate closely with the rest of the team to make the multi-scalar linkages between the research sites. This will involve attending annual retreats, writeshops and undertaking collaborative coding.

Duties and responsibilities

- Manage and review the deliverables from team members and partners, ensuring that they adhere to ARIN's vision and quality standards, particularly concerning sustainable development, gender equity and climate-resilience.
- Support ARIN stakeholders including governments and partners with technical advice on climate change and development with focus on resilience, gender equality, disaster risk reduction, energy and synergies with mitigation measures.
- Lead literature reviews and the development of novel theoretical frameworks to analyse the politics of measurement in collaboration with the PI on a specific set of institutions and actors
- Lead research design, data collection and analysis in collaboration with the team on specific topics related to the politics of knowledge and measurement processes around climate adaptation
- Undertake national, regional and international research visits to observe policy processes and adaptation programmes in a variety of contexts
- Promote an ongoing dialogue with policy makers including various sectors and NDC offices of African countries and stakeholders involved in climate change work
- Lead the writing of research and policy outputs individually and in collaboration with others including publishing in internationally leading journals
- Support the facilitation of international research and policy engagement meetings
- Support the designing, conducting, writing, and disseminating of high-quality research and communicating research findings through research papers, journal articles, reports, policy briefs, and other outlets
- Support the convening of adaptation experts and stakeholders under the APAM platform.
- Manage rigorous ethics and data management procedures in line with the project plans
- Identify and manage the relationships with key informants and stakeholders in order to carry out the research and policy engagement
- Mentor emerging researchers undertaking action research pilots as part of the project

- Present findings in academic conferences and policy meetings
- Keep in regular contact with the international team and work in an open and transparent way, developing innovative ideas and analysis collaboratively with other team members
- Contribute to the project communications strategy through writing blogs, UN submissions, and working papers
- Coordinate knowledge, management platforms including databases and publication linkages amongst others
- Actively follow ARIN's policies including Equal Opportunities and Equality policies.
- Maintain an awareness of and observe Fire and Health & Safety Regulations.
- Support productive global and regional dialogues, partnerships, institutional relationships and joint initiatives with select Africa regional focal points

The postholder should be willing and able to travel internationally for the purposes of the research though we are happy to discuss appropriate accommodations to account for caring responsibilities or other considerations.

Contractual Details

The position is available immediately and is funded for a period 3 years in the first instance, The successful applicant will be subject to the usual ARIN probationary procedures. Full time is 36.5 hours per week, with times of work agreed with line manager. We are willing to consider a job share or part-time hours down to 0.8 FTE for the right candidate/s. Annual leave is 27 working days for a full-time member of staff + 6 UCL closure days in addition to 8 Bank Holidays.

Application Procedure

Please apply by sending your application to human-resource@arin-africa.org. Your application should include:

- Candidate statement setting out your interest and suitability for the rôle - this should be max 2 pages and should make the case for how your previous research and experience will be relevant for this rôle;
- CV (max 2 pages to include any publications);
- One piece of writing relevant to the role – this can be an academic paper, a PhD chapter or a working paper. If this is co-authored please

specify your role in the research and writing process.

- Details of 3 referees.

There are a range of skills and experiences that could be relevant for this job and so we encourage you to apply if you feel you meet the essential criteria and are excited by the role. We do not expect candidates to have all the desirable criteria.

Further information about the application process may be obtained from the departmental HR administrator on human-resource@arin-africa.org . For informal enquiries about the vacancy, please contact Dr. Joanes Atela, j.atela@arin-africa.org and/or Susannah.fisher@ucl.ac.uk

Person Specification

Criteria	Essential or Desirable	Assessment method (Application/Interview)
Qualifications, experience and knowledge		
PhD in Human Geography, International Relations, Science and Technology Studies, Political Science or related fields. We will consider applicants who have submitted their PhD thesis, but not yet been awarded their PhD. In this case, they will be initially paid according to ARIN payscales and experience until the PhD award is confirmed	Essential	Application
Experience in one or more of the following research approaches: semi-structured interviews; participant observation; event or institutional ethnography; process tracing; discourse and content analysis; social network analysis; document analysis.	Essential	Application and Interview
Good knowledge of at least one of the following: climate change adaptation, climate or development finance, international organisations, international development, the politics of measurement, knowledge and expertise, or international environmental negotiations.	Essential	Application and Interview
Publication of own research in peer-reviewed journals	Desirable	Application
Research or professional experience in relevant contexts in the global South (East Africa and South Asia) and/or with international organisations, government ministries, or in the UNFCCC negotiations	Desirable	Application and Interview
In-depth knowledge of key issues around international climate finance, adaptation planning and/or monitoring and evaluation	Desirable	Application and Interview
Experience working with government stakeholders, evaluation units or international organisations	Desirable	Application and Interview
Experience conducting research for policy impact	Desirable	Application and Interview
Skills and abilities		
Strong qualitative research and analysis skills	Essential	Application and Interview
Excellent written and verbal communication skills and ability to lead both academic and policy outputs	Essential	Application and Interview
Working knowledge of an additional language, with French or Spanish being particularly desirable	Desirable	Application and Interview
Personal attributes		
Ability to work collaboratively and as part of different teams within interdisciplinary, multi-country, and multi-cultural research communities.	Essential	Application and Interview
Highly motivated and able to work independently and unsupervised	Essential	Application and Interview
Committed to ARIN's policies of equal opportunity and equality, diversity and inclusion, and able to work well with academic and non-academic colleagues and students of all cultures and backgrounds	Essential	Application and Interview

