



PhD and Postdoctoral Positions: Climate Change Attribution and Vulnerability (CAV-Kenya Project) at the University of Nairobi, Kenya

We are offering 2 PhD and 2 Postdoc positions with a focus on climate change attribution, vulnerability, and health commencing on the 1st of February 2025.

Project description

The PhDs and Postdocs will work on a DANIDA funded project on Vulnerability and Attribution in Kenya. In recent years, climate scientists have been able to measure the extent to which human-induced climate change is responsible for changes in the frequency and magnitude of extreme weather and climate events. However, current studies predominantly focus on hazards affecting the Global North and on understanding changes in weather patterns in isolation from socio-economic and political factors affecting the resilience of a community. This raises a crucial question about how these advances in climate science can be combined with a human-focused approach to vulnerability to create climate-resilient societies.

The PhDs and Postdocs will be part of an interdisciplinary team comprising researchers from the University of Nairobi, Imperial College London, Kenya Meteorological Department, University of Copenhagen, and Danish Meteorological Institute focusing on climate attribution, vulnerability, disaster management, climate policy, and adaptation science.

The project is led by Emmanuel Raju from the University of Copenhagen and Joyce Kimutai from the Kenya Meteorological Department and Imperial College London. The Co-Principal Investigators are Gilbert Ouma and Maggie Opondo from the University of Nairobi. All the PhDs and Postdocs will be jointly supervised and supported by members from the University of Nairobi, Imperial College London, University of Copenhagen and Kenya Meteorological Department.

The PhDs and Postdocs will conduct fieldwork in Kenya (Nairobi, Mombasa and Isiolo) and work closely with all the partners - the Kenyan Meteorological Department, Imperial College London, Danish Meteorological Institute, University of Copenhagen, and Kenya Red Cross Society. The PhDs and Postdocs will have the opportunity to participate in exchange visits at the University of Copenhagen or Imperial College London. Additionally, they will have the chance to spend an extended period at either institution. PhD students are required to be willing to spend up to three months abroad, while postdocs will spend a shorter duration.

All positions offer a competitive stipend (150k Danish Kroner for Postdocs and 72k Danish Kroner for PhDs; annually), with all research expenses, including registration and tuition fees, fully covered. The project is dedicated to promoting equal employment opportunities and strongly encourages women to apply for the available positions. These roles are **full-time**.

PhD 1: Physical Sciences with a focus on Climate Change Attribution (3 years)

We are looking for a candidate with a Masters Degree in climate science, meteorology, atmospheric science, physics, or a related field. The candidate should have interest in climate analysis and readiness to work (or keen to learn working) with climate models and scientific programming.

The key tasks for the PhD student include:

- Carrying out an independent research study under supervision.
- Completing PhD coursework as stipulated by the respective department at the University of Nairobi.
- Participating in active research environments including a stay at the University of Copenhagen or Imperial College London.
- Obtaining experience in the dissemination of outputs from the PhD study.
- Timely completion of the PhD thesis.

PhD 2: Social Sciences a with focus on Vulnerability (3 years)

We are looking for a candidate with a strong social science background with a Masters degree related to the subject area of the project, e.g. climate change, global health, disaster risk management, sociology, political science, anthropology, development studies or closely related fields.

The key tasks for the PhD student include:

- Carrying out an independent research study under supervision.
- Completing PhD course work as stipulated by the respective department at the University of Nairobi.
- Participating in active research environments including a stay at the University of Copenhagen or Imperial College London.
- Obtaining experience in the dissemination of outputs from the PhD study.
- Timely completion of the PhD thesis.

Postdoc 1: Climate Change Attribution (2 years)

We are looking for a candidate with a **PhD in climate science, meteorology, atmospheric science, physics, or a related field. Expected to have experience** analysing and working with weather/atmospheric observations and/or climate models. Experience with Python or R is preferred.

The postdoc will work closely with the senior leadership team with joint-supervision and support from members at The University of Nairobi, Imperial College London, Kenya Meteorological Department and Danish Meteorological Institute

Key tasks as a postdoc are:

- Analysing observations, climate model output
- Summarise results in scientific publications

- Interfacing with other members of the group and with external collaborators to share and compare results
- Archiving data and/or scripts for reuse
- Publish scientific articles
- Provide a small amount of supervision support to the PhD students.

Postdoc 2: Climate Change Vulnerability (2 years)

We are looking for a candidate with a PhD degree and a strong social science background in **climate change, global health, disaster risk management, sociology, political science, anthropology, development studies**, and closely related fields of study.

The postdoc will work closely with the senior leadership team and conduct empirical fieldwork studies across the project sites in Kenya.

We seek candidates with a solid understanding of how climate change impacts vulnerable communities in Kenya and the global South broadly. For example, focus can be vulnerability in relation to gender, livelihoods, water, health, etc.

Key tasks as a postdoc are:

- Carrying through an independent research project under supervision, and providing a small amount of supervision support to the PhD students.
- Contribute to teaching at the University of Nairobi
- Participating in active research environments including a stay at another research team.

Further, we are looking for:

- A keen interest in qualitative methods, and ability to conduct independent fieldwork

Other important criteria for all positions are:

- The grades achieved
- Critical research skills
- Professional qualifications relevant to the project - prior experience with scoping reviews, qualitative methods is an advantage
- Previous publications
- Relevant work experience and involvement in other professional activities.
- Self-motivation, a proactive attitude, and the ability to work independently while effectively collaborating within an interdisciplinary team.
- A creative and curious mindset
- Excellent communication skills in both spoken and written English.

How to apply

Application for the PhD positions is online through the University of Nairobi website <https://application.uonbi.ac.ke/>. A non-refundable application fee (approximately USD 50) will be charged.

Requirements for upload

1. A Form four certificate, or equivalent
2. A certified copy of an undergraduate degree from a senate-recognized university, or equivalent
3. Certified copies of undergraduate degree transcripts
4. A certified copy of a relevant Master's degree from a senate-recognized university, or equivalent
5. A certified copy of the Master's degree transcript

Application for the Postdoctoral positions should be directed to the email address gouma@uonbi.ac.ke with “Postdoctoral Position for CAV Project” as the subject.

Requirements to be attached

1. Letter of motivation (max. 1 page, Font New Times Roman 12pts) in English
2. Curriculum Vitae (CV) in English with your photograph embedded
3. A copy of an undergraduate degree from a senate-recognized university, or equivalent
4. Copies of undergraduate degree transcripts
5. A copy of a relevant Master’s degree from a senate-recognized university, or equivalent
6. A copy of the Master’s degree transcript
7. Two signed recommendation letters (at least one from the Chairperson/Director of the institution you are currently working in, or from a member of staff for the institution of your last degree)

Applications are currently open and closes 10th January 2025.