

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

## ARA Emerging Adaptation Professionals Knowledge Catalyst Fellowship

### ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

The Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) is a global coalition committed to a new paradigm of adaptation research for impact. It supports action-oriented research that informs adaptation solutions and reduces risks from climate change at the scale which is urgently demanded by science. On the IPCC platform, ARA seeks to inform the Working Group II (WGII)'s work on impacts of climate change, vulnerability, and adaptation approaches by amplifying the voices and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and civil society, and ensuring that evidence and insights from research co-created by climate-vulnerable people, especially marginalised groups, are included in AR7.

ARA seeks to support emerging adaptation professionals (EAPs); including early career researchers (ECRs), practitioners, and knowledge brokers involved in adaptation and resilience work, in the regions of Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), and Asia to publish and contribute to the IPCC AR7 process, specifically WGII's work.

In collaboration with the [African Centre for Technology Studies \(ACTS\)](#), ARA seeks to highlight African voices in adaptation research through a six-month Fellowship to be hosted on the ACTS Pathways Academy (APA) platform. The targeted researchers include postgraduate students, PhD students, Postdocs, early career researchers, young faculty and climate adaptation practitioners in Africa. The collaboration will support EAPs in publishing and sharing their research in a variety of ways, including a fully funded physical or virtual Tracking, Learning & Sharing (TLS) Workshop.

The ARA Knowledge Catalyst Fellowship aims to:

- Mentor adaptation researchers in Africa to amplify their research on global platforms.
- Catalyse adaptation research output from Africa by African early-career researchers.
- Build a strong cohort of emerging adaptation researchers in Africa.
- Amplify adaptation research that highlights the impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities in Africa.

#### Dates:

March - August, 2026

#### Venue:

ACTS Pathways Academy

#### Application Deadline:

March 11, 2026

#### Notification of Outcome:

March 20, 2026

#### How to Apply:

Complete the online application [here](#) by **March 11, 2026**.

## WHO SHOULD APPLY

The six-month Fellowship will enrol EAPs under the following streams;

- **Cohort 1:** Will target EAPs who have manuscripts in draft and could be completed in a four-month horizon. These EAPs will benefit from mentored manuscript writing to bring their manuscripts to publication in peer-reviewed journals or open-access, non-academic publishers.
- **Cohort 2:** Will target EAPs with manuscripts already accepted in peer-reviewed journals who need financial support for professional editing and/or publication fees.

Additional enrolment in the EAP fellowship will consider;

- **Synthesis teams:** The Fellowship invites applications from synthesis teams of researchers working on a collaborative manuscript that explores a climate adaptation phenomenon in different geographies and settings, or one that could be multidisciplinary. Synthesis teams could be pre-arranged collaborations or organised within the project, where EAPs will elect to be paired to work collaboratively with other researchers working on similar areas.
- **Compensation for teaching staff:** The Fellowship is also looking to attract applications such as tutorial fellows and adjunct faculty, and lecturers who are looking to take time off teaching duties to concentrate on their manuscripts that fit the above criteria set for Cohort 1 above who will be compensated for time taken off for a period of up to 3 Months.

## ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY

The primary criteria that will be considered for participation in the Fellowship will be the following:

- Be based in Africa or have conducted your research in Africa
- Be conducting or have conducted research on climate adaptation and resilience
- Be an early-career researcher who, under the project, comprises postgraduate students, PhD students, postdoctoral researchers and adjunct faculty with 5-years or less post-PhD experience and climate adaptation practitioners in Africa.

## WHAT WILL YOU GAIN?

The Fellowship seeks to bridge the current evidence gap in African climate adaptation literature. EAPs will stand to gain the following.

- Thematic knowledge on adaptation in Africa, climate risks and vulnerabilities and adaptation approaches from experts.
- Knowledge & Skills in academic and non-academic writing and publishing and science communication.
- Networks & Relationships with peers and mentors within and outside the continent for cross-learning and knowledge exchange through CS Studios in the APA platform beyond the Fellowship.
- Tangible knowledge output with enhanced research visibility and reach, including publishing of grey knowledge outputs based on empirical research (technical reports, research reports, etc.) on the ARA and ACTS platforms.
- Financial support to meet costs for professional editing, publication and translation of manuscripts to English and compensation for time taken off teaching duties.
- An opportunity to attend and share their research in a fully funded physical Tracking, Learning & Sharing (TLS) Workshop and other ACTS policy dialogues relevant to their work.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- A brief description of your research and/or manuscript will be required at the time of application.
- Applicants in cohort 2 described above will need to provide proof of acceptance of their manuscript(s).
- Non-English-speaking applicants are encouraged to apply as translation will be offered under the Fellowship.
- The selection of Fellows will be done by a committee that will select qualified applicants whose manuscripts, research and motivation align to the theme and goals of the Fellowship. The selection process will ensure representation of researchers from a variety of countries and gender.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: I have only submitted my manuscript to a peer-reviewed open-access journal. Can I apply?**

A: Yes, you will apply under cohort 1. Your paper is not yet accepted and is therefore still “work in progress.”

**Q: Can we apply for the fellowship as a group?**

A: Yes, if your manuscript meets the primary criteria set out above, then you will be eligible for the fellowship. Attendance, by more than one member of the synthesis group, will be subject to the availability of funds.

**Q: My manuscript has already been published. Can I still participate?**

A: No. The Fellowship is meant to enhance the publishing of Africa adaptation research. If your manuscript is published already, we encourage you to develop a non-scientific piece that will reference your published paper, which will be co-hosted on the ACTS and ARA platforms. Please reach out to the project coordinator and project manager on the same.

**Q: Do I need to speak English?**

A: The primary language will be English, but we are committed to supporting French-speaking participants with interpretation services as far as possible. Please indicate your language preference in the application.

**Q: How competitive is the selection?**

A: We expect strong interest and encourage all eligible researchers to apply. Applications will be evaluated holistically by a committee based on the criteria outlined above.

**Q: Do I need a PhD or an MSc degree to apply for the Fellowship?**

A: No. We encourage you to apply, if you meet the primary criteria set out above, a foundational degree with that will be sufficient for the purposes of the fellowship.

**Q: What costs will be covered during the physical research symposium and writing workshop?**

A: The Fellowship will cover airfare, visa application fees, ground transportation (airport transfers and field excursion), Accommodation and all meals.

**Q: What costs will NOT be covered during the physical research symposium and writing workshop?**

A: The Fellowship will not cover costs for travel insurance, additional accommodation beyond program dates, medical expenses, costs related to accompanying persons and other personal expenses.

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

Complete the online application [here](#) by **March 11, 2026**.

## INQUIRIES

For Additional inquiries and clarifications, please contact:

1. **Ruth Wainaina**

Coordinator, ARA EAP Knowledge Catalyst Fellowship

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2. **Salome Okoth**

Project Manager, ARA EAP Knowledge Catalyst Fellowship

**CC:** [SOkoth@acts-net.org](mailto:SOkoth@acts-net.org)

## ABOUT ACTS AND ARA

Read more about the African Center for Technology Studies here:

<https://acts-net.org/>

Read more about the Adaptation Research Alliance here:

<https://www.adaptationresearchalliance.org/>