



Postdoctoral Research Fellow up to 2 years

Centre for Statistics in Ecology, Environment and Conservation

Department of Statistical Sciences
University of Cape Town



We are looking for a postdoc to conduct research on statistical analyses of species distribution data within the project 'BioGaps' (www.sanbi.org/biogaps) funded by the Foundational Biodiversity Information Programme (FBIP), a joint initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the National Research Foundation (NRF) and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). The aim is to estimate biodiversity patterns in the South African Karoo region, where shale gas exploitation is planned, and to develop structured decision making tools to help minimize the effects of these developments on biodiversity.

The project is led by Domitilla Raimondo at the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). The postdoc will be based at the centre for Statistics in Ecology, Environment and Conservation (www.seec.uct.ac.za/) within the Department of Statistical Sciences at the University of Cape Town, with Res Altwegg as primary mentor.

We are looking for a person with a PhD either in ecology with a strong statistical component, or in applied statistics with a strong ecological component. Candidates must be able to demonstrate strong quantitative skills and experience with hierarchical models. Prior experience with occupancy models, state-space models and modeling spatial data would all be of advantage.

The project is based on existing data, but there are possibilities to do field work, depending on the interest of the successful candidate.

Conditions of Award

- The fellowship is only available to individuals who have achieved the doctoral degree within the past five years.
- Applicants may not previously have held any full-time academic or professional posts.
- The successful candidate will be required to register as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Cape Town.
- Candidates who are employed full-time are ineligible to apply. The successful candidate will be required to comply with the university's approved policies, procedures and practices for the postdoctoral sector.
- The successful candidate needs to be approved by the NRF.

Value and tenure The value of the Postdoctoral Research Fellowship is R200,000 per annum.

The tenure of the fellowship is one year in the first place, and although not guaranteed, renewal for a further year will be considered. Renewals will be contingent on satisfactory academic progress and on the availability of funds.

The fellowship does not include any benefits.

The fellowship is compliant with the SARS policies/rules and is therefore exempt from taxation.

Application Process

To apply, send a letter of application, a CV including a list of publications and/or conference presentations, copies of academic transcripts, a copy of the relevant thesis (if no publications have emerged from this work yet), and names (and contact details) from two academics who have taught, supervised or worked alongside the applicant.

Applications (preferably by email) should be sent to:

Sue Kuyper, Centre for Statistics in Ecology, Environment and Conservation, Department of Statistical Sciences, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa, sue.kuyper@uct.ac.za

BY NO LATER THAN 10 June 2016

For more information, please contact

Res Altwegg (res.altwegg@uct.ac.za, ++27 (0) 21 650 57 50)

Selection process

Selection of eligible candidates will be made by the team of project leaders. Applications that are incomplete, late or inappropriate will be disqualified. The University of Cape Town reserves the right to: disqualify ineligible, incomplete, inappropriate and/or late applications, and to change the conditions of award or to make no awards at all.