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JOB DESCRIPTION

ForPAc Post Doc Position:
Duration 30 months

JOB REFERENCE: ICPAC/NERC/DFID-SHEAR/ POSTDOCTORIAL RESEARCHER /2017
Department: DFID-SHEAR project – Towards Forecast-based Preparedness Action (ForPAc)
Job Title: postdoctoral researcher Grade: Project staff
Accountable to: The Director, ICPAC
Duration: 30 months Workstation: IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre, Nairobi Kenya.

1. INTRODUCTION

The IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) is a specialized Institution of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The mission of ICPAC is to foster climate services and knowledge to enhance community resilience for prosperity in the Greater Horn of Africa.

Hydro-meteorological hazards account for over 90% of disasters of natural origin in Eastern Africa region, impacting most socio-economic sectors and nearly every country. These hazards have several unique characteristics, including being recurrent and trans-boundary in nature and extent of socio-economic impacts; hence regional impacts. They are caused or aggravated by climate conditions and therefore are highly sensitive to climate variability and change.

ICPAC's strategic objective is to contribute regional climate services for decision support towards enhancing the livelihoods of the people of the region so as to mitigate climate-related risks and disasters.

ICPAC would like to hire a Post Doctoral Research Scientist within the framework of the project “Towards Forecast-based Preparedness Action (ForPAc): Probabilistic forecast information for defensible preparedness decision-making and action”

ForPAc’s objectives are to strengthen Early Warning Systems for drought and flood through advancement of climate forecasts on “seamless” lead times (days to seasons) and through researching systematic decision support methods based on the forecasts (Forecast based Action, FbA) and to improve understanding of the climate drivers of High Impact Events over the GHA and their representation in GPC forecast models.

ICPAC will contribute to ForPAc primarily through the following activities:

- Co-lead research into understanding the climate drivers of ‘high impact’ meteorological/climate events, the predictability of these events and their representation in forecast models, to strengthen forecasting on time scale ranging from sub-seasonal to seasonal
- Integrate the results of this research into ICPAC forecasting procedures to advance ICPAC tools and products including ICPAC climate bulletins, Early Warnings and other products and services – and monitor their uptake by stakeholders
- Working with relevant mandated agencies responsible for flood/drought mitigation to improve the uptake of ICPAC forecast products into preparedness action through the FbA method
- Setting project priorities from the regional perspective.
- Deliver training to regional stakeholders in the interpretation of improved forecast products and to foster application of the FbA approach within Early Warning Systems in the region

ICPAC wishes to engage a Post Doctoral Research Scientist to deliver the above contributions under the supervision of the regional ForPAc Co-I, who will ensure that operational research tasks undertaken by the Post Doctoral researcher and outputs remain on course towards the fulfillment of the project objectives and deliverables..

2. SCOPE OF WORK

Key responsibilities are as follows:

- Review and document ICPAC’s experience in drivers of sub-seasonal variability in the Greater Horn of Africa
- Participate in research to improve understanding of the climate drivers of High Impact Events (HIE) in the Horn of Africa; and the validation of forecasts of HIE. Working on sub-seasonal and seasonal timescales
- Integrate the results of ForPAc research into ICPAC bulletins, Early Warnings, Climate Watches and other products
- Train regional and other stakeholders on the FbA approach and results on identifying HIE.
- Host scientist-policy-maker-practitioner exchanges on HIE and FbA.

- Play an active role in the ForPAc team, liaising with colleagues in the UK and Kenya.
- Conduct a review of the Princeton African Drought and Flood Monitor (ADFM).

Additional responsibilities to support other components of the ForPAc project include

- Support the mapping of the current decision-making processes informed by Early Warning Systems, working with selected stakeholders in the region – and identify opportunities for FbA.
- Participate in identifying – with regional stakeholders - the thresholds on flood and drought severity that will form the focus of research as the selected HIEs
- Participate in establishing links between the severity of the HIE and the socio-economic impact.

Outputs of the postdoctoral researcher will be monthly reports which will be reviewed by the regional ForPAc Co-Investigator before submission to the Director of ICPAC and ForPAc Principle Investigator.

4. EDUCATION

At least a PhD degree in Meteorology.

5. WORK EXPERIENCE

Work experience preferably in the Greater Horn of Africa will be an added advantage.

6. COMPETENCIES

- A good understanding of the science of sub-seasonal / seasonal variability and prediction and willingness to learn the specifics of FbA and forecast verification.
- A basic understanding of the EWS and decision-making bodies and processes in the region.
- A good understanding of ICPAC's product suite.
- Excellent computing and data analysis skills;
- Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing
- Ability to prepare written reports in a clear, concise and meaningful manner
- Ability to work with minimum supervision

7. LANGUAGES

Fluency in written and Spoken English is required.

8. SALARY

Monthly Allowance: The equivalent of £2500, paid in USA dollars with no other benefits.

9. TO APPLY

You are invited to submit your CV and motivation letter to ICPAC using address below not later than 30 June 2016.

The Director
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