



Postdoctoral Position

The Oliver Tambo Africa Research Chair Initiative (OTARChI) awarded one of the Chairs designated “*Ecosystem-based Adaptation (to climate change) in Arid and Semi-arid zones (ESORCCAS)*” to the Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM), Maputo, Mozambique. The project is financed through the Mozambique National Research Fund (FNI) and will be implemented in the Limpopo Corridor Region, under the coordination UEM with participation of national and international higher education institutions, including the Instituto Politécnico de Gaza, University of Pretoria, the University of Namibia, and the University of Cape Town. The main focus of the project is to promote research, teaching, and to support society, through science-based knowledge.

The Chair intends to hire a postdoctoral researcher, who will work directly with Professor Almeida Siteo. This researcher will work on the integration of different socio-ecological elements in the Limpopo Corridor region, Mozambique, from the point of view of ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change. The aim of the Chair's research project is to systematically assess the socio-ecological interactions of the arid and semi-arid areas of the Limpopo Corridor, with a view to producing science-based knowledge to support policy and development. The overall hypothesis of the project is that ecosystem services and local organizations are the primary factors that determine local adaptation strategies and therefore increase community resilience at relatively low cost. Four work packages have been created to address the problem, focusing on the interactions between natural (climate and ecosystem interactions: WP1 and social (human systems in formal and informal institutions: WP2), resource utilization patterns for the delivery of ecosystem services (WP3), and the integration of social and ecological systems, including the technologies used to achieve delivery of ecosystem services (WP4). Additional project details can be found on the website: www.olivertambo.uem.mz

Description of the research:

The focus of the initial 5 years of this Research Chair is to understand the services of ecosystems and local organizations in reducing vulnerability to climate change in the arid and semi-arid zones of the Limpopo Corridor. The research project will explore the potential of Ecosystem-Based Adaptation strategies to reduce vulnerability at the local community level in semiarid regions. The ultimate motivation of the research is to support local and national policies that can improve decision-making processes regarding resilient communities living in drought-prone regions. Although social and ecological conditions vary from one region to another, the methodological framework developed through this research can be extrapolated to other comparable drought-prone regions of Mozambique and Africa in general. The novelty of this research is the integrated approach of socio-ecological processes that enable or limit the climate change adaptation options at local communities and national levels.

Working language

Candidates must have a good command of English language with skills for academic writing. Although not a requirement, candidates are encouraged to communicate in Portuguese as optional.

Duration and Salary Expectation

The Postdoc position is for a maximum period of 36 months subject to an annual performance evaluation. The salary expectation is MZN 60K subject to taxes applicable in Mozambique.

Application requirements:

All the applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Completion of a PhD or comparable degree in the last 2 years, with experience in natural or social science with good command on theories and transdisciplinary research methods, qualitative and quantitative methods, institutional analysis, resilience, scenarios development and analysis, as well as science of the earth system;
- Solid knowledge of global discussions on climate change, with a focus on ecosystem-based adaptation;
- Leadership skills demonstrated by previous experience in leadership positions and/or appropriate references;

- Scientific publications in journals with a peer review system, in accordance with international standards;
- Three letters of recommendation from academic supervisors or other qualified academic, to provide well-founded comments on the candidate's qualifications and research capabilities;
- Willingness to work in remote rural areas of Mozambique and partner countries;

Female applicants are particularly encouraged to submit their applications.

Application submission

Candidates must submit an application letter, a motivational letter explaining their ability and fitness to the position, and a complete curriculum vitae (in English), including the list of publications and the names and contacts of at least three references.

Proposals must be submitted by February 28, 2023, via the email address catedra@olivertambo.uem.mz

Proposed date of commencement of duties: April 1, 2023

Additional information can be obtained via email: catedra@olivertambo.uem.mz