

CONFER Training at Climate System Analysis Group (University of Cape Town)

Course on navigating climate risk

A course that explores various aspects of climate risk and adaptation responses relevant to the African context.

Course Dates:

Monday 4 July - Friday 8 July (Arrive Sunday 3rd, depart Saturday 8th)

Times

08.30-17.00 SAST (with tea/coffee and lunch breaks)

Language:

The course is conducted in English. Full competence in written and spoken English is an essential requirement

Earn a certificate

Do you want to have proof that you've participated and acquired the knowledge and skills covered in this course? Once you've successfully completed our course, we'll present you with a University of Cape Town accredited course certificate at no cost.

Costs

Fully Sponsored costs:

- Flights from your closest international airport to Cape Town
- All accommodation, breakfasts and lunches, and the gala dinner.
- A meal/incidental allowance of ZAR1000 for dinners
- Local transport in Cape Town to and from the airport, course venue (daily) and gala dinner

Not included:

- Travel insurance, visas, health vaccinations and transport to the nearest international airport.
- Any extras ordered in the hotel, gratuities, personal items.
- Other local transport in Cape Town

Application details

Deadline for Application - 18h00 CAT Friday 3 June 2022

Only online applications submitted through the online form will be accepted.

An application does not guarantee a position. Applications will be reviewed and shortlisted by a selection committee. 12 Positions are available to participate.

Successful candidates will be notified by 6 June 2022.

A letter of acceptance and invitation will be issued for visa purposes.

Visas are required for most African countries - please check online, and apply ASAP after acceptance.

APPLY NOW

Click here to access the application form: <https://bit.ly/3t77vJN>

Course details

Course overview

With climate risk as the central theme, this course aims to stimulate thinking and discussion about how climate risk is understood, what climate risk means in different contexts and how it can be managed. To this end, participants will be introduced to the climate system, the importance of energy in the climate system, climate dynamics and the understanding of hazards. Participants will also gain a better understanding of the importance of context and how this influences the manifestation of vulnerability and risk to climate hazards. Aspects of communication, behavioural change, ethics, values and choices related to climate change and risk will also be introduced.

Is this course for you?

This intensive short course is targeted at participants from East Africa (GHACOF member countries). It is of benefit for professionals who are grappling with decisions and/or policy development incorporating climate and climate change issues. The course is relevant to a variety of sectors including: Government Departments and Ministries, City Councils and Local Municipalities, NGO's, corporate organisations, and environmental consultancies.

Course structure

The course structure combines lectures, formal and informal discussions, interactive exercises, and group working sessions. The taught course component will be complemented by practical case study work, which will enable participants to apply their knowledge and work/network with other participants.

Skills you'll acquire:

- Participants will contribute to and gain a better understanding of the overarching landscape of climate risk and the concepts that frame climate risk such as systems, complexity, and the risk and resilience landscape.
- Participants will gain an understanding of key concepts associated with hazards, how hazards drive risks and will be introduced to the approaches (including processes and decisions) that are involved in understanding hazards.
- Participants will gain a better understanding of the importance of energy in the climate system and are introduced to climate dynamics that affect risk.
- Participants will gain an understanding of how the concepts of risk, vulnerability and adaptation have evolved over time and will be introduced to the most recent thinking related to these.
- Participants will be exposed to a range of approaches for understanding and quantifying vulnerability and risk.
- Participants will gain an understanding of how vulnerability and risk assessments can inform planning.
- Participants will be introduced to the concept of science to society communication and the formal frameworks and techniques involved.
- Participants will gain a better understanding of the Climate Products offered by ICPAC.

Course Convener:

Peter Johnston

In the CSAG Climate Services engagement team, he contributes to the analysis and dissemination of climate information for use in vulnerability, impacts and adaptation decision-making through short- and long-term advisory work and capacity building activities. Peter has a passion for engaging with users and stakeholders around the current state of climate information, and interpreting and applying climate data in an effort to overcome the challenges of science-society communication. He has extensive experience working in the agriculture and water sectors.

Course Administrator:

Sarika Govender

Sarika has a Masters degree in Environmental Management, a Post-Grad Certificate in Education and certificates in course facilitation, assessment and moderation. She has vast experience in course facilitation and enjoys interacting with people from diverse backgrounds. Sarika is dedicated to supporting scientists to bridge the gap between the latest scientific research and influential decision-makers so that they are better able to make informed and meaningful decisions.

Course Module Team Leads:

Alice McClure

Alice has been working at CSAG since 2016 and in the field of climate change and sustainable development since 2011. Alice's research interests span climate risk and vulnerability, climate governance, learning, climate adaptation and African cities resilience. She has particular expertise in integrating these research foci to inform climate-resilient decision making in African cities by bringing together networks of critical players (and funders) in addressing pressing climate risks. She is passionate about working with society to produce climate-related knowledge that supports transformations towards a better future. Alice is currently studying towards a PhD, through which she is exploring the value of transdisciplinary learning processes for governing complex, emergent problems associated with African urban climate risks.

Anna Steynor

Anna is the head of climate services at the Climate System Analysis Group, University of Cape Town. With a background in climate science and applied adaptation, she facilitates the robust use of climate information in adaptation decision-making. Anna implements and manages climate services projects at CSAG as well as implements regional capacity building initiatives. Her current research foci include the transdisciplinary co-production of climate information and the role of risk perceptions in the uptake and use of climate services in Africa.

Christopher Jack

Christopher is currently the deputy director of CSAG playing a key oversight and leadership role. With a first degree in computer science from UCT in 1997 and initial roles in high performance computing, he has a deep understanding of the critical computational foundations of climate science. He obtained his PhD in climate dynamics in 2011 and has contributed to innovative climate science research within the group. However, over the past 10 years Christopher has built extensive experience and understanding in science-society

engagement and communications and supporting decision making under uncertainty. This experience has been developed through a wide range of consulting/advisory activities as well as academic research activities in partnerships with a wide network of collaborators across Africa and internationally. Christopher was co-PI on the recent R80 million DFID/NERC funded FRACTAL project, a widely acclaimed trans-disciplinary urban climate resilience research activity working across 9 cities in southern Africa. Christopher's passion is working with and across diverse disciplines and areas of expertise in complex problem spaces, hence his current interest in urban climate resilience in developing contexts.

Piotr Wolski

Piotr is a hydrologist/climatologist with a broad interest in regional climate responses to human activities in Africa. He focuses on climate and hydrological modelling for climate projections and shorter term forecasts.

Piotr has been actively involvement at the science-policy interface through engagement with projects such as the Future Resilience of African Cities and Lands (FRACTAL) project as well as country-specific academic and consultancy projects aimed at informing policy makers. He is actively involved in SARCOF climate service production.

Stefan Lines

Stefan leads the International Sub-Seasonal & Seasonal Outreach team at the Met Office, UK. His work is primarily focused on East Africa, through projects including H2020 CONFER and FCDO WISER, and includes building institutional capacity through workshop and training facilitation, consulting with stakeholders to understand their climate data requirements, exploration of novel forecasting techniques, and delivery of seasonal climate information services. Stefan works closely with the East Africa WMO Regional Climate Centre 'ICPAC' through co-delivering scientific and technical training, supporting the production of the objective seasonal forecast, and delivering the tri-annual 'State of the Climate' talk to GHACOF participants. With a background in numerical climate modelling, his work also spans running dynamical-downscaling (regional climate model) experiments, production of high-resolution climate projections, and climate data delivery. Prior to joining the Met Office, Stefan was an academic at the University of Exeter, running 3D global climate models of extra-solar planet atmospheres to explore cloud formation mechanisms.

Additional course team members may include:

Bruce Hewitson

Chris Lennard

Kwesi Quagraine

Shakirudeen Lawal

Temitope Egbeyi

Contact for queries:

Any questions: For more information or queries please visit our website or feel free to send an email to Peter or Sarika – confertraining@csag.uct.ac.za

Recommended reading:

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fclim.2021.580556/full>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212096320300371>