



University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (2023)

We are looking for a motivated postdoctoral researcher to join the Future Ecosystems for Africa (FEFA) Programme at Wits University.

1. Future Ecosystems for Africa (FEFA)

Future Ecosystems for Africa (FEFA) is a flagship program funded by Oppenheimer Generations Research and Conservation (OGRC). The program is led by the Global Change Institute and School of Animal Plant and Environmental Sciences at Wits University with project partners from across the continent and the globe. FEFA has three main work components: (1) Data generation and modelling of degradation and restoration options, (2) development of a decision tool for improved natural resources management and, using futures thinking to explore alternative pathways for African development. The postdoc fellow will work under the work package on the development of a decision tool.

Duration of the postdoc fellowship: Two (2) years with a possibility of an extension for an additional year.

Your tasks:

1. Co-develop with the team, a proposal for developing a decision tool.
2. Review and synthesise existing natural resources management decision tools. As part of this review, you will also identify gaps in these tools.
3. Collate and analyse data on degradation, restoration potential, and development threats in sensitive areas.
4. Identify areas of high potential for development where interventions can help minimise trade-offs and achieve multiple values for a diverse set of stakeholders.
5. Contribute to and develop high impact peer reviewed research papers in scientific journals.
6. Contribute news items and other activity for the FEFA website.

Minimum requirements:

1. A PhD in the fields of environmental science, ecological/environmental economics, natural resources management, social-ecological systems, conservation and other related fields.
2. Some indication of scientific publications.
3. Experience in dealing with broad scale data.
4. Familiarity with environmental and development datasets covering Africa.
5. Experience with spatial data analysis will be an advantage.

What we offer:

1. An interdisciplinary research programme and team that encourages independent and collaborative research.
2. Opportunity to focus on the Africa wide scale.
3. A hybrid work environment with off and on site work.

4. A competitive postdoc salary commensurate with experience.

Contact:

Send your applications directly to Khombomoni Keith Chuma, Email: keith.chuma@wits.ac.za. For questions related to the project and work, please contact Odirilwe Selomane on odirilwe.selomane@up.ac.za.

To apply, all of the following should be submitted:

- A covering letter identifying why you are interested in the fellowship
- A detailed CV, including contact details
- Names and contact details of 3 referees
- Certified copies of degrees/diplomas
- A short piece of recent written work, or publication, on which you are the first author.

The closing date for applications is **30 June 2023**. The selected candidate will be expected to start by **01 August 2023**.

Please note we will only contact successful applicants. If you don't hear from us then consider your application to be unsuccessful.

Wits supports equal opportunities.