



CRITICAL ZONES

AFRICA SOUTH AND EAST

**Post-doctoral Research Fellowship (3 years) in  
Commons Governance at  
the University of Cape Town**

[Environmental Humanities South](#) (EHS) is a research centre located in the Faculty of Humanities, at the University of Cape Town. EHS aims to facilitate inter/transdisciplinary collaboration between university-based researchers and different sectors of society, including government officials, activists, community members and artists.

With the financial support of the **Critical Zones Africa South and East (CzASE Studies)** programme funded under DELTASII Africa by the **Science for Africa Foundation**, EHS seeks to appoint a suitably qualified post-doctoral research fellow to engage in transdisciplinary research in the field of the social science of soil.

The appointment is for one year renewable annually for four years, subject to performance and the availability of funds.

The fellow will support a team within the Reclaiming the Commons Research Hub, led by A/Prof. Frank Matose, with the unified goal of promoting a paradigm shift in environmental governance policy in Africa. The fellow will have the opportunity to develop and supervise a team of Masters researchers within the Commons Governance Hub within the [Critical Zones Africa South and East \(CzASE Studies\)](#) research project led by Prof Lesley Green. The appointee will be supervised jointly by Prof Green and A/Prof Matose.

**Conditions of Award:**

Eligible applicants must have completed their doctorate within the past 5 years and may not previously have held comprehensive full-time permanent professional or academic posts.

The successful candidate will have:

- A PhD in environmental humanities, social science, environmental and geographical sciences, or natural sciences (and must be willing to learn methods in social sciences);
- Conducted research on indigenous people's relationships to the commons;

- Experience in conducting transdisciplinary studies including qualitative studies; commons mapping and story-telling; environmental histories, and policy research
- Capacity to work across disciplines
- Presented at seminars, workshops and conferences
- Ability to work in a team and independently
- Experience in using software such as GIS, NVivo, etc
- The successful applicant should ideally be able to commence the fellowship on 1 October 2023. A later start can be negotiated.
- Fluency in an African language spoken in Southern or East Africa.

#### **Advantageous skills/experience:**

- Ability to communicate across different levels of society, i.e. communicate technical research and public facing communication
- Taught/convened courses or supervised students
- Experience in ethnography of the commons with regional communities in Africa.

#### **Research Activities**

The CzASE project is an active network and the successful candidate will be required to fully participate in the attainment of CzASE goals. Inter alia, the successful candidate will be required to:

- develop a field research project attached to a CzASE studies site in dialogue with the project supervisors
- develop a bibliography and literature review on transdisciplinary research on commons governance with a particular emphasis on Southern and East Africa;
- engage in limited teaching and co-supervision and mentorship of graduate students in EHS/CzASE, within the time allowed for work by the post-doctoral rule (12 hours per week over the year);
- publish a minimum of one lead-authored article per year in a peer-reviewed journal;
- present their research in at least two national conferences and one international conference during their tenure;
- be an active member of a collaborative research network involving national and international partners, including co-supervising students working in this field;
- assist graduates working in this field to develop dissertation chapters including for peer-reviewed publication;
- organise workshops and seminars linking regional debates on commons governance across research sites in the CzASE project;
- attend a Carnegie-funded writing retreat and relevant workshops / seminars offered by the Office for Postgraduate Studies in order to develop a wide range of academic and professional skills;
- comply with all policies specified by UCT and Science for Africa including open-access publication and data archiving;
- apply for further research grants in this field.

## Post-Doctoral Fellow Rules

Appointees:

- May not exceed a 5-year tenure, so current candidates should be in no more than their 2nd year as a postdoc
- May not hold any other fellowships without the permission of their supervisor.
- May not undertake employment above 12 hours a week, averaged over a year; and
- Must comply with the University's approved policies, procedures, and practices for the post-doctoral sector.
- Must be present in EHS offices on campus during working hours unless travelling for research purposes or on annual leave.

## Value and Tenure

The value of the fellowship is R380 000 – R480 000 per annum, depending on experience and qualifications. The award is initially for 12 months, renewable for further years subject to satisfactory annual progress and availability of funds. Twenty working days leave per year is allowed for. An office and a laptop will be provided, with access to a shared kitchen and printing facilities.

## Prerequisites

- A PhD in environmental humanities, social science, human geography or a related field obtained in the last 5 years, with a strong commitment to African decolonial thought and transdisciplinarity.

**Application requirements:** All applications should be sent as a single PDF containing:

- A letter of application that includes areas of expertise, research interests and experience
- A detailed CV including details of publications and scholarly outputs
- A published paper or completed dissertation chapter on a relevant topic
- Copies of academic transcripts
- Contact details from at least two academics who will serve as referees.

Applications and enquiries can be sent to A/Prof Frank Matose, [frank.matose@uct.ac.za](mailto:frank.matose@uct.ac.za) and Prof Lesley Green, [lesley.green@uct.ac.za](mailto:lesley.green@uct.ac.za). ***Please use "Commons Governance PostDoc" in the subject line.***

**Applications close 21 August 2023 at 23:59 Southern African Time.**

The University of Cape Town reserves the right to:

- disqualify ineligible, incomplete and/or inappropriate applications,
- change the conditions of award or to make no awards at all.