



A project led and implemented by the African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development

## The Global Challenges Research Fund African Science for Weather Information and Forecasting Techniques (GCRF African SWIFT) Programme

### African SWIFT Secondment Opportunities

#### A. Background

The GCRF African SWIFT consortium, led by the National Centre for Atmospheric Science (NCAS), builds upon the existing partnerships between forecasting centres and universities in four African countries – Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana and Senegal bringing together 5 UK partners (NCAS, University of Leeds, University of Reading, Centre for Ecology, UK Met Office, 10 African partners (ACMAD, ICPAC, KMD, UoN, NIMET, FUTA, GMet, KNUST, ANACIM, UCAD and World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).

The main aims of the project are to firstly improve weather forecasts in tropical Africa from hourly to seasonal time scales significantly; secondly build capability among UK and African partners to improve, maintain and evaluate operational tropical forecasts in future and finally to develop capacity for sustained training of forecasters.

Over the 4 year programme, the team of 25 UK and 45 African atmospheric scientists, social scientists and operational forecasters will undertake fundamental scientific research into the physics of tropical weather systems; evaluation and presentation of complex model and satellite data; and communication and exploitation of forecasts.

The GCRF African SWIFT team will work with forecast users across sectors from aviation to agriculture, energy, water, and emergency response to understand how to tailor the provision and delivery of weather forecasts and to ensure improved response to high impact events (e.g. onset of rains, heat waves, dry spells, strong winds); rapid response to extreme events like flooding and prolonged droughts and increased resilience through integration of weather prediction from nowcasting to seasonal time scale into strategies for response to climate change.

#### B. Secondment Opportunities

Under the African SWIFT Project and in order to pursue its major aims, some opportunities for secondment programme are hereby advertised for African members. This opportunity will enable the secondees to support SWIFT goals (either generally or specifically) and for his/her personal career development.



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*Structure:*

The following are the structure of the secondment. The secondee can:

- (1) travel and spend 2 to 3 months in an African institution (or centre) within or outside his/her country where facilities for achieving these two goals mentioned are readily available; and
- (2) stay in same city and spend 1 or 2 days a week to pursue above stated goals in another organisation for efficiency.

We are committed to supporting flexible working where this commits those with family or other responsibilities, and we will consider other work patterns on a case by case basis.

We encourage secondments between universities and operational centres.

We will have 2 calls for these secondments.

*Funding details:*

The budget for each secondee is to a maximum of £3,600 to cover all costs (such as visa, return ticket and/or transportation, accommodation, feeding and other daily subsistence).

No salary costs can be included. Please note that in common with all SWIFT funding, all expenses must be claimed on the basis of actual expenditure and no *per diem* expenses will be allowed. Please note that no hosting costs will be funded.

Funds will be paid to the home institution. No funds will be transferred from SWIFT to the host institution for the secondment.

*Eligibility:*

The applicant must be a member of one of the African partner organisations of SWIFT and must be contributing to one or more of SWIFT's tasks or deliverables.

*How to apply:*

Interested member should submit the following:

- (1) a cover letter (1 page max);
- (2) an updated CV (2 pages max);



- (3) statement of secondment aims including contribution to African SWIFT task or deliverable he/she is to pursue and career benefits to secondee (2 pages max);
- (4) proposed budget analysis (1 page);
- (5) support letter of the home Team Leader and approving the outgoing secondment.; and
- (6) letter of acceptance of the host institution indicating that no bench fee will be charged.

The application should be directed to the Director General, African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development; [dgacmad@acmad.org](mailto:dgacmad@acmad.org) (and copy to) or GCRF Programme Science Director, African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development; [aelijah@acmad.org](mailto:aelijah@acmad.org)

*Deadline:*

The deadline for this application is 18:00 GMT of 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2020. Application submitted after this deadline will not receive full consideration.

Criteria for selection

- Women are explicitly encouraged to apply. We strive to achieve a gender balance in the awards.
- We will attempt to balance awards across the range of SWIFT partners and across the SWIFT work packages.
- Awards will be based on 2 factors:
  - Contribution of the work to SWIFT aims
  - Contribution to the secondee's career development, in relation to the SWIFT skills matrix.
- Evaluation will be by a panel selected from and approved by the Executive Committee.