

Job Description

Job title	Postdoctoral Research Associate to support the 4th UK Climate Change Risk Assessment
Department/Unit	SCFP
Job Type	Full Time, Fixed Term
Grade:	Grade 6
Accountable to	Line Manager
HERA Code	
Vacancy reference	SRF47506

Purpose

We are seeking a PDRA to work on an exciting new project as part of the Climate Change Committee's 'Climate Change Risk Assessment 4' (CCRA4). The PDRA will work with the Lead Authors of the Technical Report chapter on Land, Food and Nature, having a key role in delivering this chapter. Tasks will include liaising with the Lead Authors and Contributing Authors, scoping out key climate change risks in this area, consolidating text reviewing risks, and helping to produce the final chapter. We are seeking a person with a PhD in a related area, who has good organisational skills and a broad interest in climate change impacts and working on translating science into policy.

Main duties and responsibilities

- 1). Engaging relevant stakeholders in informing the chapter. Identifying and connecting with them, engaging them in particular tasks that are critical to generating the chapter: reviewing the risks, opportunities and urgency scores identified in the same chapter from CCRA3, co-developing workshops to finalise the risks to be assessed for CCRA4, reviewing the National Adoption Programmes (NAPs) that are presently in delivery (NAP3 2023-2028 in England and the draft NAP 2024-2029 in Scotland), managing the call for evidence for the Land, Food and Nature chapter, managing the community (stakeholder) review of the chapter
- 2). Lead the systematic literature review of new evidence for the chapter, determining the extent to which the evidence of the understanding of the risks and opportunities and the UK's policy response has developed since CCRA3. The role holder will work with chapter leads and co-authors to identify a set of search terms for each risk/opportunity that can act as a starting base for the review. The review will consider new evidence on the current and future state of exposure, vulnerability, and hazards as well as policy developments such as regional or organisational risk assessments and adaptation planning. Additionally, relevant information for the CCC's cross-CCRA themes will be collected.

- 3). Create summaries on the state of evidence on each risk/opportunity. A summary will be given on each risk/opportunity with a justification of the priority score. Assist the chapter leads to organise and hold an online workshop session to present their new interim scores to relevant Government and non-Government stakeholders in September 2024, and iterate as needed.
- 4). Work with chapter authors to assess the risks/opportunities for the Land, Food and Nature chapter over the four time periods specified in the CCRA4 (present, 2030s, 2050s, 2080s), and taking account of the global warming levels specified. The near-term reference period of 2030s will be assessed for the first time and will represent the time period for the next round of National Adaptation Programmes. As such, evidence on the observed/projected effectiveness of planned and announced near-term adaptation actions, as well as potential changes in vulnerability and exposure (for instance through actions associated with Net Zero policies) will be essential to determining the adaptation gap during this period. To assist with the consideration of future impacts under the central and high-end scenarios, each chapter will identify key climate indicators linked to their risks. The State of the Climate chapter will assist by producing evidence for these for the central and high impact scenarios and will provide evidence across the uncertainty range. This will be done in an iterative process in collaboration between the state of climate chapter and the respective topic Chapter Leads.
- 5). Co-ordinate co-authors to draft and provide editorial assistance for the interim CCRA4 chapter on Land, Food and Nature, which will then be subject to final editing by the chapter leads. This will be used to obtain feedback from a range of stakeholders from within the community relevant to the chapter. The role holder will co-design stakeholder workshops (building from Task 1), possibly supported by semi-structured interviews for specific targeted stakeholders. An open feedback form will be centrally managed, but the role holder will be expected to collate this feedback and make edits to the chapter according to the findings.

Supervision received

Day to day supervision will be provided by Prof Carol Wagstaff

Supervision given

NA

Contact

The role holder will be expected to proactively engage with a range of stakeholders from within the University and with outside organisations. They will be in regular contact with Chapter co-leads at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and Plymouth Marine Laboratory and with a range of co-authors and “fresh eyes” (early career researchers) associated with the chapter.

Terms and conditions

The post is appointed at 1.0 FTE and will be fixed term until the end of September 2025. Hours can be flexible by arrangement.

This document outlines the duties required for the time being of the post to indicate the level of responsibility. It is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list and the line manager may vary duties from time to time which do not change the general character of the job or the level of responsibility entailed.

Date assessed: 29th April 2024

Person Specification

Job Title	School/Department
Postdoctoral Research Associate to support the 4th UK Climate Change Risk Assessment	School of Chemistry, Food & Pharmacy

Which stage these Criteria be assessed:

A = Application

I = Interview

P = Presentation/Pre task/Other (delete and amend as appropriate)

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Skills Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent communication skills and ability to develop strong working relationships with colleagues and representatives of other bodies and organisations. • Good organisational skills, ability to self-direct and set own priorities • Excellent writing and editorial ability • Experience of conducting systematic literature reviews • Ability to identify gaps or shortfalls in information or infrastructure; research and propose alternative sources to fill these gaps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of writing policy-facing documents • Experience of curating evidence to inform policy
Attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD in subject relevant to Ecology, Food, Agriculture, Marine Sciences
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of some aspects of food and natural systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of subject(s) relevant to the Chapter e.g. biodiversity management (land or marine), ecology, agriculture, food production, processing, supply chains
Relevant Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of providing evidence that is used to underpin strategy • Experience of writing literature reviews, large bodies of academic work (e.g. theses, peer reviewed publications). • Experience of analysing and evaluating qualitative data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of writing policy briefs or documents for policy makers • Experience of co-development with non-academic stakeholders

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of stakeholder engagement for a specific project or purpose 	
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A willingness to contribute to team working as well as an ability to work alone when necessary • Ability to communicate new and complex information effectively, both verbal and written, engaging the interest of the target audience. • Positive, flexible and adaptable approach 	

Completed By Carol Wagstaff

Date 29 April 2024