



The Institute of Natural Resources NPC (INR) is a Pietermaritzburg-based non-profit organisation that works towards the wise use of natural resources in pursuit of sustainability for the good of the environment and society. We do this through multidisciplinary action research and the dissemination of knowledge. We work closely with community partners to create solutions that are both practical and easily implemented. In addition, we play an advisory role for the government, communities, and the private sector.

**The organisation has the following position that we would like to fill in 2025:**

## **SENIOR SCIENTIST: CLIMATE CHANGE & PLANETARY HEALTH**

The INR seeks a climate scientist / senior scientist focusing on climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies within human and environmental well-being and health to work on the Sustainable and Healthy Food Systems – Southern Africa (SHEFS-SA) programme. The person will be contributing to analysing climate change impacts on the environment and human health and well-being, conducting primary research to document communities' lived experiences with climate change impacts on the environment and human health and well-being and modelling future scenarios. Therefore, we seek someone with experience in impact modelling for human and environmental systems to contribute to modelling diverse climate change impacts on the environment and human health and well-being in southern African countries. The role requires interpreting climate, human, and environmental data to inform actions and strategies at the local and meso scale and working with our research teams, local and regional stakeholders, and policymakers.

The SHEFS-SA consortium is working to catalyse the transformation of Southern African land, water, environmental and food systems (focusing on Malawi, South Africa and Zimbabwe) and communities towards systems and communities that are healthy and resilient to climate risks. We will do this by:

- undertaking SHEFS transdisciplinary research to shift the understanding of complex climate change (CC) challenges for health, as mediated by food systems, within particular contexts, translated into scalable solutions and policy recommendations with high impact;
- developing a transdisciplinary Community of Practice (CoP), led by the Global South, that contextualises and applies systems thinking within an expanded climate-sensitive SHEFS Framework to improve food security, food safety, nutrition, and health, including mental health; and (iii) developing a Global South-led cohort programme to train emerging scholars and practitioners in transdisciplinary research approaches at the intersection of Climate and Health.

The SHEFS-SA consortium will focus on providing actionable evidence for informed decision-making and identifying and developing practical solutions for CC mitigation and/or adaptation. We invite applicants who have a minimum of a PhD in Climate Science or cognate qualification, and at least 5 years of professional/applied research experience in the field of climate change. The positions will contribute to cutting-edge research in water, energy, food, environment, and health systems under climate change, aiming to enhance the countries' climate resilience, particularly at the community level. The successful candidate will form part of and contribute to a large interdisciplinary cohort of early career researchers and postgraduate students working across various projects linked to SHEFS-SA.



**The position requires the following expertise/skill sets/attributes:**

- Strong evidence of experience working in applied climate change adaptation and/or mitigation research with the ability to analyse climate, socio-economic and health data and translate data into actionable adaptation and mitigation strategies;
- Familiar with statistical methods and climate, socio-economic and health data analysis tools;
- Demonstrated ability to carry out climate, socio-economic and health assessments;
- Depth of understanding of climate change impacts on the environment and human health and well-being with a good understanding of international and national/local climate agreements, legislation and policies;
- Demonstrated ability to develop proposals and secure project funding;
- Demonstrable ability in planning, undertaking and project-managing research to deliver high-quality results;
- Proven track record of publishing in peer-reviewed journals and producing policy-relevant outputs;
- Experience working across diverse landscapes with differing environmental and socio-economic contexts;
- Experience in working collaboratively in multidisciplinary teams;
- Ability to report and communicate output clearly to a wide and diverse audience;
- Ability to work independently and complete project deliverables on time and within budget;
- Confidence in networking and strong relationship-building skills;
- Ability to think strategically on matters relevant to the role;
- Willingness to travel with a valid Driver's licence and driving experience.

**The following evidence/attributes will be an added advantage:**

- Proven ability to secure global climate funding
- Registration with an accredited scientific body.

Interested persons are invited to apply by sending a letter of motivation that addresses the position's requirements and a detailed curriculum vitae to [recruitment@inr.org.za](mailto:recruitment@inr.org.za). The subject line should state '**Senior Scientist: Climate Change & Planetary Health**'.

This position will be permanent, with a six-month probationary period; remuneration will be on a full Cost to Company basis.

**The Application Closes on 21 February 2025.**