

# Call for Applications

## NRF-AXA African Scientific Progress Award

**UCT Internal Deadline: 15 November 2024**

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### BACKGROUND

The [National Research Foundation of South Africa](#) (NRF) and the [AXA Research Fund](#) collaboratively launch the [African Scientific Progress Award](#) (ASPA). ASPA intends to support sustainability research activities for early career research on the African continent through the [Future Earth Africa Hub](#). Central to the grant is the generation of timely and regionally relevant research insights, as well as career growth. The grant aims to help researchers establish themselves in their respective fields, build their research profiles, and work towards developing independent and impactful research programmes in collaboration.

The objective of the NRF – AXA Research Fund partnership is to support excellent science of early career research in Africa building and enhancing Future Earth Africa's mission by:

- Enabling early career researchers to spend time focussing on research (increase scientific output, increasing options for promotions/tenure).
- Developing research and knowledge for strengthening existing or developing new science clusters, addressing complex and interrelated global risk challenges in the context of the African continent, such as climate, socioeconomics, and health.
- Strengthening the capacity and skills of the next generation of African sustainability scientists and leaders by providing opportunities for fellowship, training, mentoring as well as networking and collaboration.
- Strengthening FEAH Regional Nodes / Clusters by building capacity development programmes for early career researchers. Nodes are decentralized leadership centres with partner institutions in different African regions. Nodes work with the FEAH to lead clusters.
- Enhancing the visibility and influence of African researchers on the continent and in the global sustainability science arena.
- Establishing a network of sustainability science researchers in Africa that will include potential mentors and mentees.

### FOCUS AREAS

This grant will consider research projects exploring one or more aspects within the following areas:

- Analyses of Health Impacts of Climate Change:
  - Research the specific health effects of climate change-related factors such as rising temperatures, climate-induced food and water shortages, extreme weather events, and ecosystem changes.
  - Consider the implications for different population groups (youth, elderly, women, Indigenous communities, etc.) and geographies (urban, rural, suburban) as well as the continent's economic development trajectory.
- Strategies for Mitigating and Adapting to Health and Climate Change Impacts:
  - Investigate innovative strategies and solutions for mitigating/adapting to the intersection of health and climate change impacts in Africa.
  - Address the unique challenges and stakeholders in Africa, encompassing both the public and private sectors.

- Governance and Financing Considerations:
  - Examine governance and financing aspects as crucial considerations in addressing the intersection of climate change and health in Africa.
  - Explore effective policies and financial mechanisms necessary for implementing sustainable solutions tailored to the continent's specific needs.

## ELIGIBILITY

- Early career researchers of African nationality from universities across the African continent with PhD plus 3-5 years of research experience.
- Applicants must demonstrate they have started to build a track record in their selected field and demonstrate to be a promising future leader.

## FUNDING

Applicants may apply for a maximum of EUR 42.000,00 (ca. South African Rand 800.000,00) per year for a maximum of two (2) years or 24 months.

Funding may be utilised for the following activities:

- Salaries
- Travel
- Accommodation
- Subsistence
- Publication costs
- Training programmes and workshops
- Purchase of scientific equipment and resources (databases, survey costs, consumables, etc.)

## APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION PROCESS

The application must be completed on the **NRF online system**: <https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za>

1. Register / Login using your ORCID and password.
2. Update your CV (These Curriculum Vitae are used in the assessment processes, and incomplete or outdated inputs will jeopardise the success of the application).
3. On the Menu, click on Applications under My Applications tab.
4. Click on the + sign next to Research Grants.
5. Click on the *Create* button next to **NRF - AXA Research Fund African Scientific Progress Award**
6. Complete all compulsory sections and the relevant non-compulsory sections.
7. Attach all the required documents in PDF format.
8. Applicants must attach a support letter containing details on co-support for the project, signed by the Head of Department or line manager of the applicant.
9. Submit the application on completion.

It is of utmost importance that applicants consult the [Framework Document](#) for more details about the funding programme and review process.