

Seeking partners for “Socio-economic empowerment of the users of the sea” call (under the Africa Initiative)

Can Act As:

Work Package Leader; Consortium Partner

We are looking for partners to join the HORIZON-CL6-2021-COMMUNITIES-01-04 call: Socio-economic empowerment of the users of the sea.

The [South African Research Chair in Marine Ecology and Fisheries](#) at the University of Cape Town offers a vibrant and supportive research environment, producing research that is kept in high regard nationally, regionally, and globally. Our research focusses on three themes, (i) modelling in marine social-ecological systems for management strategy evaluation, (ii) indicators for marine social-ecological systems at the science-policy interface, and (iii) inter- and transdisciplinary research into marine social-ecological systems under global change.

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Project overview:

We propose a work package that places the focus on the facilitation and improvement of the adaptive capacity of vulnerable groups in coastal communities in South Africa and other African countries by following a co-designed and collaborative research approach that makes use of multiple methods including participative modelling, structured decision-making and arts-based approaches. We propose taking a community-based research approach to co-design and develop interventions and tools with these stakeholders to foster an improvement in adaptive capacity at the local level, thereby facilitating improvements in social and economic conditions in these communities. At the same time, decision-makers will be engaged to identify and implement interventions to promote whole-of-system decision-making. Through these various interventions, we will also facilitate science and stakeholder engagement in relation to climate change and variability, and the effects thereof. By defining and outlining a field-tested approach, our proposed project will directly contribute to strengthening the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities and create awareness of climate change at the local level, strengthen the relevant existing ecosystem models through the integration of fishers’ knowledge, and contribute to the promotion of holistic management approaches through capacity building at larger scales and via policy recommendations.

Keywords:

Coastal communities, resilient communities, human wellbeing, Climate change adaptation, sustainable development, climate change awareness, systems-based approaches, ecosystem-based management.