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FICAP AI and Citizen Science for Climate Resilience in Nakuru

VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

The FICAP AI and Citizen Science for Climate Resilience in Nakuru project is a collaborative air quality monitoring project that has been funded by the Government of Flanders and is implemented by Egerton University-Kenya and KU Leuven-Belgium. The project has two vacancy openings; (i) **Knowledge broker** (ii) **Data scientist**



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FICAP AI and Citizen Science for Climate Resilience in Nakuru

(i) Title: Knowledge Broker

Location: Egerton University, Njoro with option for partial tele-work

Type: Full-time - MA level (or equivalent experience)

Start Date: As early as May 1, 2024

About Us:

We are an ambitious initiative under the Flemish (Belgian) FICAP Climate Action Programme, dedicated to tackling climate change and its intersection with air pollution. Our project leverages AI technology to enhance climate resilience in communities, focusing on environmental monitoring and informing policy-making through big data and citizen science. We foster multi-stakeholder partnerships to drive meaningful action and sustainable outcomes.

Role:

We are seeking a **Knowledge Broker** to play a pivotal role in our team, facilitating the integration and adoption of our AI-based collaborative platform into existing climate change management frameworks. This individual will be responsible for ensuring that our innovative solutions are effectively communicated and utilized by stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and the community at large. An important part of this will be building and maintaining a citizen science project that involves local communities in sharing their experiences of local air quality to be integrated into the AI-based platform.



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Responsibilities:

- Liaise with relevant stakeholders to promote the adoption of the AI-based platform.
- Supervise and coordinate activities with the Data Scientist and other team members.
- Organize and lead capacity-building projects and training sessions.
- Enhance multi-stakeholder collaboration, breaking down organizational silos.
- Contribute to the creation of policy briefs and reports on climate change and air pollution.
- Develop and manage a citizen science panel for integration and promotion of the adoption of the AI based platform.
- Map Nakuru neighborhoods and their associated Whatsapp community groups.
- Build trust amongst community leaders to gain access to the community.
- Sample appropriate communities to recruit members for the research panel.
- Maintain engagement and outreach with community leaders during the lifecycle of the project (and research panel).
- Ensure equivalence between English and Swahili versions of the questions and answer options that will be posed to those living in the communities who are members of the panel.
- Coordinate with the various stakeholders and teams to understand their research needs.
- Ensure citizen science compliance with ethical guidelines and privacy laws.

Requirements:

- Proven experience in networking/building relationships, knowledge brokering, stakeholder engagement, or a related field. High level of integrity and trustworthiness.



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- Ability to work independently, excellent time management skills and decision making skills.
- Masters degree in a relevant field of study (e.g sociology, psychology, anthropology, political science or related discipline, environmental science with knowledge of social science methods)
- Strong understanding of climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- Strong organizational and project management skills.
- Excellent communication and facilitation skills.
- Ability to work collaboratively in a multi-disciplinary team.
- Passionate about environmental sustainability and climate action.
- Fluency in English and Swahili.
- Experience with community outreach is an asset.

What We Offer:

- A three-year, full-time opportunity at Grade 10 (MA-level) with a competitive monthly package totaling 139,000 KES. This package comprises a 125,000 KES lump sum salary alongside a 14,000 KES dedicated research budget.
- The possibility to embark on a PhD trajectory, contingent upon funding availability.
- Join a high-profile project involving international stakeholders, with opportunities for global travel to attend stakeholder meetings and training events around the world.

How to Apply:

If you are passionate about using your skills to make a difference in the fight against climate change, we would love to hear from you. Please send your CV and a cover letter detailing your experience and motivation for applying to ensci@egerton.ac.ke



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(ii) Title: Data Scientist

Location: Egerton University, Njoro with option for partial tele-work

Type: Full-time - MSc level

Start Date: As early as May 1, 2024

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Role:

We are looking for a Data Scientist to lead the development and implementation of our AI-based collaborative platform for pollution data visualization. The successful candidate will be instrumental in analyzing environmental data to support climate resilience strategies and decision-making processes.

Responsibilities:

- Consolidate all current Air Quality datasets in the region into a single centralized platform designed to be user-friendly.
- Develop and refine AI models for meteorological and air pollution observation and forecasting.
- Work closely with the Knowledge Broker and stakeholders to integrate AI tools into climate change adaptation plans.



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- Conduct data analysis to identify air pollution sources and impacts.
- Provide training and technical support to stakeholders on using the AI platform.
- Participate in the continuous improvement of the AI system, ensuring its relevance and effectiveness.

Requirements:

- Master degree in Data Science.
- Extensive experience working with various database systems such as SQL databases (e.g., PostgreSQL, MySQL) and NoSQL databases (e.g., MongoDB, Cassandra) for storing and retrieving data efficiently.
- Experience with Big Data and machine learning techniques, particularly in environmental applications.
- Mastery of programming languages employed in data science, such as Python, R or Scala, along with experience in developing complex data processing pipelines and automation scripts.
- Strong analytical skills and ability to translate complex data into visuals and actionable insights.
- Excellent communication skills for effective stakeholder engagement.
- Ability to work collaboratively in a multi-disciplinary team.
- Passionate about environmental sustainability and climate action.
- Fluency in English and Swahili.

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