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UCT climate experts selected for key roles in UN IPCC Report

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has selected several lead and contributing authors from the University of Cape Town's [African Climate and Development Initiative](#) (ACDI) for its Seventh Assessment Report (AR7). They are Dr Chris Trisos, Dr Luckson Zvobgo, Dr Nick Simpson, Professor Gina Ziervogel and Dr Kossi Hounkpati.

Trisos and Zvobgo have been selected to lead the critically important *Technical Guidelines for Assessing Impacts and Adaptations including Indicators, Metrics and Methodologies* in Working Group II, which provide methodologies for assessing the impacts of climate change and planning adaptations. These guidelines are currently being updated for AR7 to incorporate new scientific understanding and address evolving policy needs, including indicators, metrics and methodologies for adaptation. ACDI's Climate Risk Lab is developing indicators for the Global Goal on Adaptation and deploying AI for large-scale knowledge synthesis on adaptation, both of which will be crucial in informing the IPCC process.

"Securing indicators that seek to understand access to quality and appropriate quantity of finance, adaptation technology and capacity building of developing countries is critical for achieving global goals on adaptation, protecting millions of people in frontline communities in developing countries," explained Zvobgo.

Simpson will lead one of the AR7 Global Assessment Chapters, *Chapter 2: Vulnerabilities, Impacts and Risks*. This is in addition to his current roles as a lead author on Chapter 1 of the IPCC *Special Report on Climate Change and Cities* (SR Cities) and contributing author to Chapters 2, 4 and 5, along with Ziervogel, who is a contributing author to the Africa regional assessment of Chapter 5 of SR Cities.

Hounkpati, an ASCEND postdoctoral fellow, has also been selected as a lead author of *Chapter 15: Potentials, Limits, and Risks of Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR)* in Working Group III.

"It is a great opportunity to be on these reports to ensure strong alignment of important risk and adaptation information across them, particularly when filling important knowledge gaps on vulnerability and risk to Africa's future development under climate change," said Simpson.

These five selections, selected from a global pool of 3 771 nominees, reflect the global recognition of ACDI for developing actionable knowledge on climate risk and adaptation and integrating evidence-based science with scalable policy processes.

They will now begin their work on assessing relevant literature and preparing drafts of their respective reports, with the first lead author meeting scheduled for early December 2025.

ENDS

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