

# CLIMATE SYSTEM ANALYSIS GROUP



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA



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# CONTENTS

About CSAG	1
Meet the team	3
What we do	6
Research	7
Research Projects	8
Consulting	9
Climate Services	10
Study	11
Contact us	13



# ABOUT CSAG



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The Climate System Analysis Group (CSAG), based at the University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa, is a multi-disciplinary research centre that, since its inception in 1992, has been evolving a nuanced strategy for research in Africa.

Blending atmospheric science, climate modelling, and applied climate analysis with multidisciplinary elements of vulnerability, impacts and adaptation science, CSAG offers a unique integration of research relevant to developing nation needs. These resources are coupled with proactive engagement and capacity building activities across the continent in a strategic effort to bridge the science-society interface. From these foundations CSAG seeks to apply the core research to meet the knowledge needs of responding to climate variability and change.

CSAG's core disciplinary depth is in physical climate science, but we believe that, in order for climate science to be societally relevant, practitioners need to be involved from the start in order to inform the development of information for climate change analysis. Thus, CSAG is involved in numerous projects in Africa, specifically targeted at engaging practitioners in aiding development of climate information but also in disseminating climate information in a decision-relevant manner. This includes expertise in climate vulnerability and adaptation assessments.

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Central to our portfolio of activities is the intent to be **relevant** to the knowledge **needs** of developing nations

# MEET THE TEAM

CSAG is comprised of a mix of researchers, post-docs, MSc and PhD students, with administrative and IT support staff, backed by the institutional support of the University of Cape Town. The members of CSAG have excellent national and international collaborative experience with formal links to a number of foreign institutions, and with senior personnel participating in key international activities, including leading roles within the IPCC.





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FOR FURTHER  
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CSAG PROFILES

# WHAT WE DO

As a leading climate research group in Africa, CSAG is uniquely positioned to target the critical knowledge needs of the region. CSAG focuses on the generation of robust, relevant, regional climate change information, while advancing our understanding of the coupled climate system. In collaboration with practitioners, CSAG develops information and builds capacity to better address decision needs and support the research activities of other disciplines. CSAG does this in two ways, firstly through numerous research projects, and secondly through our climate consultancy services.



CSAG has an international research profile in climate change with a strong track record in the management and processing of **climate data** as well as the integration of climate information into decision making processes. While CSAG holds a prominent place in the field of climate **modelling** and analysis, it is also positioned at the forefront of **transdisciplinary climate research** in Africa.

CSAG has excellent national and international collaborative experience with formal links to a number of leading international research institutions and programs. CSAG has representation on key international activities (e.g. 3 IPCC authors in WG1 and WG2, co-chair of the IPCC TGICA, WCRP Task Force on Regional Climate Downscaling).

CSAG matches this modelling expertise with complementary expertise in decision support science and transdisciplinary engagement. CSAG takes a deeply interactive approach to its research with the philosophy of being decision-relevant for society. In this respect, CSAG has leading expertise in transdisciplinary engagement processes and user-focused product development.

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# RESEARCH PROJECTS

CSAG is involved in numerous research projects and since its inception in 1992 has built strong relationships which enable great **collaboration** and **partnerships** with other institutions. Our research projects are available for viewing on our website.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
ON RESEARCH PROJECTS  
VISIT OUR [WEBSITE](#)

CSAG welcomes collaborative and inter-disciplinary research, should you wish to find out more about any of the research projects we are involved in, contact us for more information

CSAG has a long and **extensive** track record in partnering with other organisations to deliver climate related services. In particular CSAG is a key partner active in Africa and Southern Africa in the Climate Change **adaptation** decision space.

CSAG offers the following in terms of consulting services:

- Global and regional climate modelling supported by an in-house high-performance computing facility
- Practitioner engagement and co-production
- Statistical and dynamic downscaling of climate change projections
- Scientific capacity development
- Agricultural and Hydrological modelling
- Integration of climate information in Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation decision-making.
- Perceptions, attitudes and behavioural change studies



# CLIMATE SERVICES

CSAG is rapidly expanding its engagement with society. This recognizes that science can only be useful if designed, communicated and understood in ways that are applicable. To this end, CSAG has created a dedicated engagement team who have a unique blend of experience in both climate science and communication with the policy, adaptation, and decision maker communities. Working with practitioners goes deeper than mere dissemination of a data product.

CSAG believe that active communication is two directional within a knowledge network of climate and non-climatic information - that climate services are more than a one-way delivery of data. Sustained engagement with practitioners in the co-production of knowledge leads to climate related products that are user-focused and decision-relevant, while engendering an ongoing relationship between science and society.

A central theme to complement climate services is one of capacity building through training. CSAG is active in hosting training workshops, mentoring junior scientists, and supporting climate change projects across Africa. These capacity building activities include mid-career professional training on climate change, such as in the CSAG annual Winter School focused on using climate information for adaptation and policy development, as well as the hosting of visiting scientists and students, and interns.



Inquire about  
[CSAGs climate services](#)

# STUDY





# STUDY WITH US

The Climate System Analysis Group hosts honours, masters, and PhD students who are enrolled in the Atmospheric Science stream within the Environmental and Geographical Science Department (EGS) at the University of Cape Town. In addition to facilitating the research projects of these students, CSAG has post-doctoral research positions. Postdoctoral research fellows at CSAG have the opportunity to engage with researchers at the top of their field, on research projects that are on the frontiers of science.

To [join the CSAG team](#) as a honours, masters, PhD, or Postdoctoral fellow, candidates need to apply through the **faculty of Science within the University of Cape Town**.



# CONTACT US



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