



African Synthesis Centre for Climate Change,
Environment and Development

The background of the lower half of the page is an aerial photograph of a rural landscape. It shows a mix of brown, arid-looking soil and vibrant green agricultural fields. The fields are arranged in various patterns, including large circular plots and rectangular sections, suggesting a form of precision agriculture or irrigation. A winding road or canal cuts through the fields. In the bottom right corner, there is a decorative graphic of several concentric, semi-transparent white arcs that resemble a stylized signal or a modern logo element.

**ACCELERATING
ACTIONABLE RESEARCH
ON CLIMATE CHANGE ACROSS
AFRICA AND GLOBALLY**

ABOUT ASCEND



The African Synthesis Centre for Climate Change, Environment and Development (ASCEND) accelerates solution-oriented research for preventing and adapting to climate change impacts across Africa and globally.

ASCEND teams of policymakers, researchers, and practitioners generate actionable research breakthroughs that make a positive difference for climate resilient development and increase wellbeing for people and ecosystems.

ASCEND is based in the African Climate and Development Initiative at University of Cape Town and has been created as a platform for teams drawn from across Africa and globally.

ASCEND provides specialised infrastructure for enabling transdisciplinary teamwork, integrating diverse data and knowledge, and accelerating solutions-focused partnerships for climate change and development.



ASCEND will help reshape power relations in climate change research, with Global South teams setting agendas, leading ground-breaking research, and delivering discoveries for enhanced climate and development action.



- DR CHRISTOPHER TRISOS, ASCEND DIRECTOR

CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT SYNTHESIS CENTRE

Transdisciplinary teams synthesizing existing data and knowledge across multiple sectors and systems are proven to deliver scientific breakthroughs, identify new solutions, and support evidence-based decision making.

Diverse data and knowledge already exist on climate change risks and response options across the Global South, but these data remain poorly integrated. A lack of synthesis limits climate action.

ASCEND provides a physical and virtual space designed for researchers, decision-makers, and practitioners collaborating to integrate diverse data and knowledge for climate and development action.

The transdisciplinary teams produce actionable research and decision-support outputs for key climate and development priorities.

Simply put, a synthesis centre team is an accelerator for solution-oriented climate and development research and decision-making.

OUR AIMS

ASCEND aims to accelerate discoveries for more rapid, equitable, and sustained action on climate change and development for vulnerable people and places.

By co-creating projects across research, policy, and practice ASCEND will produce actionable findings that can enhance climate action at local, national, and global levels.

WHAT ASCEND DOES

1

Enhance Actionable Research, Innovation and Collaboration

- Strengthen research, knowledge brokering, and partnerships for action on climate change and development.
- Increase the capacity of researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to synthesize diverse data and knowledge for solutions.
- Foster scientific discoveries that deepen and transform our understanding of interlinked climate change and development challenges and uncover solutions.
- Increase the availability of powerful, accessible tools, concepts and information for solutions-oriented decision-making.

2

Advance Global Thought Leadership

- Establish global thought leadership that is solutions-oriented for climate change, environment, and development.
- Strengthen the profile of African and Global South researchers, policymakers, and practitioners.

3

Promote Equity

- Promote an increased focus on equity and justice in climate change and development research and in solutions.

OPPORTUNITIES TO BECOME ONE OF OUR TEAMS

ASCEND teams will start in 2024. We encourage diversity in team membership and welcome applications for teams drawn from across Africa and the global South. The participants and leaders of a team should be from a range of research, policy and practice institutions and backgrounds (they do not have to be from University of Cape Town). Teams consist of up to 15 members that meet at ASCEND up to four times over a two-year period,

with work continuing between meetings. ASCEND funds meeting and travel costs, and provides team facilitation and data science support, as well as support for a full-time postdoctoral researcher for each team.

Please sign up to the ASCEND mailing list to be notified of calls for new team opportunities, including the BAOBAB synthesis project for African research on climate change.

GET IN TOUCH



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ascend.org.za



Scan to sign up
to our mailing list



African Synthesis Centre for Climate Change,
Environment and Development

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STEP CHANGE

