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Dear Sir or Madam:

RE: APPLICATION - RESEARCH AND PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER

I write to apply for the position of Research and Partnerships Manager at One Acre Fund.

I submitted my PhD thesis in Financial Economics at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg in South Africa, expecting to graduate in December 2022. My research examined the transformation of Microfinance Institutions in Africa. Hence, I have well-developed knowledge in finance, financial econometrics (including regression analysis, propensity score matching and difference in differences), rural finance and markets, financial development and inclusion, and financial management. I have over 15 years of experience in education, research, finance, and related roles.

The research journey saw me gain advanced skills in data analytics- R and Ms Excel, SQL, Stata and Eviews. I am also familiar with Big Data analytics ecosystems like Hadoop and Spark. As a research assistant at the Wits Business School, I have worked with the World Bank, IMF, MIX, and FRED data for five years.

Importantly, I embrace continuous learning, a critical personal quality in the era of rapid technological changes that also affect data analytics. Currently, I am undertaking data science courses and independent data science projects. Additional information is available on my GitHub account (<https://www.github.com/Karuitha>) and LinkedIn profile page (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/karuitha/>).

Although I am currently in academia, I have previously held professional positions. At Twana Twitu Cares, an NGO, I was in charge of finance, where I did financial reports for the management and donors (USAID and AMREF). I was the project manager at NECLI, a livelihoods improvement and environmental conservation community-based organisation funded by the EU and DANIDA. I also worked as a macroeconomic statistician specialising in sovereign debt with Trounceflow for three months.

Given my background, I believe I can handle the tasks of Research and Partnerships Manager. Please feel free to contact me for further information or clarification.

Best regards,

John Karuitha.