

STRENGTHENING THE CAPABILITY OF AFRICA'S SCIENCE GRANTING COUNCILS IN RESEARCH MANAGEMENT

AAU-AAS;

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STRENGTHENING THE CAPABILITY OF AFRICA'S SCIENCE GRANTING COUNCILS IN RESEARCH MANAGEMENT

Start Date: **1st April 2020**

End Date: **28th February 2023**

Duration (Months): **35 Months**



ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES
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The African
Academy of Sciences



ABOUT THE SGCI RESEARCH MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The project aims to fortify the capability of Science Granting Councils in explicit areas of research management, namely research excellence (particularly the knowledge and use of tools such as Research Quality Plus framework), research ethics, emerging scientific practices (especially open data, open access and citizen science) and development of online grant management systems (including databases of peer reviewers).

The Science Granting Council Initiative (SGCI) has been running since 2015 and is currently on a second phase covering 2018-2023. The Research Management Project is one of four components of the SGCI initiative. The other three are - (1) Strengthening the capacity of Africa's Science Granting Councils in Strategic Communications and Knowledge Uptake; (2) Strengthening the Capacities of Science Granting Councils in Gender and Inclusivity; and (3) Using Evidence for improved STI policy processes

WHY THE SGCI RESEARCH MANAGEMENT PROJECT?

Improving research management within institutions is crucial if research and innovation is to underpin social and economic development in Africa. Africa's Science Granting Councils (SGCs) are key players in improving the continent's scientific research outputs and achieving continental policy initiatives such as the African Union's Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 (STISA-2024), and the Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2016-2025 (CESA 16-25).

SGCs are government ministries, agencies, or specific institutions that fund science (activities in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities) and research. With strengthened capacities in research management, Science Granting Councils in Africa will better play their roles as integrators and brokers of knowledge within their national systems of innovation. This will help to better manage research, to design and monitor research programmes, and to achieve "Research Excellence."





OBJECTIVES

The five objectives of this project are to:



01

Provide training and technical support to the SGCs on research excellence and emerging scientific practices – e.g. research quality benchmarking frameworks, benchmarking and strengthening of financial governance of grant funding and other emerging areas.



02

Provide support for the design, development and deployment of digitised grant management systems – including designing and implementing databases of national and regional peer reviewers.



03

Facilitate the design and writing of national/ regional studies intended at intensifying knowledge and implementation of research ethics in the African context – in partnership with the SGCs and relevant experts.



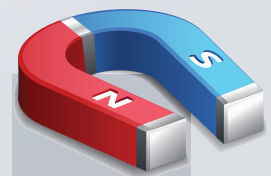
04

Facilitate and oversee development of various research frameworks, manuals and procedures.



05

Facilitate opportunities and platforms for peer-to-peer learning among SGCs through staff exchanges and learning visits. The focus of the staff exchange and learning visits would be knowledge exchange and practice of research excellence and emerging scientific practices e.g. open data, open access and citizen science.

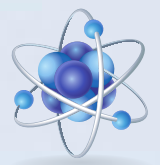


PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES



Participating Countries

The Research Management Project is being implemented in 15 sub-Saharan African countries -



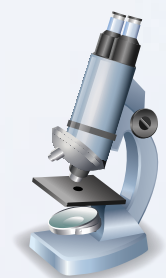
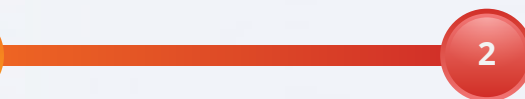


The Science Granting Councils Initiative Phase 1 (SGCI-1) project strengthened the ability of Science Granting Councils from 15 sub-Saharan African countries through training, technical support and peer-to-peer learning via visits to other Councils.

The United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and South Africa's National Research Foundation (NRF) launched SGCI 1 in 2015. In phase 1 the SGCs were supported by collaborative technical agencies who were grouped under themes and led by the New Partnership for Africa's Development – Planning and Coordination Agency (NEPAD-NPCA), Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA), African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS), and The African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) - Kenya.



The new partnership continues to strengthen the capacities of councils to support research and evidence-based policies that will contribute to inclusive economic and social development and is designed to be more gender-responsive and inclusive. This new phase has the SGCs supported by Collaborative Technical Agencies led by the South Africa's Human Science Research Council, the Association of African Universities, the Scinnovent Centre and the African Centre for Technology Studies.





FOCUS AREAS FOR THE RESEARCH MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Research Excellence (including RQ+);
emerging scientific practices (e.g. open science and open data);
ethics and financial/
risk management;
On-line grants management; Supporting the development of a database
strategic communications; for peer reviewers and open data platforms;
facilitating the development and uptake of knowledge
or learning outputs; **Strengthening Capacities of SGCs**
in the Use of Evidence in Policy and Decision Making

Funding:

The Science Granting Council Initiative (SGCI) is a multi-funder initiative that is funded by following institutions:



Canada



National
Research
Foundation



science & innovation

Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS




THE ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

The Association of African Universities (the project lead) is an international non-profit, non-governmental organization created by African Universities to promote cooperation among them on the one hand, and between them and the international academic community on the other.

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THE AFRICAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The African Academy of Sciences (AAS) is a non-aligned, non-political, not-for-profit pan African organisation whose vision is to see transformed lives on the African continent through science. Our tripartite mandate is recognising excellence through the AAS' highly prestigious fellowship and award schemes, providing advisory and think tank functions for shaping Africa's Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) strategies and policies and implementing key STI programmes addressing Africa's developmental challenges.

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