The West and Central African Research and Education Network (WACREN)

The African Academy of Sciences

Ethics and Governance considerations in Science Policy Formulation

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

Ethics and Governance considerations in Science Policy Formulation

- About The African Academy of Sciences (AAS)

- AAS Strategy & Business Plan

- AAS Research Management in Africa Programme: 5 Principles.

- Ethics and Governance Policy formulation

- The Role of AAS in the Continental Agenda setting & Policy Formulation

About the AAS

- **Vision:** Transformed lives through science

- **Mission:** Leverage resources through research excellence and thought leadership for sustainable development.

- AAS is the only continental Academy in Africa enjoying the **support** and **recognition** of the African Union, with joint programmes with **African Union** Development Agency (AUDA) and New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) several governments and major international partners.

AAS Strategic Plan & AESA Initiatives

Shifting the Centre of Gravity of African Science

AESA -Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa

AAS Tripartite mandate:
1. **Recognise excellence**
2. **Advisory and think tank functions**
3. **Implementing key STI programmes**

Goal 1:
Build R&D Leadership & environments that support a vibrant research culture and leadership development over the long-term.

Goal 4
Target critical gaps in the research landscape

Goal 2
Support the development of an innovation and science-driven entrepreneurial culture

Goal 3
Identify and support rising research leaders to stay and build their careers in Africa

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AESA AN INITIATIVE OF THE AAS & AUDA (AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY)

Research Governance

- **What is Research Governance?**

Research Governance is the broad framework and principles that we use to ensure that the quality of research is consistent with the high standards that are expected of a world-class institution. Research Governance includes policies for ensuring that we are compliant with agendas such as **research integrity**, **open access** and **research data management**.

❑ Research Governance improves research by:
  - ✓ Safeguarding participants in research
  - ✓ Protecting researchers and investigators by providing clear frameworks
  - ✓ Enhancing scientific quality and ethical awareness
  - ✓ Minimising risk
  - ✓ Monitoring practice and performance and preventing misconduct
  - ✓ Promoting good practice and ensuring lessons are learned

ETHICS

- Good ethics ensures that the Institution is committed to make sure that its research activities minimize risk to participants, researchers, third parties, and to the University itself.

All research taking place within the institution is required to undertake an appropriate ethical review.

Key Considerations for Policy formulation in Research Grant Management

- Ethics forms and guidance

- Good Research Practice

- Equality and Diversity

- Open Access

- Research Data Management

- Responsible Metrics

- Legislation and Funder Requirements

- Research Management Policies and Procedures

AAS Good Financial Grant Practice (GFGP)

- AAS- **The Global Grant Community** is a platform of the African Academy of Sciences.

- The Global Grant Community platform consists of: https://www.aasciences.africa/ggc
  - ✓ The Good Financial Grant Practice Standard,
  - ✓ A portal-based pre-certification scheme
  - ✓ Certification scheme

- The AAS has developed International Standard for Good Financial Grant Practice (**ARS 1651**)

- GFGP- ensures grant management practice that major funders expect and look for when allocating funding.

These practices run across four areas of:

1. Financial management,
2. Human resources,
3. Procurement
4. Governance

- GFGP mission is to allow more money to flow to the people who need it by using the disruptive power of technology to digitize, standardize and de-risk the due diligence process for both funders and grant receivers.

https://www.globalgrantcommunity.com

GFGP -Public and private sector funders

Public and private sector funders including

- ✓ UKAID,

- ✓ Wellcome,

- ✓ UK Research and Innovation,

- ✓ UK Dept. of Health & Social Care,

- ✓ IKEA Foundation,

- ✓ European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP),

- ✓ African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development and Co-ordinating Agency (NEPAD).' AU Devepment Agency

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AAS Open Access?

What is Open Access?

Open Access provides free unrestricted access to publically funded research outputs so that all of society can benefit from the findings.

- African Academy of Science to put its research on global stage with innovative new publishing platform

- **AAS Open Research**, to enable AAS funded and affiliated researchers to publish immediately and without barriers.

- AAS Open Research- join a growing number of funder publication platforms, such as those operated on behalf of The Wellcome Trust and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and soon Ireland's Health Research Board. The platforms are based on a model developed by F1000Research, which uses immediate publication and transparent post-publication peer review.

AAS Focus on Research Management

International Collaborations are impacted by the organizational structure and research management in the Institution including exiting policies

Key Areas that are common in research management

- Collaboration between and within African Universities and Research Institutions.

- Capacity building using evidence-based benchmark.

- African leadership supported by global expertise on research management .

- Building on existing structures and expertise- not to re-invent the wheel- borrow a leaf!

- Long-term approach to research management- to avoid stop-and go approach.

Research Management Programme in Africa (ReMPro Africa)

Institutional Leadership
Institutional leadership for research management at senior levels within African institutions

Sustainability
Sustainable research management function in African institutions

Standards
Standards of institutional support for research that is widely recognised in Africa

Individual Capacity
Capacity building programmes established for individuals in key research management functions

WAY FORWARD

CONSIDERATIONS ON ETHICS & GOVERNANNCE THAT INFORM POLICY- EVIDENCE BASED DECISION MAKING

✓Multidisciplinarity of research projects- Natural sciences & Social Sciences, Humanities & Arts

✓Collaborative projects- pairing historically advantaged & disadvantaged institutions

✓Hardware versus Software of Research- soft skills

✓Historically marginalized communities/institutions / rural institutions special attention

✓Role modelling and mentorship of women- who face overlapping disadvantages

✓Culture of the community where the institution is situated

✓Character and integrity- corruption is a serious disease

Intersection of gender, equality, diversity and inclusion (GEDI) and research assessment

Impact of funding should take into account the complete ecosystems:

- **STI priorities** of the recipient country in which the institution receiving the funding.

- **Infrastructure support** the funding research- preparedness!

- **Research ecosystem**: **Stakeholders** -Individuals, Institutions, Existing Partners & Collaborators, Sponsors & Donors, Surrounding Institution Communities (institutional environment).

- **Policy & Skills Training & Mentorship** of funding recipients;

- **GEDI- Gender -parity, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion:**
  - ✓ Hardware versus Software of Research- soft skills include training of funding recipients- ECRs
  - ✓ Multidisciplinarity of research projects- Natural sciences & Social Sciences, Humanities & Arts
  - ✓ Collaborative projects- pairing historically advantaged & disadvantaged institutions
  - ✓ Historically marginalized communities/institutions / rural institutions special attention
  - ✓ Role modelling and mentorship of women- who face overlapping disadvantages
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Early Career Researchers (ECRs)- Collaborations

AAS- Embedding international collaboration -next generation of researchers, D, PDRF, ECR

- AAS ECR Mentorship Programmes & Affiliates; FLAIR, APTI, ARISE, CIRCLE, SLMS, AIMF, PAGES

- AAS Research Management in Africa Programme

- Role of National Research Foundations (NRF)- e.g South Africa

- Why Knowledge Interchange and Collaboration (KIC)?
    - ✓Internationalization
    - ✓Enhancing networking
    - ✓Improving quality of research outputs

- Networks that have promoted international collaboration: SEANAC, US-Africa Frontiers, ABRF etc.

- Mainstreaming KIC in doctoral & postdoctoral research training

Considerations for Strengthen the capacity of their health institutions

a. Infrastructure preparedness; physical and digital systems, 4IR

b. Common policy

c. Science Advisory Boards

d. Financing- pooling resources together

e. Regulatory processes including use of reliance mechanisms; logistics;

f. Human resource deployment

g. Governance structure

h. Communication and engagement strategies of the African Institutions

i. Regional/ country readiness- coordination

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AAS Agenda on Research & Development

❑ to improve research links between outstanding early career researchers and with leading scientists from across the global north(GN) and south (GS)

❑ to facilitate joint work on addressing global development challenges

❑ to encourage scientific capacity strengthening in developing GS &GN

❑ to influence the GS policy agenda

Funding Partners Supporting AAS Programmes

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Contact The AAS for more information or to join mailing list

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