INTERIM TECHNICAL REPORT_AFRICAN CENTRE FOR TECHNOLOGY STUDIES

Nicholas Odongo

©2025,

2024 SGCI ANNUAL FORUM AND GRC SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REGIONAL MEETING

Report

Science Granting Councils in a Dynamic African Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Landscape

November 11 – 15, 2024

Gaborone, Botswana

Report by: Dr. Nicholas Odongo

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Connotation
AAU CARE	The Alliance of African Universities CARE refers to the Centre for African Research and Education (CARE), which is part of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA)
COSTECH	The Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology
CTAs	Collaborative Technical Agencies
EAC	East African Community
ECOWAS	The Economic Community of West African States
DFG	The German Research Foundation
FCDO	United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
FNI	National Research Fund, Mozambique
FONRID	The National Fund for Research and Innovation for Development, Burkina Faso
FONSTI	The Fund for Science, Technology and Innovation, Cote d'Ivoire
GEI	Gender Equality and Inclusivity
GRC	Global Research Council
HOC	Head of Council
HORC	Head of Research Council
IDRC	International Development Research Centre, Canada
IMT	Initiative Management Team
IP	Intellectual Property
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
MCKT	Ministry of Communications, Knowledge and Technology, Botswana
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MESRI	The Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Senegal
MESTI	The Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ghana
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MNC	Multinational Corporation
NCRST	The National Commission on Research, Science and Technology, Namibia
Norad	The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

NRF-SA	South Africa's National Research Foundation
NRF-K	Kenya's National Research Fund
NCST	National Commission for Science and Technology, Malawi
NCST	National Council for Science and Technology, Rwanda
NSTC	National Science and Technology Council, Zambia
NSTIC	The National Science, Technology, and Innovation Council, Sierra Leone
NSTIP	National Science Technology and Innovation Policy
OGMS	Online Grants Management System
R&D	Research and development
RCZ	- The Research Council of Zimbabwe (RCZ)
RGC-MinT	The research Granting Council under the Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MinT), Ethiopia
RIF	Research and Innovation Framework
RSTI	Research, Science, Technology and Innovation
SADC	The Southern African Development Community
SGC	Science Granting Council
SGCI	The Science Granting Councils Initiative in sub-Saharan Africa
Sida	The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
STI	Science, Technology, and Innovation
STISA	Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa
TETFund	Tertiary Education Trust Fund, Nigeria
ToC	Theory of Change
UNCST	Uganda National Council for Science and Technology

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2024 SGCI Annual Forum and GRC Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Meeting brought together stakeholders from all the 17 participating Science Granting Councils, Collaborative Technical Agencies, the SGCI Initiative Management team (IMT), and other STI experts, policy makers and practitioners. The Annual Forum aimed to assess SGCI's progress, highlight achievements, and explore opportunities for scaling successes. This meeting was held in Gaborone, Botswana from 11 – 15 November 2024.

Discussions and deliberations centered around innovation, collaboration, GEI, learning & reflection, STI funding, as well as challenges, opportunities, and effective strategies to enhance SGCI and SGC's impact on African RSTI ecosystem.

The Executive seminar paper discussed innovation in Africa under the topic, 'The role of Innovation Agencies in enhancing Africa's Innovation Ecosystems: a deep dive into Intellectual Property." Several topical issues were deliberated upon including directionality in innovation, characteristics of innovation systems in Africa, the need for synergy, the role of innovation agencies, and national systems of innovation. Delegates discussed the need for two critical action points.

1. advocacy for innovation and the development of policies and programs at the national level
2. financing intellectual property regimes for innovation and sustainable development

Opening Ceremony

Delegates were welcomed to Botswana and to the 2024 Science Granting Councils Annual Forum and Global Research Council Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Meeting by the leader of the host delegation Ms. Lesedi T. Gaolaolwe, the Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications, Knowledge and Technology, Botswana.

Mr. Nasser Faruqui, the Chair of the SGCI Executive Committee, also welcomed delegates to the Annual Forum, on behalf of the SGCI funders, centering his message on the transformative role of Science, Technology and Innovation in the African continent and the need to cultivate an innovation culture.

Mr. Cephas Mensah (Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology & Innovation, Ghana) and Mrs. Gift Kadzamira, the Executive Director of the National Council for Science and Technology, Malawi, also gave remarks, focusing on thanking the SGCI for the decade long support offered to African SGCs and in helping transform Africa's Research, Science, Technology, and Innovation ecosystem.

The keynote speech was delivered by Prof. Ketlhatlogile Mosepele of the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN). Prof. Mosepele observed that progress in African

science is threatened and punctuated by a myriad of issues including national governance issues – perennial change of government means change in national priorities, which means investment is RSTI suffers from a lack of sustainability. Government restructuring disturbs long term plans and slows down decision making. He challenged the delegates to deliberate on 'How African SGCs should evolve/ adapt in order to leverage the dynamic STI landscape?'

Key Achievements across Science Granting Councils

Overall

An increasing appreciation of councils' efforts and mandate to lead and transform the STI ecosystem at the national level. Councils' profile as science granting bodies have been raised as most researchers appreciate their granting and project funding roles.

An increase in bilateral agreements and collaboration between councils e.g. Namibia & Zimbabwe, Kenya & Uganda, Ghana & Zambia etc. These have ensured that researchers in different countries partner to research address common challenges, and fund projects, promote knowledge/ infrastructure sharing. Kenya & Uganda jointly sourced for funds to finance research projects.

Councils attained significant milestones in advancing Gender, Equality and Inclusivity (GEI), including Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Efforts to enhance the uptake of research and solutions were observed with Rwanda and Uganda leading.

SGCs also achieved some progress in advancing STI policy work in their countries including Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe.

Running Themes

- **Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)**: Calls to entrench an Intellectual Property (IP) culture, enhance IPR expertise at councils and the establishment of clear guidelines on IPR. Councils are called upon to enhance partnership with innovation agencies and advocate for directionality of innovation and policies that drive/ promote innovation.
- **Gender Equality and Inclusivity (GEI)**: Councils are implementing different strategic programs to enhance the participation of women and girls in the RSTI ecosystem. For instance, Ghana's three (3) interconnected domains known as the 3Fs – *Fixing the numbers*, *Fixing the institution*, and *Fixing the narrative;* Ring-fenced calls for women researchers (Tanzania and Cote d'Ivoire); a special proposal review formula for women researchers (Tanzania).
- **Collaboration**: Deliberations in the meeting had a strong focus on cross-border collaborations at both the council and research levels. Participants observed the

potential of such cross-border collaborations on funding sustainability as well as enhancing African science.

- **Funding Sustainability**: Calls for increased partnership between academia and private sector to increase contribution of industry to research and STI ecosystem. This is also noted as a strategy to enhance commercialization and uptake of research results.
- **Impact**: calls for councils to enhance monitoring & evaluation efforts to follow the outcomes and assess the impact of funded projects.
- **Management of funded projects**: Discussions on research management by councils; enhanced M&E, and impact assessment of funded projects. Discussions on granting and contracting; project budgeting, implementation timelines.
- **Selection of projects to fund**: Calls for increased scaling up previously funded projects. Increased calls for councils to focus more on funding scale up/ commercialization of projects already funded projects as opposed to funding new ideas.

1. Background and Context

Since its launch in 2015, the Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI) has focused on strengthening the capacities of Science Granting Councils across fifteen (15) sub-Saharan African countries to foster research and evidence-based policies that drive economic and social development. In 2021, Nigeria and Sierra Leone joined, bringing the total number of participating Councils to seventeen (17). The SGCI operates across seven (7) thematic areas, guided by a comprehensive Theory of Change (TOC) that links its activities to expected outcomes, such as increased research investments and stronger national STI systems. The initiative includes capacity building through tailored coaching, training, workshops, and peer-to-peer mentoring, while monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) frameworks ensure continuous assessment and sharing of progress and lessons among stakeholders. Annual workshops are key for reflection and gathering recommendations to enhance the initiative's impact.

Box 1: SGCI participating countries

Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

---

Box 2: SGCI-2 Themes

Theme 1 – Strengthening the ability of Science Granting Councils in research management.

Theme 2 – Strengthening the Capacity of Science Granting Councils to use of data and evidence in policy and decision making.

Theme 3 – Supporting the ability of Science Granting Councils to fund research and innovation.

Theme 4 – Supporting strategic communications and knowledge uptake.

Theme 5 – Strengthening the Capacities of Science Granting Councils in gender equality and inclusivity.

Theme 6 - Supporting the Science Granting Councils to develop frameworks and enabling structures for public-private sector partnerships in research and innovation.

Theme 7 - Supporting frameworks for the establishment of new funding agencies in West Africa

---

Since 2015, the African SGCs have hosted an annual series of high-level dialogues and engagements (the Annual Forum) to strengthen partnerships, share experiences and practices on various emerging topics, and network amongst themselves and other science system actors within and outside the African continent. The 2024 annual forum was held at a time when the AU was steering the development of STISA-2034, the successor of STISA-2024. This new Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2034) will be another ten-year plan that will articulate Africa's science, technology, and innovation priorities and investment plan for 2025-2034.

The Botswana SGC hosted the 2024 Science Granting Councils Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa (SGCI) Annual Forum and the Global Research Council (GRC) Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Meeting from 11 - 15 November 2024 in Gaborone, Botswana. The convening provided a platform for participants to engage in high-level discussions on various science, technology, and innovation (STI) themes and engage with the global network of partners in academia, industry, civil society, government as well as intergovernmental organizations.

The following were the key sessions of the Annual Forum:

(i).   SGCI Executive Seminar: Towards stronger national innovation ecosystems through institutions, policies and programming.

(ii).   Learning and Reflection Workshop – a session for sharing SGCI achievements, lessons learned, good practices, priorities.

(iii). SGCI Governance Meetings.

(iv).   GRC sub-Saharan Africa Regional Consultative Meeting

(v).   Academic Symposium, which profiled SGCI - supported research projects.

2. Objectives and Visions for Success

Goal of the Workshop

The main goal of the 2024 Annual Forum was sharing reflections, lessons learnt, and discussion of position papers to set the floor for enhanced and informed debates and deliberation concerning the African RSTI ecosystem – bringing together diverse stakeholders including research funders (SGCI consortium, science granting councils), technical agencies, policy makers, researchers, industry practitioners, private sector, media etc.

Specific Objectives

- Executive Seminar
  - Enhance understanding on the state of STI in the continent and the role of SGCs, SGCI on the innovation landscape and the STI ecosystem.
  - Synthesized learnings. Share lessons, experiences, and best practices from the councils and other STI stakeholders on innovation and managing and funding research and innovation.
  - Enhance alignment and coordination between councils/ national R&D and STI plans and the SGCI organizational strategies.

- Learning & Reflection Workshop
  - Assess the achievements of SGCI 2 against the theory of change, and discuss opportunities for scaling or amplifying these achievements/outcomes.
  - Share information on what has worked well and what hasn't, and how the SGCI could help address challenges.
  - Provide recommendations to SGCI to improve the effectiveness of the councils and SGCI.
  - Enhance understanding on the role of SGCs in MEL and how this can be strengthened for it to be more participatory, effective, and efficient.
  - Showcase research projects funded through the SGCI and some of their outcomes and impact.

- Share lessons and opportunities across SGCs on select thematic areas of interest – gender, equality and inclusivity, cross-border collaborations in research, lessons from collaboration with grantee institutions, and opportunities for enhanced coordination and collaboration.
- Facilitate peer-to-peer learning and strategic discussions on R&D and STI plans and priorities, ensuring their alignment with SGCI organizational strategies

- Governance Meetings
    - Capture the position, voice and interest of SGCs to inform the governance of SGCI and the designing and implementation of SGCI 3.
    - Collate and document strategic advice to the SGCI initiative based on global perspectives.
    - The Councils Committee (CC) meeting discussed the impact of SGCI-2 in the mobilization of resources for research and innovation and what has (not) worked well.
    - SGCI 3 consultation forum allowed for deliberations in refining the proposed pillars and ideas around programming for SGCI 3.
    - The CTA meeting discussed the role of CTAs in supporting councils to achieve their mandates while advancing STI in the continent. Technical agencies discussed issues around efficient programming, the importance of coordinating activities and the need for CTAs to support councils in data collection and impact assessment, visibility, and effective reporting of project/ programme impacts.

- Academic Symposium
    - Showcase selected projects funded by Botswana and the SGCI.
    - Present opportunities to further deepen and sustain networks amongst the SGCI participating Councils, research performers, and their partners within and beyond the continent.

Outcomes of the Meeting

Councils shared experiences, successes, and challenges, including stories of impact related to SGCI initiatives. Specific areas included:
- **Increasing funding research and innovation**: Councils reported of increased budget allocation to research and innovation from their governments (Malawi, Rwanda, Senegal) and increased investments by the private sector (Rwanda, Nigeria, Uganda).
- **Enhanced profile of SGCs**: Councils (Ghana, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, Namibia, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, Zimbabwe) highlighted how the SGCI and funded projects have raised their visibility and profile among researchers and national government
- **Advancing GEI**: Councils deliberated and showcased progress in the advancement of the participation and engagement of women and youth in STI. Tanzania, Cote d'Ivoire,

Uganda, Ghana, Zambia, Kenya. Zambia has led in women inclusion at the level of council staff.

- **Promoting women leadership in RSTI**: Councils (Tanzania, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, Ghana) highlighted the progress in leadership of women in research.
- **Supporting Impact assessment of funded projects**: Councils appreciated the value of assessing the impact of funded projects as a tool to assess/ improve performance and also create evidence and insight to inform policies and programs.
- **Promoting innovation**: Councils appreciated their role in directing, advocating for and promoting innovation and scale up of research results/ translation of research into use. Through the discussions on innovation agencies and the newly developed Innovation Agencies in Africa Network (IAA Network), several councils demonstrated interest in joining the networking and learning from peers to advance this work, including Dr. Partson Chikudza (RCZ Zimbabwe), Dr. Yaya Sangare (FONSTI, Cote d'Ivoire), Dr. Habtamu Abera (RGC-MInT, Ethiopia) and Mrs. Gift Kadzamira (NCST, Malawi).
- **Collaboration and Partnerships**: Deliberations highlighted the need for enhancing cross-border collaborations and multistakeholder partnerships in the pursuit of enhancing research. Zambia and Ghana councils highlighted their collaboration and how this extended into a collaboration at the ministerial level.
- **Collaboration Agreement**: Namibia and Zimbabwe signed an MOU to formalize their commitment to work together to advance research and innovation in the common challenges including the mining sector
- **Private sector involvement**: Councils discussed strategies and the need to enhance academia-private sector partnerships to enhance translation of research into use and expand funding opportunities for the SGCs. Some of the strategies discussed included designing of calls requiring participation of the private sector in university-led projects, funding some private sector-led projects, advocating for policies and regulatory measures that incentivize the participation of the private sector in RSTI.

3. Key Achievements across SGCs

Overall

An increasing appreciation of councils' efforts and mandate to lead and transform the STI ecosystem at the national level. Councils' profile as science granting bodies have been raised as most researchers appreciate their granting and project funding roles. Councils observed that they are receiving increasing interest and proposals for funding, demonstrating their growing influence in guiding the RSTI ecosystem at the national level.

Councils acknowledged and appreciated their significant achievements in funding research and innovation projects, attributing this success to the SGCI (both in terms of funding and technical support through CTAs).

- **Botswana (MCKT)**
  - Successfully hosted the 2024 SGCI Annual Forum and GRC Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Meeting
  - Successfully supported projects in renewable energy and agriculture. The projects in agriculture, particularly Dr. Ntshepisa Lebetwa, have shown potential to enhance the incomes of rural farmers focusing on commercializing goat-milk-based yoghurt.
  - Botswana promoted the attendance of researchers and young people in the Annual Forum – the first ever! Promoting STI to the younger population (high school learners) to amplify their voices and dreams in the STI.
  - Botswana progressed in the establishment and operationalization of the Botswana National Research Fund (BNRF) with the potential for increasing research funding exponentially.

- **Cote d'Ivoire (FONSTI)**
  - Supported the International Scientific Days of Women Researchers – the aim was to highlight the fundamental role of women in science to promote an innovative and sustainable vision for the development of the African continent. In the pursuit of gender, equality and inclusivity, FONSTI has made significant progress, and achievement is promoting not only the participation but also leadership of women in research and STI. Cote d'Ivoire ring-fenced a call for proposals for women and has successfully funded six (6) women PIs to conduct research.
  - FONSTI has also implemented initiatives to support girls and young women in STI by promoting STI in high schools and colleges in Cote d'Ivoire and awarding young girls in STEM.
  - With the support of the HSRC, FONSTI will amend management and policy documents for the integration of gender and inclusiveness.

- **Ghana (MESTI)**
  - Increased investments in gender quality & inclusivity in STI in three (3) interconnected domains known as the 3Fs – *Fixing the numbers*, i.e., increasing women participation, *Fixing the institution*, i.e., promoting gender equality through structural changes in organizations and *fixing the narrative*, stimulating research excellence through integrating GEI in methods and content. This initiative reflects Ghana's commitment to enhance GEI at both the systemic and structural levels.

- o Ghana successfully implemented the online grants management system in the selection of projects.
- o Ghana and Zambia entered into a bilateral partnership that transcends the operations of the councils involved and into ministerial operations. This reflects the impact of cross-border collaborations – bringing countries together and influencing national development priorities. This was accomplished through the peer-to-peer meetings between the 2 councils.
- o MESTI successfully finalized the review of the national STI policy and is now supporting the development of its implementation plan
- o MESTI developed a comprehensive research and innovation framework

- **Kenya (NRF)**
    - o NRF was awarded Top Honor at Diversity and Inclusion Awards and Recognition (DIAR) Awards for Inclusivity in Research Funding in 2024.
    - o NRF Kenya supported 2 projects in the research to commercialization (R2C) objective to enhance the uptake of research results.
    - o NRF Kenya and UNCST Uganda entered a bilateral partnership to implement a call in Agro-Processing (Food & Feed) and Leather Value Chain Development in Kenya and Uganda

- **Malawi**
    - o NCST Malawi highlighted their national influence in their nomination to lead and coordinate the development of the National Science Technology and Innovation Policy (NSTIP) of Malawi 2024.
    - o Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe advanced their trilateral collaboration by funding 2 projects in Artificial Intelligence (agriculture and health sectors). The researchers have shared data and expertise towards addressing 2 common problems in the Southern Africa region – cattle productivity and maternal/ neonatal health.

- **Mozambique (FNI)**
    - o FNI successfully supported the review and eventual enactment of the Mozambique STI Policy and Strategy.

- **Namibia (NCRST)**
    - o After a long time trying and failing, NCRST and RCZ finally entered into a bilateral partnership – an MOU that was signed in the sidelines of the Annual Forum. This showcases the impact of the 2024 Annual Forum as a platform for enhancing cross-border collaborations.

- o NCRST successfully selected 3 projects for funding under the research and innovation management project. The projects focus on water security and sanitation and use of emerging technologies to enhance food security.

- **Nigeria (TETFund)**
  - o Successfully ran a call for proposals, selected and funded four innovation projects under the research and innovation management.

- **Rwanda (NCST)**
  - o Enhanced efforts in commercialization and uptake of research and innovation results through funding of 5 commercialization projects and a strong partnership between academia and private sector.

- **Sierra Leone (NSTIC)**
  - o Successfully ran calls for proposal (with support from AAU) and selected 5 projects for funding under the research and innovation management project.
  - o Developed and piloted the Research and Innovation Framework (RIF) in the selection of projects to fund.
  - o Piloted the implementation of the Online Grants Management System (OGMS)
  - o Successfully put together a dedicated team to drive the council's affairs in a bid to establish a proper institutional SGC structure.
  - o Approved the National Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy
  - o Approved and piloted the Research and Innovation Framework (RIF)

- **Tanzania (COSTECH)**
  - o Developed and operationalized the National Framework for Mainstreaming Gender in R&I – sets the minimum gender dimensions to be considered and mainstreamed, a coordinated system for monitoring GEI indicators.
  - o Increased women representation in R&I – a special proposal review formula for women researchers, ring-fenced call for women researchers.
  - o Successfully ran a ring-fenced call for women PIs; where they funded 4 projects with female PIs.
  - o Enhanced strategic partnerships forming working groups and steering committees that allows for knowledge sharing
  - o Enhanced capacity strengthening and skilling for women and girls in research – developed *BUNI Divaz* program under Future *Femitech*. More than 30 female researchers trained on writing the winning research proposal. This is aimed at increasing their chances for competing and winning the competitive research calls.
  - o COSTECH has enhanced the partnership between academia and private sector in a bid to support uptake of research results for socioeconomic impact.

- o Successfully funded four projects in the agro-processing and food & nutrition security theme (all four are women led).

- **Uganda (UNCST)**
  - o UNCST established a gender equality and inclusivity framework – GGG (gender, geography and generation) for advancing to pursue GEI targets.
  - o Successfully funded the upscaling of three previously funded projects to enhance uptake of research results for socio-economic impact.
  - o UNCST, through its IP office, supported one of the PPP projects with IPR expertise support.

- **Zambia (NSTC)**
  - o Formalized partnership and collaboration with Ghana through legal instruments – memorandum of understanding (MOU). This went beyond the council and to the ministerial level. This collaboration enabled fund one project together.
  - o Funded a novel project in 'Beneficiation of local lithium ore and production of cathode precursor' which has attracted interest from the national government.
  - o Funding a project on renewable energy aiming to test prototypes developed from a previously funded project.

- **Zimbabwe (RCZ)**
  - o RCZ successfully signed an MOU with Namibia on the sidelines of the Annual Forum in Botswana in 2024.
  - o Developed a comprehensive research and innovation framework and piloting it to synthesize research results and assessment of impact of former funded projects.
  - o Successfully mobilized for the review of National Research Priorities, employing the research and innovation framework developed under the RIM project. RCZ successfully held a multistakeholder engagement to drive the NRP 2011 review agenda at the national level.

4. Key Challenges

- **Innovation**
  - o Most national innovation agencies and sister agencies operate in silos, yet they have a common and shared objective.
  - o Limited participation of the youth in innovation
  - o Low motivation among lecturers in participation in research and innovation.
  - o Managing innovation projects is complex and expensive and with a high fail rate.

- o Uptake and commercialization of research and innovation outputs is very low since there is no strong innovation culture at the councils and most councils lack intellectual property expertise.
- **Funding**
  - o RSTI in Africa suffers from a lack of sustainability – both in funding and project impact
  - o Insufficient funding from the public sector, need to diversify funding sources
  - o Councils are funding many small projects with limited economies of scale and completion success rate. There is also instance of duplication of projects being funded by councils.
- **Private sector**
  - o Limited participation of the private sector in the research enterprise. Research institutions are not enterprise-driven, so the products of their innovations are not attractive to the industry. Further, there is a lack of supportive instruments that respond to the industry requirements.
- **Insufficient STI data**
  - o STI data is a serious challenge in both policy and funding decision making at the council level. This has been attributed to lack of professionalism in research management, limiting the policy advocacy role of councils.
- **Impact**
  - o Impact of funded projects is not properly documented since follow up of projects post-completion by councils is weak.
- **Collaboration**
  - o Challenges in establishing and sustaining cross-border collaborations owing to differences in language, legal and ethical frameworks and privacy concerns.
- **Management of research projects**
  - o Councils face project management hurdles when dealing with beneficiaries – from budgeting & currency, procurement, project implementation timelines.
  - o Delay in grant contracting is minimizing time available for project implementation.
  - o Budget of projects are severely impacted by currency fluctuations (loss from exchange rate fluctuations) and inflation. Sometimes project activities are cut down or cancelled altogether.
  - o Procurement hurdles: Many beneficiaries and researchers decry the slow and bureaucratic public procurement procedures that hamper implementation of research projects. Procuring research equipment is slow, expensive and bureaucratic.

5. Running Themes

- **Innovation and IPR**: Calls to entrench an IP culture, enhance IPR expertise at councils and the establishment of clear guidelines on IPR. Councils are called upon to enhance partnership with innovation agencies and advocate for directionality of innovation and policies that drive/ promote innovation. The executive seminar paper (annexed here) outlines the topics and discussion questions of interest. More importantly, councils discussed the need to engage in for two critical action points, (i) advocacy for innovation and the development of policies and programs at the national level, and (ii) financing intellectual property regimes for innovation and sustainable development.
- **Gender Equality and Inclusivity (GEI)**: Councils are implementing different strategic programs to enhance the participation of women and girls in the RSTI ecosystem
- **Collaboration**: Councils have heightened deliberations on cross-border collaborations as a strategy for enhancing funding sustainability, jointly addressing wicked problems, and encouraging knowledge sharing. This reflects the increase in the number of cross-border collaborations between and among councils. For instance, NRF Kenya and UNCST Uganda; MESTI Ghana and NSTC Zambia; RCZ Zimbabwe and NCRST Namibia have signed bilateral agreements to enhance cross-border collaborations. Kenya & Uganda jointly sourced for funds to finance research projects.
- **Funding Sustainability**: Calls for increased partnership between academia and private sector to increase contribution of industry to research and STI ecosystem. This is also noted as a strategy to enhance commercialization and uptake of research results.
- **Impact**: calls for councils to enhance monitoring & evaluation efforts to follow the outcomes and assess the impact of funded projects
- **Management of funded projects**: Discussions on research management by councils; enhanced M&E, and impact assessment of funded projects. Discussions on granting and contracting; project budgeting, implementation timelines,
- **Selection of projects to fund**: Calls for increased scaling up previously funded projects. Increased calls for councils to focus more on funding scale up/ commercialization of projects already funded projects as opposed to funding new ideas.

6. Recommendations

- **Supporting and Promoting Innovation**

Councils called upon to increase funding and attention on promoting more innovation and less on research to enhance visibility and socioeconomic impact of funding decisions.
  - Streamline government regulatory framework and administrative structures to ensure stability and directionality in investments

- o Establish a national system of innovation that coordinates innovation and other similar agencies across the different sectors of the economy. This will also help in designing directionality (what to fund and which innovation to promote) for the innovation sector.
- o There are opportunities to design enabling policies and develop more effective instruments that respond to industry needs including tax, interest rates, grants and other mechanisms that may be employed to attract and enhance partnerships between academia, public sector and industry actors.
- o Enhance advocacy to create awareness on innovation ecosystem. Need for clear information on what constitutes research and what constitutes innovation, and technology transfer guidelines.
- o Improve remuneration and compensation for lecturers participating in research and innovation at the university as a strategy to promote their engagement and productivity. Introduction of metrices such as patents & innovations while reducing pressure on publications.

- **Collaboration**

Calls for councils to enhance and expand collaborations with other councils, innovation agencies and the private sector

- o Call for efforts to ensure intra & international collaboration and partnerships between researchers, councils and with the private sector.
- o Call for councils to enhance collaboration with sister councils, sister agencies and innovation agencies to promote innovation and knowledge sharing.

- **M&E and Impact Evaluation**

Councils appreciate their role in M&E as far successful implementation of research and innovation projects is concerned. M&E is appreciated as a critical function in collecting and addressing the STI data gap in Africa as well as a source of evidence for policy advocacy. Councils called upon to enhance their investments and sense of purpose in M&E work.

Councils also sought increased support in assessing the impact of funded projects as a strategy to (i) document their impact as SGCs to enhance their institutional credibility, (ii) assess the extent to which they have fulfilled their mandate, (iii) collect evidence for use to advocate for more funding from the government.

- o Enhance efforts for assessment of impact of funded projects as a strategy for evidence-based funding decisions.
- o Councils called upon to enhance M&E efforts to collect as much data as possible to develop a comprehensive understanding of the RSTI ecosystem.
- o Enhance efforts in documenting stories of change from funded projects.

- **Use of SGCI tools and frameworks**

Councils called upon to invest in sharing success stories from their experiences in funding research and innovation. This is also encouraged as an avenue for peer-to-peer learning.

  o Councils encouraged to implement tools developed from previous phases of SGCI to enhance efficiency in their work including MEL frameworks, research and innovation frameworks, etc.

- **Funding Projects**

Delegates called upon councils to enhance funding decision making to ensure projects funded address national research priorities. Councils also called upon to advocate for more funding from the government in line with realizing the R&D expenditure target of 1% of GDP. To motivate for enhanced funding from the government, councils are called upon to demonstrate impact of previously funded projects.

  o Funding mechanism for innovation projects needs to be incremental and milestone-based, to ensure funds are not spent on projects whose results/ outcome will not be taken up to impact the community.
  o Focus on funding upscaling of previously funded projects to realize the optimal benefits and full impact of projects.
  o Focus on funding projects that address national research priorities
  o Enhance investment in projects with demonstrated socioeconomic impact.

- **Capacity Building**

Councils called on funders, including the SGCI, for increased investment is capacity building support for their staff, appreciating that SGCI funded projects have contributed significantly to strengthening the capacity of researchers.

  o Need for **enhanced capacity building** especially on intellectual property rights and regulations – for both researchers and council staff. This may also benefit from enhanced partnerships and engagements between the private sector/ industry and academia.

- **Management of Research Projects**

Councils called on the SGCI to allow flexibility in the implementation timelines for SGCI-funded projects. Calls for SGCI and take into consideration that grant contracting takes a long time, the time which is counted as part of project implementation.

  o Councils recommend a flexible project implementation timeline – to take care of unforeseen events that may delay project implementation including procurement hurdles, offset time spent in grant contracting, and agriculture projects that are season-dependent (shift in weather patterns).
  o Streamline and standardize grant contracting processes in partnership with beneficiary institutions.

o Councils call on funders to allow for miscellaneous item into research budgets to absorb unforeseen currency exchange rate fluctuations and inflation.

- **Gender, Equality and Inclusivity**

Councils called upon to set clear indicators and metrices for monitoring and assessing their efforts towards advancing GEI in the research and STI ecosystem. Councils also called upon to enhance the engagement of the youth in research and STI – set up innovation centers in partnership with private sector and industry.

o Call for gender disaggregated data on all STI metrics and indicators to create a baseline and ensure GEI targets are informed and targeted efforts and strategic programs put in place. Councils called upon to restructure their MEL department to ensure that the GEI objectives are securely and sufficiently planned for.

7. Annex

Annex 1: Detailed Programme

DAY 1: MONDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2024

09:00 –17:30: SGCI EXECUTIVE SEMINAR

VENUE: GABORONE 1,2 & 3

Opening Ceremony and SGCI Executive Seminar	
The Changing African Innovation Landscape: Opportunities and Challenges for Research Funders	
08:30 – 09:00	Arrival and registration
Session 1: Opening Ceremony	
Moderator: Abraham Mathodi	
09:00 – 09:05	Welcome from Master of Ceremonies: Kelebogile Rammidi (BDIH) National Anthem
09:05 – 09:10	**Welcome Remarks** **Lesedi T. Gaolaolwe** - Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications, Knowledge and Technology, Botswana
09:10 – 09:20	**Remarks by representative of SGCI funders** **Naser Faruqui,** International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada, Chair of SGCI Executive Committee, on behalf of the funders

09:20 – 09:35	**Remarks by representative of the Councils Committee** • **Cephas Adjei Mensah (MESTI)** • **Gift Kadzimira (NCST)**
09:35 – 09:55	**Keynote Speech** Minister, Ministry of Communications, Knowledge and Technology, Botswana
09:55 – 10:00	**Vote of Thanks:** Cephas Adjei Mensah
10:00 – 10:30	GROUP PHOTO AND TEA/COFFEE BREAK
**Session 2: Executive Seminar and Council Discussions** **Moderator: Mamusu Harry-Seshie (FCDO)**
10:30-10:35	Introduction to the session **Matthew Wallace (IDRC)**
10:35-11:25	Presentation of the commissioned paper: "**The Role of Innovation Agencies in Enhancing Africa's Innovation Ecosystems: a Deep Dive into Intellectual Property**" **Erika Kraemer-Mbula (UJ) and Caroline Ncube (UCT)**
11:25-11:50	Plenary Q&A
11:50-12:15	Reactions from SGCI Councils • **Yaya Sangare, FONSTI (Cote d'Ivoire)** • **Partson Chikudza, RCZ (Zimbabwe)**
12:15-13:15	LUNCH
**Session 3: Executive Seminar: Reactions from External Stakeholders** **Moderator: Solbjørg Sjøveian (Norad)**
13:15-13:40	• **Maurice Bolo**, Scinnovent Centre • **Mjimba Nqangi**, Technology Innovation Agency (TIA)
**Session 4: Exploring Challenges and Opportunities for SGCs in Innovation** **Moderator: Sepo Hachigonta (NRF)**
13:40-14:30	Participants split into four discussion groups, to discuss: • Advocacy for innovation and the development of policies and programs at the national level (Moderator: **Erika Kraemer-Mbula**) • Harnessing intellectual property regimes for innovation and sustainable development (Moderator: **Caroline Ncube**) • Encouraging private sector-led R&D (Moderator: **Tonny Omwansa**)

	• Moving from the university to the market: commercialization and entrepreneurship (Moderator: **Anicia Peters**) Specifically, participants are asked to answer two questions: 1) What are the main challenges that SGCs with and without an innovation mandate are facing in the selected area? 2) What opportunities exist for SGCs with and without an innovation mandate to play a more central role in the selected area? *The key output will be for each group to identify 2-3 specific priority actions that SGCs can undertake related to the given theme to achieve impact.*
14:30-15:00	Reporting back from discussion groups and plenary discussion
15:00-15:30	TEA BREAK
Session 5: New Network of Innovation Agencies and Opportunities for SGCI **Moderator: Fernando Perini (IDRC)**	
15:30-16:00	Exploring the nexus between research and a demand driven innovation agenda: how new programming can link to and support SGCI **Anicia Peters (NCRST) and Tonny Omwansa (KeNIA)**
Session 6: The State of STI in Africa – a Funding Flows-Based Analysis **Moderator: Maggie Heintz (UKCDR)**	

16:00-17:10	The State of STI in Africa: Taking stock of knowledge and looking ahead to future opportunities to inform policy and practice
	
	1. Brief presentation by the consortium on the new findings and implications for SGCs (30 min)
	    • **Wilhemina Quaye (CSIR-STEPRI, Ghana)**
	    • **Johann Mouton (CREST, Stellenbosch)**
	    • **Heide Hackmann (CREST, Stellenbosch)**
	
	2. Discussants (15 min):
	    • **Julia Kemp (Wellcome Trust):** Reflections on the health research funding landscape
	    • **Marcus Willms (DFG):** Reflections on the funding landscape from a Northern Council perspective
	
	Plenary Q&A (25 min)

17:10-17:15	Close of the day (Master of Ceremonies)
Dinner Organized by MCKT and NRF	

END OF SESSION

DAY 2: TUESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2024

09:00 –17:00 SGCI LEARNING AND REFLECTION WORKSHOP

VENUE: GABORONE 1, 2 & 3

	SGCI Learning and Reflection Workshop
08:30 – 09:00	Arrival and registration
	Session 1: Learning and Reflection Workshop **Moderator: Gift Kadzamira, NCST (Malawi)**
09:00–09:10	General introductions and objectives of the workshop (**Ellie Osir, IDRC**)
09:10–10:45	Lessons from SGCI Approach to MEL data collection (what has worked well/ what has not) (**25 min**. presentation and **10 min.** discussion) (**Rebecca Hanlin, UJ**)
10:45-11:05	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
	Session 2: Lessons from SGCI-Funded Research Projects **Moderator: Christopher Smith (UKRI)**
11:05-12:05	Three SGCI funded research projects will be presented by the principal investigators from Botswana, Uganda and Malawi (**20 min.** per project). Each presenter will be introduced by the respective Heads of the Councils. i) **Sustainable value addition of mineral ores by using novel nano-engineered reagents** (Gwiranai Danha, Head of the Department of Chemical, Materials and Metallurgical Engineering, Botswana International University of Science and Technology). Introduced by **Lesego M. Thamae** – Permanent Secretary, MCKT (Botswana) ii) **Commercialization of Bee Propolis products for improved health and incomes in Uganda** (Deborah Ruth Amulen, College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity, Makerere University, Uganda). Introduced by **Martin Ongol**, UNCST (Uganda)

	iii) **Upscaling and commercialization of biogas production in Malawi** (Mapereka Chagunda, Malawi University of Science and Technology, MUST). Introduced by **Gift A. Kadzamira**, NCST (Malawi)
12:05-12:35	Discussion on the research projects (**30 min.**)
12:35 - 13:35	LUNCH
**Session 3: Outcome Stories from Councils**
**Moderator: Dorothy Ngila, NRF (South Africa)**
13:35 - 14:30	**Moving the needle on Gender Equality and Inclusivity (GEI). (10 min. per Council)** Gender Equity in Research Alliance (GERA) – UNCST (Uganda) COSTECH is spearheading GEI in Tanzania – COSTECH (Tanzania) Women Leadership in STI - FONSTI (Cote d'Ivoire) National Diversity and Inclusion Award - NRF (Kenya) Discussion: **15 min.**
**Moderator**: Thorkildsen, Kjersti (Norad)
14:30 – 15:15	**Lessons about cross-border collaborations in research (10 min. per Council)** (i) RCZ (Zimbabwe) (ii) NSTC (Zambia) (iii) FONRID (Burkina Faso) **Discussion: 15 min.**
**Moderator**: **Souleymane Thiam, IDRC**
15:15 – 16:00	**What are the Councils learning from their work with grantee institutions (universities or research institutes)?** - these may include procurement, currency fluctuations, and disbursement of funds to researchers. **(10 min. per Council)** (i) MESTI (Ghana)

	(ii) NSTIC (Sierra Leone) (iii) MESRI (Senegal) (iv) NCRST (Namibia) **Discussion: 15 min.**
16:10 - 16:30	TEA/ COFFEE BREAK
16:30 - 16:50	Lessons and opportunities for enhanced coordination and collaboration across the Initiative (**Rebecca Hanlin, UJ/ MEL**)
Networking Event Organized by ACTS and Launch of State of STI Report	
END OF SESSION	

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2024
09:00 –13:30 CONSULTATIVE MEETING on SGCI-3
VENUE: GABORONE 1,2 & 3

Consultative Meeting on SGCI -3	
Session 1 Moderator: Naser Faruqui	
08:30-09:00	Arrival and registration
09:00-09:05	Welcome and opening remarks - **Naser Faruqui (IDRC)**
09:05-09:30	Context, objectives and expected outcomes - **Ellie Osir (IDRC)**
09:30-10:15	Group discussions (**45 min**) **Group 1 (Pillar 1)**: Burkina Faso, Kenya, Botswana, Rwanda, Ghana, and Sierra Leone **Group 2 (Pillar 2)**: Tanzania, Côte d'Ivoire, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Nigeria **Group 3 (Pillar 3)**: Malawi, Namibia, Senegal, Zambia, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe Each group will have a Chair (HORC) and a rapporteur (SGCI coordinator). Each group will discuss one of the 3 pillars shown above.

10:15-10:35	Reports from rapporteurs: Groups 1 and 2 (**10 min** each group)
10:35-10:55	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
10:55-11:05	Reports from rapporteur: Group 3 (**10 min**.)
	Session 2 Moderator: Matt Wallace
11:05-11:55	Plenary discussion (**50 min**)
11:55-12:05	Recap and next steps: **Fran Davis**
12:05-13:05	LUNCH

13:00 –17:30: SGCI GOVERNANCE MEETINGS (Closed meetings)

Collaborative Technical Agencies **VENUE**: Seminar 3&4	SGCI Executive Committee Meeting **VENUE**: Seminar 3&4	Reflections on the Path Forward: Panel of Advisors and Associates Meeting **VENUE**: Seminar 3&4	Collaborative Technical Agencies and Councils Meeting **VENUE**: Gaborone 1,2 & 3	Councils Committee Meeting **VENUE**: Gaborone 1,2 & 3
09:00 –12:30	13:00 –14:15	14:25 –16:00	14:00 – 15:30	16:00 – 17:30
END OF SESSION				

DAY 4: THURSDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2024

09:00 – 17:30 SGCI ACADEMIC SYMPOSIUM

VENUE: GABORONE 1, 2 &3

SGCI Academic Symposium **Working Together in Co-Creation to Address Global Challenges**	
08:30 – 09:00	Arrival and registration
Session 1: Joint Opening Session **GRC Africa Regional Meeting and SGCI Academic Symposium** **Chair: Fulufhelo Nelwamondo, National Research Foundation, South Africa**	
09:00 – 09:40	Welcoming and introductory remarks 1. **Lesego M Thamae,** Ministry of Communications, Knowledge and Technology, Botswana 2. **Katja Becker**, German Research Foundation, Germany 3. **Karen Lips**, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria
09:40-09:50	Introduction and overview of the GRC **Marcus Wilms**, German Research Foundation and GRC Executive Support Group
09:50-10:00	Overview of the SGCI Academic Symposium **Prudence Makhura**, National Research Foundation, South Africa
10:00-10:30	Keynote address: Global and African perspectives on innovation in the era of AI **Isaac Rutenberg,** Intellectual Property Advisor, CIFOR-ICRAF and Associate Professor of ICT Policy and Innovation, Strathmore University
10:00-11:00	Panel on enhancing collaboration to address global challenges **Facilitator**: **Thandi Mgwebi**, National Research Foundation, South Africa 1. **Jean Nduwamungu**, University of Rwanda 2. **Amos Nungu**, Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology 3. **Lorenza Fluks**, Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa 4. **Matthias Koenig**, German Research Foundation 5. **Rune Vistad**, Research Council of Norway
11:00-11:30	GROUP PHOTO AND TEA/COFFEE BREAK
VENUE: GABORONE 2 & 3 **Session 2: Showcasing Funded Projects** **Chair: Samodimo Ngwako, Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources**	
11:30-11:50	Setting the scene *Systems analysis approaches in addressing global challenges*

	Karen Lips, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria
11:50-12:00	Discussion
12:00-12:45	Showcasing Water, Energy and Food (WEF - Nexus) Research Projects 1. Low cost, intensified torrefaction system for valorization of encroacher biomass into a clean, renewable energy **Célia Domingas Artur**, University Eduardo Mondlane, Mozambique 2. Climate Change and Adaptation **Gizaw Mengistu Tsidu**, Botswana International University of Science and Technology, Botswana 3. Citizen Science and SDG Reporting of Marine Plastics **Omar Seidu,** Ghana Statistical Service, Ghana
12:45– 13:00	Discussion
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK
**Session 3: Showcasing Funded Projects** **Chair: Nhlanhla Lupahla, National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST), Namibia**
14:00 – 14:45	Showcasing WEF-Nexus Research Projects 1. Design and development of a mobile prototype using natural resources (biomass and solar) for the decontamination of industrial wastewater polluted by toxic metals (copper) in Côte d'Ivoire. **Désirée Mariette YEHE**, Université Félix Houphouët Boigny, Côte d'Ivoire 2. Sustainable wellbeing through rapid detection, remediation and stakeholder awareness of contaminants in environments impacted by mining activities. **Ultra Venecio**, Botswana International University of Science and Technology, Botswana 3. Climate resilience for floods and heat in maternal and child health systems in Brazil and Zambia **Agnes Semwanga**, Makerere University, Uganda

14:45 – 15:00	Discussion
Session 4: Interactive Poster Session - Funded Projects **Chair: Hadiza Ismail, Tertiary Education Trust Fund, Nigeria**	
15:00 – 15:05	Introducing Session 4 *Participants are invited to engage with project posters and principal investigators about the funded projects.*
15:05 – 16:00	Poster Session (*including Break*)
Session 5: Showcasing Funding Opportunities for Collaborative Research **Chair: Themba Ngomane, National Research Foundation, South Africa**	
16:00 – 17:20	Upcoming Calls for SGCI Collaborative Research Projects • UNCST Uganda and NRF Kenya • MESTI Ghana and NSTC Zambia • COSTECH Tanzania and RCZ Zimbabwe • FONSTI Côte d'Ivoire and FONRID Burkina Faso • NCST Rwanda and NCST Malawi SGC Partner Funding Opportunities • **Ariane Brake**, German Research Foundation • **Prudence Makhura**, National Research Foundation, South Africa • **Emmanuel Chitechi Lutomiah**, Belmont Forum
17:25-17:30	Reflections and closing **Thandi Mgwebi**, National Research Foundation, South Africa
END OF SESSION	
Networking Event Organized by MCKT and NRF	

DAY 4: THURSDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2024

09:00 – 16:45 GLOBAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (GRC) SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REGIONAL MEETING

VENUE: GABORONE 1, 2 & 3

GRC Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Meeting **Themes: Research Management in the Era of Artificial Intelligence and Working Together in Co-Creation to Address Global Challenges** **Moderator: Dorothy Ngila, National Research Foundation, South Africa and GRC Executive Support Group**	
Session 1: Joint Opening Session **GRC Africa Regional Meeting and SGCI Academic Symposium** **Chair: Fulufhelo Nelwamondo, National Research Foundation, South Africa and GRC Governing Board**	
09:00 – 09:40	Welcoming and introductory remarks 1. **Lesego M Thamae,** Ministry of Communications, Knowledge and Technology, Botswana 2. **Katja Becker**, German Research Foundation, Germany 3. **Karen Lips**, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria
09:40-09:50	Introduction and overview of the GRC **Marcus Wilms**, German Research Foundation and GRC Executive Support Group
09:50-10:00	Overview of the SGCI Academic Symposium **Prudence Makhura**, National Research Foundation, South Africa
10:00-10:30	Keynote address: Global and African perspectives on innovation in the era of AI **Isaac Rutenberg,** Intellectual Property Advisor, CIFOR-ICRAF and Associate Professor of ICT Policy and Innovation, Strathmore University
10:00-11:00	Panel on enhancing collaboration to address global challenges **Facilitator**: **Thandi Mgwebi**, National Research Foundation, South Africa 1. **Jean Nduwamungu**, University of Rwanda 2. **Amos Nungu**, Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology 3. **Lorenza Fluks**, Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa 4. **Matthias Koenig**, German Research Foundation 5. **Rune Vistad**, Research Council of Norway
11:00-11:30	GROUP PHOTO AND TEA/COFFEE BREAK
VENUE: GABORONE 1 **Session 2: Working Together in Co-Creation to Address Global Challenges**	

26

Chair: Gift Kadzamira, National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST), Malawi	
11:30-11:40	**Presentation of GRC Discussion Paper (*by video*)** Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye, TÜBİTAK
11:40-11:50	**Harnessing Bilateral and Multilateral Research Programming as Instruments of Co-Creation: Experiences from the UKRI** **Michael Booth,** UK Research and Innovation
11:50-13:20	**Panel Discussion on Working Together in Co-Creation to Address Global Challenges** 1. **Habtamu Abera Goshu**, Bio and Emerging Technology Institute, Ethiopia 2. **Mamadou Sy**, Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Senegal 3. **Rosa Maurício**, *Fundação para o Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico*, Angola 4. **Ardiouma Coulibaly**, *Le fonds National pour la Recherche et de l'Innovation pour le Developpement*, Burkina Faso 5. **Guest Mugala,** National Science and Technology Council, Zambia *Includes input from participants* <u>Guiding Questions</u> 1. How can co-creation platforms enhance RDI efforts directed to global challenges? 2. How can joint funding schemes and resource allocation support impactful co-creation initiatives? 3. How can funding organisations enhance researchers' and innovators' skills in interdisciplinary collaboration and community engagement? 4. Can policy influence and contribute to addressing global challenges through co-creation and how? 5. What are the strategies for enhancing stakeholder engagement and working closely with policymakers to effectively address complex global challenges? 6. What is the role of platforms for sharing best practices and lessons learned to promote continuous improvement in co-creation initiatives? 7. How can GRC effectively provide a structured framework for co-creation in RDI which includes processes, methodologies and best practices? 8. What is GRC's role in advocating for evidence-based policymaking to ensure inclusive and equitable solutions?
13:20-13:30	**Key Messages** **Lesego M Thamae,** Ministry of Communications, Knowledge and Technology, Botswana

13:30-14:30	LUNCH BREAK

Session 3: Research Management in the Era of Artificial Intelligence
Chair: Anicia Peters, National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCSRT), Namibia

14:30-14:40	**Presentation of GRC Discussion Paper** **Hassan Y. Alayied**, King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology, Saudi Arabia
14:40-14:50	**Insights from IDRC's Artificial Intelligence for Development Program** **Fernando Perini,** International Development Research Centre, Canada
14:50-16:20	**Panel Discussion on Research Management in the Era of Artificial Intelligence** 1. **Martin Ongol,** Uganda National Council for Science and Technology 2. **Yaya Sangare,** *Fonds pour la Science, la Technologie et l'Innovation, Cote d'Ivoire* 3. **Dickson Andala,** National Research Fund, Kenya 4. **Partson Chikudza,** Research Council of Zimbabwe 5. **Nosisa Dube,** National Research Foundation, South Africa and GRC Responsible Research Assessment Working Group *Includes input from participants* <u>Guiding Questions</u> 1. How can AI enhance efficiency and objectivity in research funding management, including proposal screening, data analysis, decision-making, and fostering innovation and international collaboration? 2. In what ways can AI both reduce human bias in the peer review process and funding decisions and potentially introduce or amplify other types of biases, and what strategies can be implemented to mitigate these risks and ensure fairness? 3. What are the key ethical and governance challenges associated with integrating AI into research funding—such as transparency, accountability, privacy, and data security—and how can these challenges be effectively addressed to ensure responsible use of AI? 4. How might the adoption of AI impact job roles and skill requirements within research funding agencies, and how can organizations support staff in adapting to new AI-related roles while preventing over-reliance on AI and maintaining essential human oversight in decision-making processes? 5. What roles should international collaboration, standardized policies, and ethical guidelines play in developing AI governance for research management, and how can funding agencies and organizations like the Global Research Council (GRC) facilitate responsible AI use across different regions and cultures? Specifically, should the GRC establish a dedicated AI working group, or integrate AI considerations into existing groups like Equality, Diversity,

	and Inclusion (EDI) and Responsible Research Assessment (RRA), and how can these groups address specific issues such as equity, bias, and responsible research assessment in the context of AI?
	6. How does the digital divide affect the ability of different regions to adopt and benefit from AI in research funding, and what strategies can be implemented to ensure equitable access to AI technologies and infrastructure globally, thereby reducing disparities and promoting inclusivity?
	7. What are the potential long-term implications of AI integration into the research landscape including technological dependence and ethical misuse— and how can we proactively address these issues by enhancing AI literacy, establishing robust governance frameworks, and implementing effective monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure fairness and human oversight in AI-assisted funding decisions?
16:20-16:30	**Key messages** **Tonya Blowers,** Organisation for Women in Science for the Developing World
16:30-16:45	**Spotlight on GRC Participating Council (Angola)** **Rosa Maurício,** *Fundação para o Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico*, Angola
END OF SESSION	
Networking Event Organized by MCKT and NRF	

DAY 5: FRIDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2024

09:00 – 13:30 ACADEMIC SYMPOSIUM

VENUE: GABORONE 2 & 3

SGCI Academic Symposium **Working Together in Co-Creation to Address Global Challenges**	
Session 6: Training for Researchers: Tools and Approaches to System Analysis **Chair: Sepo Hachigonta, National Research Foundation, South Africa**	
09:00-09:20	Practical application of systems approaches and thinking **Dr Chika Nnadozie,** Rhodes University, South Africa
09:30-09:30	Discussion
09:30-12:00	Knowledge exchange and speed networking **Felicity Addo,** International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria *(Including Break)*
Session 7: Training for Researchers: Storytelling, Dissemination and Research Uptake **Chair: Oabona Nthebolang, Human Resources Development Council, Botswana**	
12:00-12:40	Pitching Research to Policymakers in 2 minutes **Charles Wendo**, SciDev.net
12:40-13:20	Leveraging the Africa Open Science Platform as a repository for SGCI-funded project outputs **Nokuthula Mchunu**, National Research Foundation, South Africa
13:20-13:30	Reflections and closing remarks **Matthias Koenig**, German Research Foundation (DFG), Germany **Abraham Mathodi**, Ministry of Communications, Knowledge and Technology, Botswana
END OF ACADEMIC SYMPOSIUM	
13:30-14:30	LUNCH
INSTITUTIONAL VISITS	

DAY 5: FRIDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2024

09:00 – 13:30 Global Research Council (GRC) Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Consultative Meeting

VENUE: GABORONE 1

Session 4: GRC Working Groups **Chair: Cephas Adjei Mensah, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ghana**	
09:00-09:30	Update: Multilateral Collaboration Working Group **Prudence Makhura**, National Research Foundation, South Africa and **Mr Osamu Kobayashi**, Japan Science and Technology Agency
09:30-10:30	Leading with Intention: Advancing Gender Equality and Intersectional Leadership in Research Funding **Bestina Daniel**, Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology, **Lorenza Fluks** and **Nazeema Isaacs,** Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa
10:30-11:00	**BREAK**
11:00-12:00	Update: Responsible Research Assessment (RRA) Working Group **Dirce Madeira**, Fundo Nacional de Investigação, Mozambique and **Nosisa Dube**, National Research Foundation, South Africa
12:00-12:15	**Closing Remarks** **Lesego M Thamae**, Ministry of Communications, Knowledge and Technology, Botswana and Host 2024 SSA Regional Consultative Meeting **Yaya Sangare**, Fonds pour la Science, la Technologie et l'Innovation, Cote d'Ivoire and SSA Governing Board
12:15-12:30	**BREAK**
Session 6: GRC Governance and Closing **Co-chairs: Fulufhelo Nelwamondo and Yaya Sangare, SSA GRC Governing Board** *Closed meeting of HORCs and GRC ESG*	
12:30-13:30	Update on GRC activities
END OF SESSION	
13:30-14:30	LUNCH
Institutional Visits	

Annex 2: List of Participants

COUNTRY	TITLE	FIRST NAME	SURNAME	GENDER	POSITION IN ORGANISATION	ORGANISATION	CATEGORY
Botswana	Ms	Lesego M	**Motoma**	F	Acting Permanent Secretary	Ministry of Communications, Knowledge and Technology	HORC
Burkina Faso	Mr	Ardiouma	**COULIBALY**	M	HORC Rep	Le fonds National pour la Recherche et de l'Innovation pour le Developpement - FONRID	HORC (representative)
Cote d'Ivoire	Dr	Yaya	**Sangare**	M	Secrétaire Général	Le Fonds pour la Science, la Technologie et l'Innovation (FONSTI)	HORC
Ethiopia	Dr	Goshu	**Habtamu Abera**	M	Chief Executive Officer of National Research Development	Bio and Emerging Technology Institute (BETin)	HORC
Ghana	Mr	Cephas	**Adjei Mensah**	M	Director: Research, Statistics and Information Management	Science, Technology and Innovation Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI)	HORC
Kenya	Prof	Dickson	**Andala**	M	CEO	National Research Fund (NRF)	HORC
Malawi	Mrs	Gift	**Kadzamira**	M	Ag Director General	National Commission for Science and Technology	HORC
Namibia	Prof	Anicia	**Peters**	F	CEO	National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST)	HORC
Senegal	Prof	Mamadou	**SY**		HORC Rep	Director of Strategy and Planning for Research and Innovation	HORC (representative)
Tanzania	Dr	Amos	**Nungu**	M	Director General	Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH)	HORC
Uganda	Dr	Martin	**Ongol**	M	Ag Executive Secretary	Uganda National Council for Science and Technology	HORC
Zambia	Mr	Guest	**Mugala**	M	Ag Executive Secretary	National Science and Technology Council	HORC

Zimbabwe	Dr	Partson	**Chikudza**	M	Executive Director	Research Council of Zimbabwe	HORC
Botswana	Mr	Abraham	**Mathodi**	M	Acting Deputy Director	Ministry of Communications, Knowledge and Technology	Coordinator
	Ms	Tebogo	**Pillar**	F	Principal Economist	Ministry of Communications, Knowledge and Technology	Coordinator
Burkina Faso	Dr	Djibril	**Yonli**	F	Principal Investigator	Le fonds National pour la Recherche et de l'Innovation pour le Developpement - FONRID	Coordinator
Cote d'Ivoire	Ms	Zeinebou	**Ouattara**	F	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	Programme d'Appui Strategique a la Recherche Scientifique - PASRES	Coordinator
Ethiopia	Mr.	Selamyhun Adefris	**Haile**	M	National Innovation CEO	Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MInT)	Coordinator
Ghana	Mr	Wilfred Edem	**Dennis**	M	Principal Research Officer	Science, Technology and Innovation Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation	Coordinator
Kenya	Mr	Jacob	**Njagih**	M		National Research Fund (NRF)	Coordinator
Malawi	Mr	Lyson John	**Kampira**	M	Chief Research Officer	National Commission for Science and Technology	Coordinator
Mozambique	Ms	Dirce	**Madeira**	F	Head of Projects M&E Department	Fundo Nacional de Investigacao	Coordinator
	Dr	Edson	**Lobato Faria**	M	Financial Department Chief		Coordinator
Namibia	Dr	Nhlahla	**Lupahla**	M	General Manager:Research, Science, Technology, Innovation coordination and support	National commission on Research Science and Technology	Coordinator
	Ms.	Lovisa	**Immanuel**	F	General Manager: Innovation & Technology Development		SGCI Invited Guest
Nigeria	Dr	Hadiza	**Ismail**	F	Deputy Director, Research & Development/Centres of Excellence TETFund	Tertiary Education Trust Fund	Coordinator

Rwanda	Dr	Esperance	**Munganyinka**	F	Head of National Research and Innovation Fund	National Council for Science and Technology	Coordinator
Senegal	Mr	Tafsir Babacar	**Ndoye**	M		Le Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche/ Ministry of Higher Education and Research	Coordinator
		Sine	**Diop**	F		Le Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche/ Ministry of Higher Education and Research	GRC Working Group
Sierra Leone	Mrs	Fatmata	**Kaiwa**	M	Director of Science Education	Ministry of Technical and Higher Education	Coordinator
	Dr.	Samba	**Sesay**	M	Project implementation Officer	National Science, Technology, and Innovation Commission (NSTIC)	Coordinator
Tanzania	Ms	Neema	**Tinda**	F	Program Officer	Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH)	Coordinator
		MARIA BESTINA	**DANIEL**	F	Senior Research Coordination Officer	Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH)	GRC Working Group
Uganda	Mr	Geoffery	**Sempiri**	M	Science Officer, Grants Management	Uganda National Council for Science and Technology	Coordinator
Zambia	Ms	Atridah	**Mulonga**	F	Head: Research and Grants	National Science and Technology Council	Coordinator
Zimbabwe	Mr	Forbes	**Chinyemba**	M	Technical Officer Implementation	Research Council of Zimbabwe	Coordinator
South Africa	Prof	Frans	**Swanepoel**	M	Director: International Strategic Partnerships and Professor, Agricultural Transformation in Africa (ATA), Centre for Advancement of Scholarship	University of Pretoria, South Africa	PoA
USA	Prof	Teboho	**Moja**	F	Professor and Programme Director, Higher Education Program	New York University, USA	PoA
United Kingdom	Dr	John	**Kirkland**	M	Interim Executive Director	UK Collaborative on Development Research (UKCDR)	PoA
Nigeria	Prof	Patricia	**Lar**	F	Professor, University of Jos and Secretary General, West African Research and	University of Jos	PoA

					Innovation Management Association (WARIMA)		
USA	Prof	Muna	**Ndulo**	M	Professor of Law	Cornell Law School	PoA
Ghana	Prof	Daouda	**Koné**	M	Director Capacity Building	West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL)	PoA
South Africa	Dr	Thandi	**Mgwebi**	F	Group Executive: Business Advancement	National Research Foundation, South Africa	Funder
South Africa	Dr	Dorothy	**Ngila**	F	Director: Strategic Partnerships	National Research Foundation, South Africa	Funder
South Africa	Ms	Puleng	**Tshitlho**	F	Professional Officer: Strategic Partnerships	National Research Foundation, South Africa	Funder
South Africa	Dr	Fulufhelo	**Nelwamondo**	M	Chief Executive Officer	National Research Foundation	Funder
South Africa	Dr	Sepo	**Hachigonta**	M	Executive Director: Business Advancement	National Research Foundation	Funder
South Africa	Dr	Nokuthula	**Mchunu**	F	Deputy Director: Africa Open Science Platform	National Research Foundation	Funder
South Africa	Dr	Prudence	**Makhura**	F	Director: Knowledge Advancement and Support (KAS)	National Research Foundation	Funder
South Africa	Ms	Nosisa	**Dube**	F	Director: Reviews and Evaluation (RE)	National Research Foundation	GRC Working Group
South Africa	Mr	Themba	**Ngomane**	M	Professional Officer: KAS	National Research Foundation	Funder
South Africa	Ms	Keitumetse	Sepeng	F	Fellow: Business Advancement	National Research Foundation of South Africa	SGCI Invited Guest
South Africa	Dr	Sibongangani	**Mngomezulu**	F	Post-Doctoral Fellow	Nelson Mandela University	GRC Invited Guest
USA	Dr	Isaac	**Rutenberg**	M		Strathmore University	GRC Invited Guest
Botswana	Prof.	Gwiranai	**Danha**	M		Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST)	SGCI Invited Researcher
Uganda	Dr.	Deborah Ruth	**Amulen**	M		Makerere Univeristy	SGCI Invited Researcher
Malawi	Dr.	Mapereka	**Chagunda**			Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST)	SGCI Invited Researcher
Tanzania	Dr	Mariam Kom	**Mtunguja**	F	Senior Research Officer	Tanzania Agriculture Reseach Institute (TARI)	SGCI Invited Researcher

Tanzania	Dr	Zahra	**Majili**	F	Lecturer	Sokoine University of Agriculture	SGCI Invited Researcher
Zimbabwe	Dr	Ephraim	**Chauke**	M	Deputy Director: Food and Biomedical Technology Institute -SIRDC	Scientific and Industrial Research and Development Centre (SIRDC)	SGCI Invited Researcher
Burkina Faso	Dr	Mariam	**COULIBALY-DIAKITE**	F	Researcher in Food Science	National Center for Scientific and Technological Research/ Research Institute for Applied Sciences and Technologies (CNRST/IRSAT)	SGCI Invited Researcher
Zambia	Dr	Sam	**Sichilalu**	M	Lecturer	The University of Zambia	SGCI Invited Researcher
Rwanda	Prof.	Jean	**Nduwamungu**	M	Deputy Dean, School of Forestry, Biodiversity and Conservation	University of Rwanda	SGCI Invited Researcher
Côte d'Ivoire	Dr	Désirée Mariette	**YEHE**	F		Université Félix Houphouët Boigny	SGCI Invited Researcher
Mozambique	Prof.	Maida Abdulssatar	**Mussa khan**	F	Associate Professor	University Eduardo Mondlane	SGCI Invited Researcher
Mozambique	Dr	Celia Domingas	**Artur**	F	Assistant Lecturer	University Eduardo Mondlane	SGCI Invited Researcher
Ugandan	Dr	Dan	**Egesa**	M	Lecturer	Makerere University	SGCI Invited Researcher
Malawi	Dr	Keston	**Njira**	M		Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources	SGCI Invited Researcher
Ghana	Dr	Francisca Aba	**Ansah**	F	Research Scientist	CSIR - Food Research Institute	SGCI Invited Researcher
Namibia	Prof.	Percy	**Chimwamurombe**	M	PROFESSOR AND Head of Department	Namibia University of Science and Technology	SGCI Invited Researcher
Kenya	Prof	MARY	**ABUKUTSA-ONYANGO**	F	PROFESSOR OF HORTICULTURE	JOMO KENYATTA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY	SGCI Invited Researcher
Uganda		Agnes	**Semwanga**	F		Makerere University	SGCI Invited Researcher
Ghana		Omar	**Seidu**	M		Ghana Statistical Service	SGCI Invited Researcher
South Africa	Dr	Chika	**Nnadozie**	F		Rhodes University	SGCI Invited Researcher
Kenya	Prof	Ogada	**Tom**	M	Executive Director	African Centre for Technology Studies	CTA
Kenya	Dr	Nicholas	**Odongo**	M	Research Fellow	African Centre for Technology Studies	CTA
Kenya	Ms.	Marvin	**Otieno**	F		African Centre for Technology Studies	CTA
Kenya	Ms.	Fiona	**Makayoto**	F		African Centre for Technology Studies	CTA

Kenya	Ms.	Esther	**Mugera**	F		African Centre for Technology Studies	CTA
Kenya	Ms.	Caroline	**Bwire**	F		African Centre for Technology Studies	CTA
Canada	Mr	Naser	**Faruqui**	M		International Development Research Centre (IDRC)	Funder
UK		Mamusu	**Harry -Seshie**	F		Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)	Funder
UK		Fran	**Davies**	M		Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)	Funder
Nigeria		Ijeoma	**Agwu**	F		Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)	Funder
Norway		Sjøveian	**Solbjørg**	F		Norwegian Programme for Capacity Development (Norad)	Funder
Norway		Kjersti	**Thorkildsen**	F		Norwegian Programme for Capacity Development (Norad)	Funder
Sweden	Dr	Lisa	**Román**	F		Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)	Funder
Sweden	Ms	Karin	**Afli**	F		Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)	Funder
Germany	Prof.Dr	Katja	**Becker**	F	President	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)	Funder
Germany	Prof.Dr	Matthias	**Koenig**	M	Vice-President	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)	Funder
Germany	Dr	Marcus	**Wilms**	M	International Affairs	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)	Funder
Germany		Felina	**Wittke**	F		Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)	GRC Invited Guest
Germany	Ms	Ariane	**Brake**	F	International Affairs	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)	Funder
Canada	Dr	Matthew	**Wallace**	M		International Development Research Centre (IDRC)	Funder
Kenya	Dr	Ellie	**Osir**	M		International Development Research Centre (IDRC)	Funder
Senegal	Mr	Souleymane	**Thiam**	M		International Development Research Centre (IDRC)	Funder

Kenya	Ms	Christine	**Kupeka**	F		International Development Research Centre (IDRC)	Funder
Canada	Dr.	Fernando	**Perini**	M	Team Leader	International Development Research Centre (IDRC)	Funder
Ghana	Prof.	Frederick Ato	**Armah**	M		Association of African Universities	CTA
Ghana	Ms	Ruth Issambo	**Dickson**	F	Project Officer	Association of African Universities	CTA
DRC	Ms	Larissa	**ODZEBE**	F	Project Officer	Association of African Universities	CTA
Zimbabwe		Jonathan Tamba	**Tamba**			AEH	CTA
South Africa	Dr	Rebecca	**Hanlin**	F	Professor	University of Johannesburg	CTA
Senegal	Prof	Almamy	**Konte**	M		UCAD	CTA
Senegal	Dr.	Nouhou	**Diaby**	M		UCAD	CTA
Kenya	Dr	Maurice	**Bolo**	M		The Scinnovent Centre	CTA
Kenya	Mr	Jonathan	**Kogo**	M		The Scinnovent Centre	CTA
Kenya		Sylvance	**Sange**			The Scinnovent Centre	CTA
South Africa	Dr	Lorenza	**Fluks**	F		Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)	CTA
South Africa	Ms	Nazeema	**Isaacs**			Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)	CTA
Kenya	Dr	Nicholas	**Ozor**	M	Executive Director	African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS)	CTA
Kenya	Dr	Cynthia	**Nwobodo**	F		African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS)	CTA
Nigeria	Prof.	Peter Azikiwe	**Onwualu**			African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS)	CTA
Kenya	Dr	Charles	**Wendo**	M	Training Coordinator -- SciDev.Net	SciDev.Net/CABI	CTA
South Africa	Mr	Edwin	**Naidu**	M		SciDev.Net/CABI	CTA
Nigeria	Ms.	Jacqueline Nkechi	**Fatoye**	F	Editor	SciDev.Net/CABI	CTA
South Africa	Ms.	Caryn	**Mcnamara**	F		SARIMA	CTA
Senegal	Mr.	Jean -Pierre K.	**N'Guessan**	M		WARIMA	CTA
South Africa	Ms	Zimasa	**Sobuza**	F		SARIMA	CTA

38

Saudi Arabia	Prof	Hassan Y.	**AlAyied**		Adviser to H.E.the President for International Relations, the G20 Countries and GRC	King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST)	GRC Invited Guest
Saudi Arabia	Prof.	Mohammed	**AlShamsi**	M		The Research, Development and Innovation Authority	
Japan	Dr	Osamu	**Kobayashi**	M		Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)	SGCI and GRC Invited Guest
Togo	Dr	Sénamé Dodzi	**KOSSI**	M	Director, Sciencitif and technical research	Ministry of higher education and research	SGCI and GRC Invited Guest
Angola	Mr	Francisco	**Bondo**	M	Head: International Relations	Ministry of Science and Technology (MIST)	SGCI and GRC Invited Guest
South Africa		Heide	**Hackmann**	F		CREST	SGCI Invited Guest
Ghana		Wildemina	**Quaye**	F		CSiR-STEPRI	SGCI Invited Guest
Ghana		Gordon	**Akon-Yamga**	M		CSIR-STEPRI	SGCI Invited Guest
South Africa		Marthie	**van Niekerk**	F		CREST	SGCI Invited Guest
South Africa		Johann	**Mouton**	M		CREST	SGCI Invited Guest
Kenya		Tonny	**Omwansa**	M		KeNIA	SGCI Invited Guest
South Africa		Erika	**Kraemer-Mbula**	F		University of Johannesburg	SGCI Invited Guest
USA		Nosa	**Orobaton**			Gates Foundation	SGCI Invited Guest
USA		Kedest	**Tesfagiorgis**		Deputy Director, Global Partnerships and Grand Challenges	Gates Foundation / Grand Challenges	SGCI Invited Guest
UK		Julia	**Kemp**	F		Wellcome Trust	SGCI Invited Guest
Europe		Alessandro	**Bello**		OACPS Research and Innovation Policy Support Facility	Technopolis	SGCI Invited Guest
Europe		Aya	**Kasasa**		Senior Expert, OACPS Secretariat	Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) / European Union	SGCI Invited Guest
South Africa	Ms	Lindiwe	**Gama**	F	Director: Africa Bilateral Cooperation	Department of Science and Innovation	SGCI Invited Guest

South Africa	Mr	Mark	Johnson	M	Principal Intellectual Property Officer	National Reserach Foundation	SGCI Invited Guest
Rwanda	Dr	Sylvance	Okoth	M	Principal Officer: Scientific Research & Development	EASTECO	SGCI and GRC Invited Guest
Austria	Ms	Barbara	KREISSLER	F	Head of Communications and External Relations	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)	SGCI Invited Guest
Austria	Prof	Karen	Lips	F	Deputy Director General	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)	SGCI Invited Guest
Ghana		Felicity	Addo	F	Research Scholar	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)	SGCI Invited Guest
UK		Michael	Booth	M		UKRI	SGCI Invited Guest
UK		Baljinder	Bains	M		UKRI	SGCI Invited Guest
UK	Dr	Maggy	Heintz	F	Executive Director	UK Collaborative for Development Research	SGCI and GRC Invited Guest
Norway	Dr	Rune	Vistad	M	Director, Department for International Cooperation · The Research Council of Norway	The Research Council of Norway	GRC Invited Guest
Angola		Rosa	Mauricio			FUNDECIT	SGCI and GRC Invited Guest
South Africa	Prof	Caroline	Ncube	F		University of Cape Town	SGCI Invited Guest
DRC	Mr	NDUMBA EBAPANI	Léon	M	Directeur d'Etudes et Planification	SG/ Ministère de la Recherche Scientifique Innovation Technologique et	
Kenya	Mr	Lutomia	Emmanuel Chitechi	M	Research Grants Management Officer	National Research Fund- Kenya/ Belmont Forum Organisation	SGCI Invited Guest

Annex 3: Executive Seminar Paper

The role of Innovation Agencies in enhancing Africa's Innovation Ecosystems: a deep dive into Intellectual Property

By Erika Kraemer-Mbula and Caroline Ncube.

Innovation agencies are integral to developing Africa's innovation landscape, serving as vital intermediaries between high-level policy frameworks and the practical, ground-level activities of innovators. These agencies facilitate the flow of information, resources, and support essential for fostering innovation. Specifically, they play a significant role in the strategic management and utilization of Intellectual Property (IP), a critical function that can significantly accelerate sustainable development across the continent. This paper emphasizes the importance of innovation agencies in navigating the socio-economic and institutional challenges that African countries face, aligning their functions with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and its ten-year STI implementation plans (STI Strategy For Africa (STISA)), to promote inclusive and sustainable growth.

African innovation systems are diverse. Understanding the needs and level of maturity of an innovation system is crucial for assessing the suitability of different types of innovation agencies within that system. The needs of an innovation system should guide different approaches and strategies to foster innovation, and this directly impacts the role and function of innovation agencies. This study takes into consideration this diversity, and examines the roles and functions of innovation agencies in Africa, in connection with the specific needs and maturity of the innovation system in which they operate.

The paper explores the strategic role of IP in the innovation ecosystem by protecting the rights of creators and inventors, thereby encouraging the pursuit of research and development. This paper explores how innovation agencies in Africa manage and leverage IP to boost competitiveness, foster innovation, and attract investment. By

facilitating effective IP management, these agencies enhance the commercialization of research outputs and secure economic benefits from innovation activities.

The study aims to:

- Elucidate the role of innovation agencies in Africa's national innovation systems, with a particular focus on their IP management functions.
- Identify the mechanisms through which innovation agencies can leverage IP to foster sustainable development.
- Assess the impact of strategic IP management on fostering inclusive growth and achieving the goals set forth in Agenda 2063.

The paper employs a qualitative approach, utilizing case studies of select innovation agencies across Africa. It starts with an overview of the innovation landscape in Africa, based on desk review of a selection of 21 African countries, aligning a review of innovation agencies with a characterisation of their respective innovation systems – 15 of those countries are part of the SGCI while others are not.

The paper then highlight the relevance of IP within this landscape. Specifically, it will show the role of IP in achieving Agenda 2063 and stress the importance of a well collaborated approach from (a) national innovation intermediaries such as innovation agencies, science granting councils; (b) institutional structures such as tech transfer offices and (c) regional actors such as African Union structures (section 5). To contextualize these role players' possible contributions, the paper highlights IP related challenges pertaining to design, demand, finance and network failures. This then enables a potential plotting of the various contributions that can be rolled out and co-ordinated by innovation intermediaries throughout the research ecosystem. These include participation in institutional, national and regional policy making processes to ensure an innovation-friendly IP framework; capacity building on Innovation, IP and sustainability so that the research sector can conceive of research and the dissemination of its outputs and benefits in a way that promotes transformative change. ; Capacity building on IP management, specifically to assess the potential for commercially viable IP, improve the business prospects and potential for downstream investment on the IP and accelerate technology transfer/commercialization of IP.

The findings suggest that while innovation agencies are well-positioned to manage IP effectively, there are gaps in capability and alignment with broader economic policies that can limit their impact. However, successful case studies reveal that when agencies are properly aligned with national and regional strategies and equipped with the necessary resources, they can significantly influence positive developmental outcomes. The study offers policy recommendations for enhancing the capacity of innovation agencies to manage IP more effectively. These include developing targeted training programs, improving regulatory frameworks to support IP, and enhancing collaboration among stakeholders within the innovation ecosystem. The paper will also suggest practical steps that agencies can take to align their IP strategies with sustainable development goals.

Acknowledgments

Annex 4: Photos