



Consultative Meeting with SGCI Councils to discuss SGCI-2 Implementation Plan

04 – 05 April 2019

Imperial Beach Resort Hotel

Entebbe, Uganda

(DRAFT)

BACKGROUND

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and IDRC have agreed to support a second phase of the Science Granting Councils Initiative in sub-Saharan Africa (SGCI) that aims to deepen and sustain the Initiative. This 5-year (2018 – 2023) second phase (SGCI-2) will continue working with the Councils in 15 countries in order to strengthen their capacities to manage research, design and monitor research programs and formulate and implement policies based on the use of robust science, technology and innovation (STI) indicators, support knowledge transfer to the private sector, and support partnerships and networking between Councils and with other science system actors

As part of its inception period activities, SGCI's Initiative Management Team (IMT) has held consultations with the Councils, Collaborating Technical Agencies (CTAs), SGCI panel of advisors and other stakeholders to better understand the Councils' individual research and capacity strengthening needs and interests. Based on the feedback received, a draft operational plan has been developed and presented to the Executive Committee. As part of this consensus building exercise, a 2-day consultative meeting will be held with the Heads of Research Councils to finalise the SGCI-2's operational plan.

GOAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The goal of this consultative meeting is to discuss a draft SGCI-2's operational plan with the Heads of Research Councils and agree on the roles of the various partners in implementing this second phase. The specific objectives will be to:

- 1) Share the results of consultations held so far with Councils regarding SGCI-2 implementation;
- 2) Present and discuss the key areas of focus of SGCI-2 and agreed on research thematic focus;

- 3) Confirm the key capacity strengthening needs of Councils and agree on appropriate support required;
- 4) Discuss a draft operational plan for SGCI-2 with Councils;
- 5) Discuss the roles of Councils in the management of research funds including co-funding for projects.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 1) Councils understand the key features of SGCI-2: what's new in this phase and how did the Initiative evolve?
- 2) Councils agree with the selected activities, the operational approach and their roles in the implementation of SGCI-2;
- 3) Councils understand expectations of projects activities and implementation requirements of SGCI IMT
- The difference between the two phases: Co-financing as a condition for research projects funding; Participation in competitions at the international level; Research themes selection process; Activities towards institutional sustainability;
- 4) Consensus on modalities for co-financing and managing research projects.

DETAILED PROGRAMME

DAY 1: Thursday April 4, 2019

08:30 – 09:00 **ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION - UNCST**

09:00 – 09:30 **OPENING SESSION AND MEETING OVERVIEW**

Chair: Ismail Barugahara, UNCST

- Welcome Remarks - Peter Ndemere, Executive Secretary, UNCST
- Brief Messages - IDRC (Ellie Osir) and NRF-South Africa (Sepo Hachigonta)
- Opening Statement - Hon. Dr. Elioda Tumwesigye, Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation (MoSTI) of Uganda

09:30 – 10:00 **GROUP PHOTO & COFFEE BREAK**

- 10:00 – 10:30
- Introductions of participants (self introduction) – **20 min**
 - Overview of meeting objectives and expectations - Diakalia Sanogo (IDRC) – **10 min**

10:30 – 11:30 **SESSION I – PRESENTATION OF SGCI-2**

Chair: Anthony Muyepa (NCST – Malawi)

Presentation and Discussions of the Principles and Key features of SGCI-2 - Ellie Osir (IDRC) – Presentation (**30 min**); Plenary discussions (**30 min**)

11:30 – 12:00 **SESSION II – CAPACITY STRENGTHENING NEEDS AND RESEARCH INTERESTS OF COUNCILS**

Presentation of the results of recent consultations with Councils about their individual capacity strengthening needs as well as research interests and priorities - Diakalia Sanogo (IDRC) – Presentation (**15 min**); Discussion (**15 min**).

12:00 – 12:45 **SESSION III - DISCUSSIONS BY COUNTRY TEAMS**

Facilitators: IMT (Sepo Hachigonta, Diakalia Sanogo and Ellie Osir)

Each country team will discuss the findings of the interviews with IMT to deepen the information and fill any missing gaps regarding capacity strengthening needs and interests.

12:45 – 14:00 **LUNCH BREAK**

14:00 – 15:30 **SESSION IV — GROUPS DISCUSSIONS**

Facilitators: Diakalia Sanogo, Sepo Hachigonta and Ellie Osir

Councils will work in 3 Groups to identify the common areas of needs and appropriate technical support required. The following issues will be addressed, and each group will present a summary of the key discussion points:

- Are there any capacity strengthening needs/ interests that were missed during consultations? Please rank them by order of priority.
- What kind of support is required and how could this support be delivered?

Group 1: Burkina, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire and Rwanda; **Group 2:** Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania, Malawi and Namibia; **Group 3:** Uganda, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique Zimbabwe and Ethiopia)

Discussions in groups (**45 min**); Presentation of summaries by group & plenary discussions (**45 min**).

15:30 – 15:45 **COFFEE BREAK**

15:45 – 16:45 **SESSION V - ROLES OF COUNCILS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF RESEARCH FUNDS INCLUDING CO-FUNDING FOR PROJECTS**

Chair: Levina Owusu (MESTI - Ghana)

Presenter: Ellie Osir

Presentation (**20 min**) will focus on 3 key issues: flow of research funds including the proposed roles of Councils; conditions for management of funds; and co-funding of projects. This will be followed by a plenary discussion (**40 min**).

16:45 – 17:00 **WRAP-UP & CLOSE OF DAY 1**

Summary of key points discussed and agreed on (*Diakalia Sanogo*).

18:30 – 20:30 **EVENING SOCIAL EVENT**

9:00 – 10:30 SESSION VI – POTENTIAL RESEARCH THEMES

Chair: Sepo Hachigonta, NRF-SA

Presenter/ Facilitator: Diakalia Sanogo, Ellie Osir

The objective of this session is to explore the possibility of identifying overarching theme(s) for the research projects supported under SGCI-2. Theme(s) would allow the development of a conceptual framework(s) and facilitate analysis of research results. Councils would still have the opportunity to identify priorities (under these common themes) that are aligned with national priorities.

Session Format: Fishbowl group discussion

This “fishbowl” discussion will provide a participatory space for all participants to share views on the priority research topics in their countries and regions to help surface “hot topics” allowing the identification of 1 to 3 key overarching research themes of focus. The following statement and key questions will help to drive the discussions:

Global, regional and national development challenges and agendas present several opportunities for the SGCs to support research and evidence informed policy process that will contribute to economic and social development. While the challenges and opportunities remain numerous, diverse and fluid, the Councils need to be strategic and agile to optimally deploy the limited resources available to them. Careful selection and prioritisation in setting research agenda is therefore crucial:

- a) What are the key priority research agenda issues in STI (Global, regional and national)?
- b) Why are these topics important and priority research areas for your countries and regions?

10:30 – 11:15 SESSION VII - MONITORING EVALUATION & LEARNING (MEL)

Chair: Hamidou H. Tamboura (FONRID – Burkina Faso)?

Facilitators/ Presenters: Sepo Hachigonta (NRF-SA) and Donelly Mwachi (MEL consultant)

Brief presentation on approach and activities of MEL and discussion – Presentation (25 min); Discussion (20 min).

11:15 – 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45 – 12:45 **WAY FORWARD**

Facilitators: Ellie Osir/ Diakalia Sanogo/ Sepo Hachigonta (NRF-SA)

IMT and Councils will discuss the next steps of implementation plan:

- Prioritise and agree on the main areas of technical support and possibly allocate responsibilities
- Define a timetable for immediate activities to be undertaken (period to be determined during discussions)

- **End of Meeting** -

12:45 – 14:15 **LUNCH**

14:15 – 16:15 **CLOSED SESSION (DFID Reviewer, IMT AND HORCs)**

16:15 – 16:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

16:30 - Departures