



2023 – 2027 **STRATEGIC PLAN**

Transformed lives in
Africa through science



The African
Academy of Sciences



Overview

The African Academy of Sciences (AAS) is an independent, not-for-profit, non-aligned, pan-African organization dedicated to advancing science, technology, and innovation (STI) across the continent. Established in 1985, the AAS strives to promote sustainable development, strengthen scientific excellence, and address Africa's socio-economic challenges through evidence-based research, capacity building, and policy advocacy.

AAS is the only continental academy in Africa that enjoys the support and recognition of the African Union, several governments, and major multilateral organizations.

The Academy serves as a platform for collaboration, fostering partnerships among scientists, policymakers, and other stakeholders to address key issues affecting Africa's development.

Our Tripartite Mandate

The AAS has a tripartite mandate which focuses on

Mandate 1



To pursue excellence by recognising leading scholars and achievers.

Mandate 2



To provide advisory services and act as a think-tank for shaping STI strategies and policies in Africa.

Mandate 3



To implement key Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) programmes that have an impact on challenges of development.

Strategic Plan 2023–2027

The AAS Strategic Plan (2023–2027) was carefully crafted with input from all our stakeholders: the Governing Council, Fellows, Affiliates, Secretariat staff, stakeholders, and other actors. This Strategic Plan is set to propel us into a leadership role in science and research for sustainable development. Our focus on global disruptions, Africa’s priorities, and socio-economic needs will guide our efforts across five key areas:

Thematic focus areas

- 1 Policy and Governance:** Policy and Governance.
- 2 Natural Sciences:** Endorsing progression within the diverse realms of natural science.
- 3 Environmental and Climate Change:** Advancing environmental initiatives to mitigate climate impacts.
- 4 Health and Wellbeing:** Promoting conducive health research for a healthier Africa.
- 5 Social Sciences & Humanities:** Championing the social sciences for a more informed and resilient society.



Cross-cutting areas of action

The cross-cutting areas of action highlighted in this Strategic Plan (2023–2027) are in line with the critical gaps, challenges, and opportunities of our time and include:

Cross-cutting areas of action

- 1** Higher education and life-long learning
- 2** Science Technology and Innovation (STI)
- 3** Youth gender and inclusivity
- 4** Open Science
- 5** Digital transformation (AI, big data, and cyber security)
- 6** Space science and urbanization
- 7** Science diplomacy
- 8** Sustainability



The 2023–2027 Strategic Plan is a roadmap for how AAS will achieve its desired goal of being the continent’s scientific leader in transforming lives through STI. The new strategy will renew AAS’ agenda, sharpen its partnership with various stakeholders, and empower people to transform lives through science.

Vision, Mission, and Core Values

This 2023–2027 Strategic Plan is hinged on our vision, renewed mission, and core values.



Vision

Transformed lives
through Science



Mission

Leverage
on science,
technology and
innovation for
sustainable
development



Core Values

Integrity
Diversity
Excellence
Empathy
Collaboration
Fairness



SWOT Analysis

Situation Analysis: What Needs to Change

- 1 Policy Alignment to developmental aspirations for the future we want,
- 2 Need for Equitable Partnership for Data Governance and Ownership,
- 3 Optimize Systems Internally and Externally: Governance, Secretariat/Management, Multi-Stakeholders and actors,
- 4 Science as a public good for influence and foresight.



AAS Programmes: Thematic Goals

Shifting the center of gravity for African science to Africa.



Goal 1: Build Research and Development(R&D) Infrastructure

Build R&D Leadership & Environments that support a vibrant research culture and leadership development over the long term.



Goal 2: Innovation & Entrepreneurship

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



Goal 3: Rising & Emerging Research Leaders

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



Goal 4: Critical gaps in the R&D ecosystem

Target critical gaps in the research landscape.

Figure 4: Theory of change

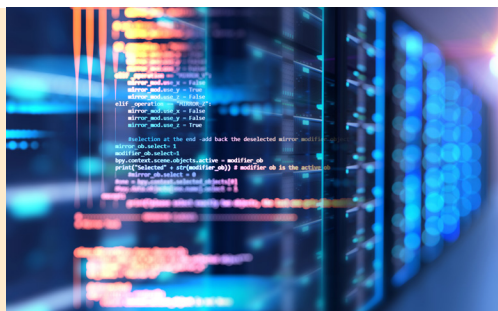


Select STI Programmes Implemented by the AAS



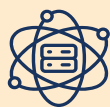
Build Research and Development(R&D) Infrastructure

- Developing Excellence in Leadership, Training, and Science in Africa (DELTAS Africa)
- The Human Heredity and Health in Africa (H3Africa)
- Africa Scientific Priorities (ASP)



Innovation & Entrepreneurship

- Grand Challenges Africa
- Translational sciences with big Biotech & Pharma



Rising & Emerging Research Leaders

- Climate Research for Development (CR4D)
- African Postdoctoral Training Initiative (APTI)
- Future Leaders – African Independent Research (FLAIR)
- Climate Impact Research Capacity and Leadership Enhancement (CIRCLE)
- African Research Initiative for Scientific Excellence Pilot Programme (ARISE-PP)
- Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa Regional Initiative in Science and Education (AESA-RISE)



Critical gaps in the R&D ecosystem

- Global Grant Community
- Science & Language
- Science Communication
- AAS Open Publishing
- South-South Africa-India
- Clinical Trials Community (CTC)
- Community & Public Engagement (CPE)
- Research Management Programme in Africa (ReMPro Africa)





Ongoing Programmes

AAS is implementing programmes in partnership with various global partners that focus on our five strategic focus areas:



Environment & climate change



Health and wellbeing



Natural sciences



Policy and governance



Social sciences and humanities

AAS programmes are Africa-led, Africa-centred, and Africa-specific, aimed at accelerating scientific excellence, leadership, and innovation.

The African Research Initiative for Scientific Excellence (ARISE)

ARISE is an innovative research and innovation (R&I) support programme of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), implemented by the AAS in partnership with the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU). Founded on the AU-EU High-Level Policy Dialogue on Science, Technology, and Innovation, ARISE provides a vibrant platform and pathway for R&I exchanges to contribute to sustainable and inclusive development, economic growth, and job creation.

Launched in December 2020, the current pilot phase of ARISE supports nearly 600 early-to mid-career researchers across Africa. It is led by 47 principal investigators and hosted in 38 African countries. ARISE is funded by the European Union and co-funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

The African Postdoctoral Training Initiative (APTl)

APTl is a postdoctoral training fellowship program that trains and supports African scientists to become scientific leaders who can advocate for increased research and innovation projects in Africa.

Established in 2019, APTl is implemented by the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) in partnership with the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).

Themes & Strategic Objectives



Our People

Strategic Objective

- Creating an enabling environment for learning and sustainable development

Outcomes

- Outcome 1.1: Enhance growth in talent and capability by ensuring a growth and learning culture that attracts and retains the best talent.
- Outcome 1.2: Encourage relevant communication channels by embracing a collaborative workplace at the Secretariat.
- Outcome 1.3: Promote science acculturation and harness opportunities for open science.



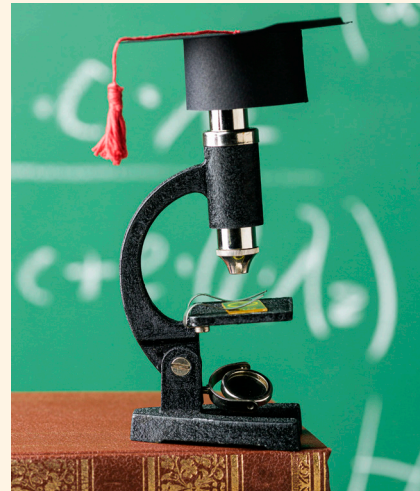
Partnerships

Strategic Objective

- Building partnerships and enhancing AAS brand visibility to transform STI in Africa

Outcomes

- Outcome 2.1: Forge and foster long-term global and continental engagement with existing multi-stakeholders, partners, actors, and sector players, including pan-African partners and African governments.
- Outcome 2.2: Aggrandise the AAS brand and enhance visibility by optimizing engagement with Fellows and Affiliates in the growing partnership portfolio.



Excellence

Strategic Objective

- Supporting STI research and knowledge sharing in the digital age

Outcomes

- Outcome 3.1: Support the best people to do the best science by initiating relevant programmes that address developmental gaps.
- Outcome 3.2: Strengthen African Institutions to become excellent and adaptable to needs and opportunities by translating science into innovative products, policies, and practices.
- Outcome 3.3: Improved Africa's capacity for management of research, development, and public policy by bridging the gaps between natural, applied, and social scientists, the private sector, and governments.





AAS Strategic Plan: An Hourglass for Excellence

- This Strategic Plan outlines the organization's ambitious vision and actionable steps toward achieving a transformed Africa led by science.
- The roadmap crystallizes our aspirations in the broad strategic objectives, charting a path laced with rigorous evaluation and unwavering pursuit of knowledge.
- As we execute this plan, our collective vigilance in continuous monitoring and evaluation will prove indispensable, safeguarding the alignment of actions with the esteemed values of the AAS.
- Science offers huge prospects and opportunities for sustainable development. However, we aim to develop the landscape to anchor science at multiple transdisciplinary and agile levels, making it work for Africa's industrial, environmental, and socio-economic development.
- Convene and engage with different actors to reframe, rewrite, and reimagine the Africa We Want 2023 agenda
- The Africa Academy of Sciences cannot do this alone, so we invite all our esteemed stakeholders to join us in making science work for the Africa we want.



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