

ENGENDERING SCIENCE IN AFRICA

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For more information:

nasaonline.org



**IBSE for girls and primary connections workshop
11-13 May 2010 – Pretoria, South Africa**

OUTLINE



- **Overview of NASAC**

Who we are and what we do

- **Engendering science in Africa**

Challenges and Priorities

OVERVIEW OF NASAC

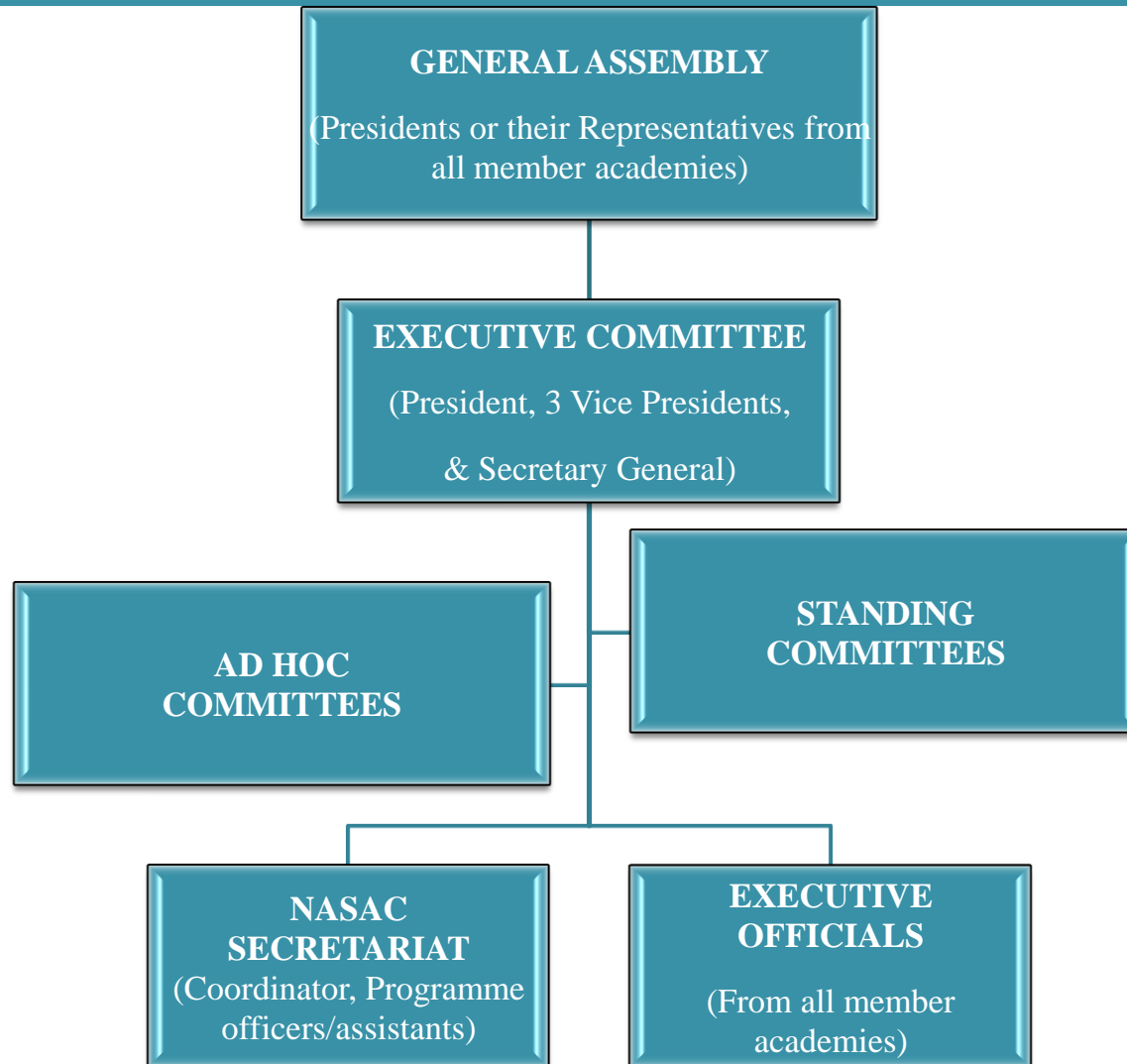
Who we are and what we do

About NASAC: Mission & Members

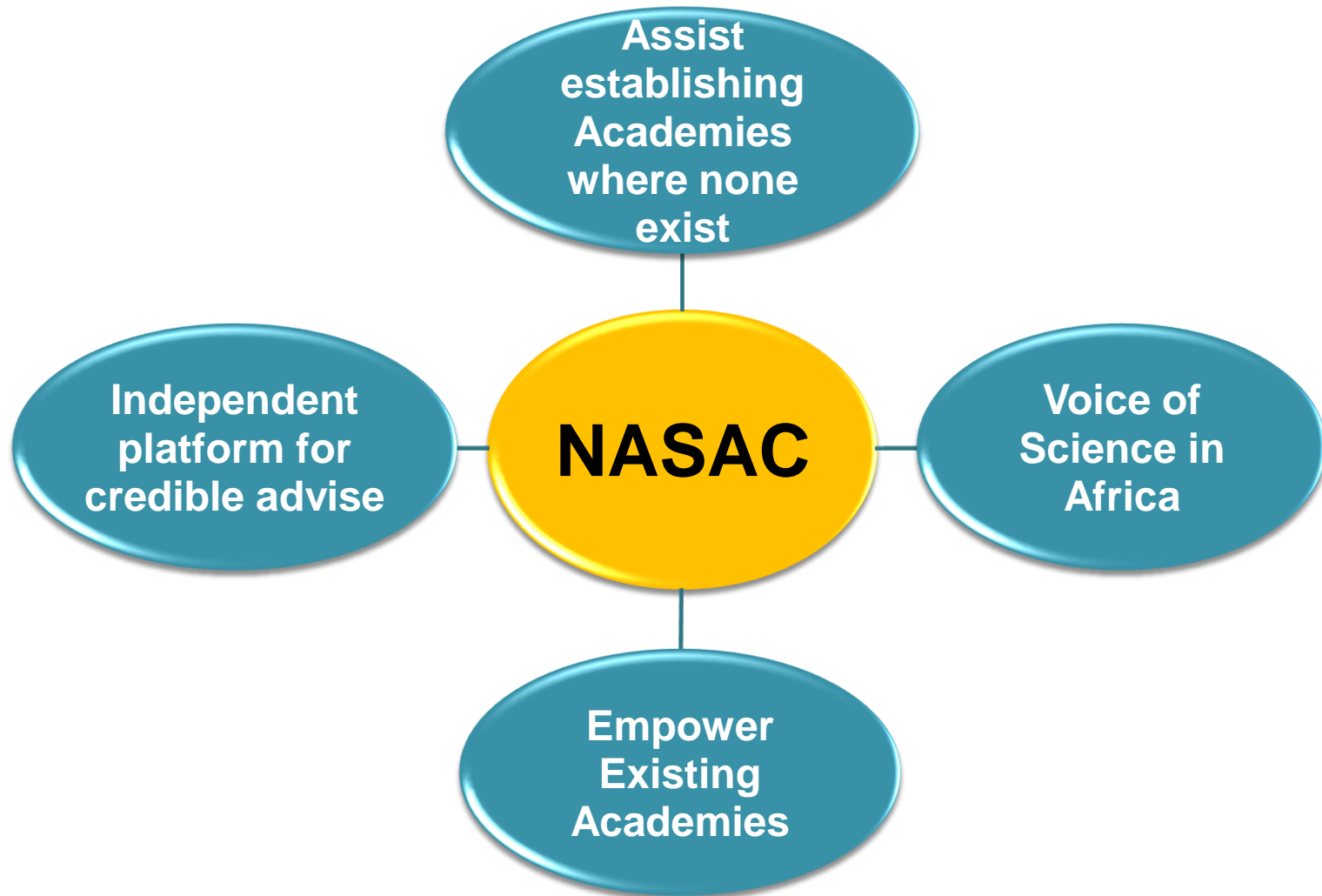
Founded in Dec. 2001 as independent forum for African science academies to “***provide authoritative science advise for policy formulation towards economic , social and cultural development in Africa***”

16 member academies	
Cameroon	Senegal
Ghana	Sudan
Kenya	South Africa
Mauritius	Tanzania
Madagascar	Uganda
Morocco	Zambia
Mozambique	Zimbabwe
Nigeria	
AAS (<i>regional academy</i>)	
Potential members	
Ethiopia	
Egypt	

Our Governance Structure



NASAC: What we do



Key successes (2001-to date)

- Launching critical flagship programmes on water, women and science education
- Creation of an independent advisory Expert Group
- Enhanced members' capacities at secretariat level
- Increased of NASAC membership
- Commenced the process towards legal self sufficiency

ENGENDERING SCIENCE

Challenges and Priorities

Challenges

Academies (like most scientific institutions) in Africa are generally;

- ❑ Limited in resources and the majority of them need strengthening and transforming from static private men's clubs to dynamic “organizations”.
- ❑ Not open to membership/participation of younger scientists even with academic merit.
- ❑ Act locally and in isolation even on common critical problems, with limited sense of collective action.

Priority 1:

Improve Communication

- Simple succinct messages – let the voice of female scientists be heard by the science community
- Contribute to science, policy and society – be part of the solutions
- Participate in local and international forum – articulate contribution by female scientists
- Network, Network, Network – Act locally think globally
- Interact with policy and decision makers – enactment of female-scientists-friendly policies



Joint Statement to African Science Ministers and Heads of States and Governments by the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC)¹

Building science, technology and innovative capacities in Africa

We the members of the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) submit this statement for information and action to the meeting of Science and Technology Ministers (November 2006) and the subsequent summit of Heads of States and Governments on Science and Technology issues (January 2007).



Joint statement by the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) to the G8 on sustainability, energy efficiency and climate change¹

We, the members of the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC), submit the following statement on sustainability, energy efficiency and climate change to the leaders of the G8 countries. The goal of this statement is to convey information and spur action on the occasion of the G8 Summit in Heiligendamm, Germany, in June 2007.

A consensus, based on current evidence, now exists within the global scientific community that human activities are the main source of climate change and that the burning of fossil fuels is largely responsible for driving this change.

We acknowledge, however, that Africa will need help from the developed world if it is to successfully address the challenges it faces and we are convinced of the vital roles that the G8 governments and the international scientific

Priority 2:

Implementation of Vision

- Provide strategic support to female scientists for inclusion as members of academies
- Encourage best practices for science in interaction with society (benchmarking)
- Organize scientific meetings and roundtables with policy makers (profiling female scientists)
- Develop and share expertise on funding opportunities
- Encourage creation of national science fund or foundation

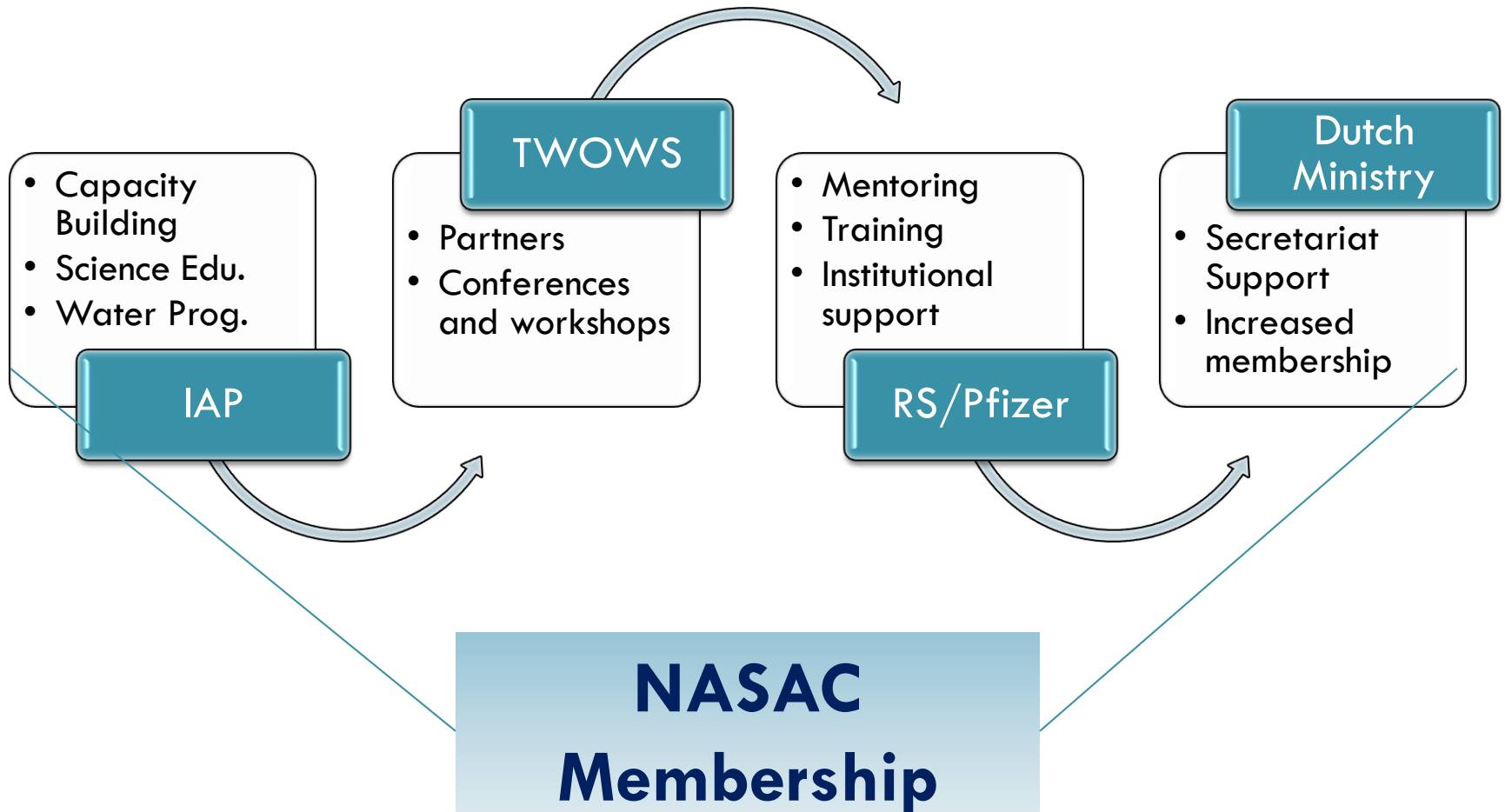
Network of African
Science Academies
(NASAC)



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Priority 3:

Identify Strategic Partners



Overriding principle

NETWORK – NETWORK – NETWORK...

- Support networks in areas of critical importance to development in Africa
 - ▣ to share best practices
 - ▣ to develop joint projects
 - ▣ to identify training needs for female scientists
- Role of Academies
 - ▣ Page 22-25 WfS Workshop Report (*Working with younger girls*)

Different viewpoint



- **Female scientists in Africa should view themselves different!**
- **Shift in Paradigm is necessary!**

Counting on your support...

