



*Applying scientific thinking  
in the service of society*

# The Role of Science Academies in African Development

*Dr Nthabiseng Taole  
NASAC/ASSAf Water Workshop  
27 July 2011*

# Science academies

- **Honorific and service role**
- **Academies – contribute to the solution of challenges affecting the nations through their policy advisory role.**
- **Science Academies are by definition one of the richest treasure-troves of ideas and knowledge in any society**
- **key to influencing decisions and behaviour**
- **Most academies, especially African are vastly underutilised**

# The Unique Role of National Science Academies In Africa

- Convening power to mobilize the **best scientific minds** from across the nation and the continent
- Can help foster innovation through **multidisciplinary**, multi-sectoral discourse
- **Apolitical, trustworthy, not motivated by profit**
- Feature scientifically rigorous analyses of **evidence** and the consensus of diverse experts
- Can clarify emerging scientific issues
- An **independent, credible** “second opinion” in the face of politically charged issues

- Best scientists elected by peers only on **merit**
- **Diversity** and **expertise** of members: world-class leaders in various disciplines
- **Independence:** can express objective, unbiased and evidence-based opinion on critical issues
- Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) and Global Network of Academies (IAP) committed to assisting academies

<b>NASAC 17 member academies</b>	
Cameroon	Nigeria
Ethiopia	Senegal
Ghana	Sudan
Kenya	South Africa
Mauritius	Tanzania
Madagascar	Uganda
Morocco	Zambia
Mozambique	Zimbabwe
African Academy of Sciences (regional academy)	
<b>Potential members</b>	
Egypt	Namibia

# African academies

- **African Science Academies Development Initiative (ASADI)**
- **Network of African Science Academies (NASAC):**
  - Water, Science Education, Women
- **Global Network of Academies (IAP)**
  - Science Education, Science Communication, Capacity Building
- **Bilateral and multilateral African academies partnerships**
- **Local - activities of national relevance**

# ASSAf experiences

## Policy Advisory Programme

### Mandate:

**undertake studies on matters of public interest with a view to providing evidence-based scientific advice to government and other stakeholders**

# Policy Advisory Programme

## How?

- **Consensus studies**
- **Forum Studies**
- **Policymakers' booklets**
- **Policy commentaries**



# Evidence-based Advice of Academies

## Consensus studies:

- Reflect the deliberations of a carefully selected Study Panel and lead to a set of strong policy recommendations based on consensus.

## Forum studies:

- Type of convening activity of ASSAf;
- Provide a means for invited experts to gather to discuss issues, make presentations, and exchange views on topics in a broad field through serial forums;
- Deliberations do not aim to make recommendations based on consensus but by pooling expertise it is possible to translate the knowledge into practical recommendations.

# Policy Advisory Programme

## **\*\*\*Policymakers ' Booklets:**

- Short and colourful publications;
- Target audience: policymakers;
- Workshop;
- Consultation with experts;
- Capture:
  - Summary of the situation
  - Key messages
  - Recommendations on how to best address the issue.

# Policy Advisory Programme

## Policy commentaries:

- **Short report given an ASSAf comment on policies under development**
- **Scan of the policy space;**
- **Assemble a panel of experts;**
- **Panel meeting - structure;**
- **Report**
- **Submission to the relevant department**

# Policy Advisory Programme

- **Health & Related Science Programme**
- **Education and Humanities**
- **Environment, Water and Energy**

# Environment, Water and Energy Programme

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- Consensus Study on Low Carbon Cities
- Forum study on the state of water in SA
- Forum study on Improving energy access in sub-Saharan Africa => **Policymakers' booklet**
- Commentary of the Energy plan
- **Ensuring Long term Sustainability of Water in South Africa (Funding needed)**

## **Southern African Science Academy Development Initiative**

- **ASSAf sharing lessons learned with other Southern African countries**
- **Facilitate the establishment of national science academies in the SADC sub-region**
- **Support and contribute to strengthening of science academies**
- **Organise scientific events to address issues of common concern within the region**
- **Establish sub-regional panels for providing evidence-based policy advice to the decision makers within SADC and its organs**
- **Support NASAC in its quest to achieve its mandate within the Africa region.**



**THANK YOU**

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