

## **Africa Cooperation (AC)**

In line with the NRF's mission to prioritise Africa, the Africa Cooperation (AC) promotes and supports continental and regional scientific collaboration in order to contribute to socio-economic and sustainable growth on the African continent. A strong emphasis is placed on human capacity and skills development as the driver for promoting international competitiveness through knowledge transfer.

Funding from grants awarded through the AC enable South African Researchers to interact with the science community on the African continent and the rest of the globe.

### **WHAT DO WE DO?**

The AC promotes and supports research through funding and human resource development. In particular, the AC is aimed at facilitating access to the regional and continental and opportunities and resources through bilateral, trilateral and multi-lateral cooperative and collaborative engagements.

Working in collaboration with regional partners on the African continent the AC enables opportunities for researchers to participate in research collaborations, exchange programmes, workshops, training opportunities and seminars.

Each year, a number of calls for project proposals are announced by the AC inviting researchers across South Africa to submit collaborative research proposals with researchers in the respective partner countries. The nature of the call is determined by the agreement between the partners, but agreements typically include funding for workshops, research consumables, accommodation, flights, small equipment and other capacity building initiatives. Funding periods vary between projects and are stipulated in the call guidelines, and project budgets are split between the two PIs based on the requirements of each.

### **WHO CAN APPLY?**

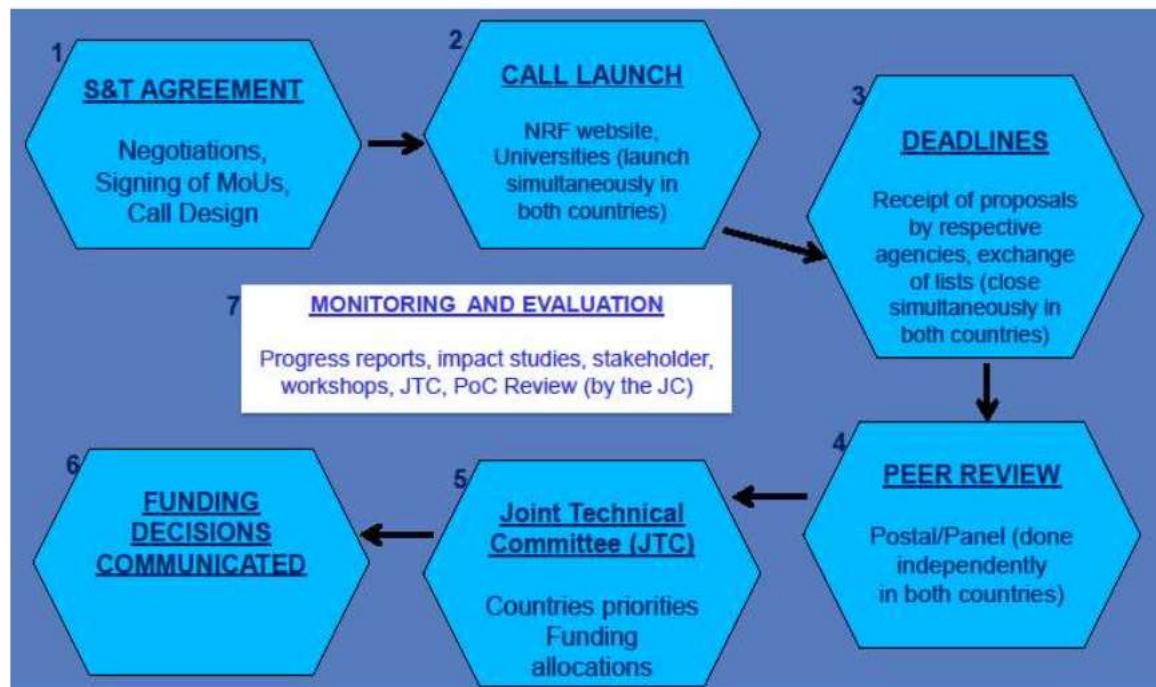
The joint application for funding must include two Principal Investigators. The SA applicant must be employed at a recognised higher education or research institution such as a university, university of technology or science council. Researchers from both countries must be in possession of a PhD unless otherwise stated in the call guidelines.

### **WHAT ARE THE MAIN GRANTING RULES?**

1. A project proposal should address one of the themes as outlined in the call for proposals
2. Collaborating Principal Investigators should submit joint authored project proposal to both their respective countries within the stipulated closing date.
3. Budgets should be split between the two PIs based on requirements from each researcher

4. Funding is available for the maximum period of years as stipulated in the call guideline

## Joint Call Cycle: The granting process



### HOW TO APPLY

Online Application forms for proposal submission may be obtained from the National Research Foundation website ([www.nrf.ac.za](http://www.nrf.ac.za)).

### PEER REVIEW

Joint research project proposals shall be submitted to the relevant authorities in both countries (in case of a bilateral call) for evaluation.

Evaluation will be done according to the following criteria:

- Scientific and technical merit;
- Impact on bilateral science and technology relations;
- Significance for both countries;
- Potential for creating research;
- Quality and clarity of project presentation;
- Methodology;
- Suitability and feasibility;

- Capacity Development/Student training.

#### **GRANT HOLDER'S OBLIGATIONS**

The Principal Investigators will be responsible for the scientific and financial reporting, as well as other technical and administrative co-ordination of the project. They will also be required to submit an annual and final report to their respective funding agencies upon completion of the project. Annual progress reports are a pre-requisite for further release of project money.

## CURRENT BILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS IN AFRICA



Countries with which SA has S & T Agreements



Countries with which a joint call has been issued

You are encouraged to visit our website for the most updated list of active countries on the African continent.

## CURRENT ACTIVE BILATERALS IN AFRICA

The list below is not exhaustive but only signals recent countries where Programme of Action (PoA) was activated through calls for research proposals. There are a number of countries (not listed here) where South African researchers are currently collaborating with counterparts elsewhere in the continent.

- Mozambique (had a call in 2009, 2011 and 2012)
- Kenya (had a call in 2008, 2010 and 2012)
- Zambia (had a call in 2011)
- Namibia (had a call in 2010 and 2012)
- Algeria (had a call in 2010 and 2013)
- Egypt (had a call in 2011 and 2012)
- Tanzania (had a call in 2012)
- Angola (had a call in 2012 and 2013)

#### CURRENT THEMATIC AREAS SUPPORTED UNDER BILATERALS ABOVE

	Algeria	Angola	Egypt	Kenya	Mozambique	Namibia	Tanzania	Zambia
<b>Material Science and Nanotech</b>	X	X	X				X	
<b>Space Sciences &amp; Remote Sensing</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
<b>ICT</b>	X	X	X			X	X	X
<b>IKS</b>	X	X			X	X		X
<b>Biosciences &amp; Biotech</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
<b>Health Sciences</b>	X						X	
<b>Social Sciences &amp; Humanities</b>	X							
<b>Geosciences &amp; Mineral Resources</b>							X	X
<b>Energy</b>	X	X	X					X
<b>Environment &amp; Climate Change</b>	X	X		X	X	X		
<b>Mathematical Sciences</b>								X
<b>Agriculture</b>							X	
<b>Laser Technology</b>	X		X					X

## CONTACTS

Professional Officer: Ms Busiswa Molefe

Email: [Busiswa@nrf.ac.za](mailto:Busiswa@nrf.ac.za)

Tel: 012 481 4028

Professional Officer: Ms Puleng Tshitlho

Email: [puleng.tshitlho@nrf.ac.za](mailto:puleng.tshitlho@nrf.ac.za)

Tel: 012 481 4061

Liaison Officer: Ms Jelka Monyela

Email: [jelka.monyela@nrf.ac.za](mailto:jelka.monyela@nrf.ac.za)

Tel: 012 481 4185

Admin Assistant: Ms Tshegofatso Thoka

Email: [tshegofatso.thoka@nrf.ac.za](mailto:tshegofatso.thoka@nrf.ac.za)

Tel: 012 481 4172

Director: Mr Michael Nxumalo

Email: [michael@nrf.ac.za](mailto:michael@nrf.ac.za)

Tel: 012 481 4011