
THE FP7 INFORMATION SYSTEM IN AFRICA

WORK PACKAGE 5
JANUARY 2009



**A NETWORK FOR THE COORDINATION AND ADVANCEMENT OF SUB-
SAHARAN AFRICA-EU SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION**

www.caast-net.org

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INTRODUCTION

The CAAST-Net project kicked-off in 2008. Throughout its duration, CAAST-Net will establish a platform to promote improved co-operation in science and technology between Europe and Africa. To achieve this objective, CAAST-Net will critically analyse the current European and African science and technology (S&T) cooperation landscape, as well as undertake other relevant S&T policy analyses.

Within Work Package 5 of CAAST-Net, the FP7 information and advisory services in Africa are investigated (WP5: “Supporting and Strengthening African Participation in FP7: Improving Information and Advisory Services”). In addition to its other deliverables it was initially foreseen that WP5 would elaborate documents such as a reporting template and guidelines for interviews to set a methodological standard for an analysis of the existing National Information Points (NIPs) in Africa (Deliverable 5.4.1 “Draft terms of reference for analysing the state of the art of NIPs in Africa incl. interview guidelines”).* This analysis was intended to be used to elaborate a coherent review of the state-of-the-art of sub-Saharan African NIPs and thereby to develop recommendations for strengthening the NIPs. It was foreseen to address these recommendations to national decision-makers in Africa (Deliverable 5.4.4 “Visits to / interviews of African NIPs resulting in 3 analytical reports of regional dimension (West Africa, Southern Africa, East Africa) with recommendations for strengthening the African NIPs including regional options for cooperation and presentation to the African authorities”).

However, the situation in sub-Saharan Africa is that up until now only one country—namely South-Africa—has established an accredited NIP system. The South-African NIP office covers all FP7 Themes of the Cooperation Specific Programme, the People Specific Programme and also horizontal aspects, such as legal and financial aspects, and has operated very successfully since the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6)—2002-2006.

Therefore, at a planning meeting in Lisbon of the CAAST-Net-partners working together in WP5 in September 2008, it was decided to replace two deliverables (5.4.1 and 5.4.4) with a report about the FP7 information system in Africa, which would include recommendations on the best way to implement an accredited NIP system in sub-Saharan Africa. This report is therefore meant to serve official authorities directly, and help them to initiate the implementation of NIPs in more sub-Saharan countries more effectively.**

Work Package 5

January 2009

* The FP7 contacts in third countries—countries that are non-EU Member States or Associated Countries—are named “National Information Points” or NIPs. Those in Europe are named National Contact Points (NCPs).

** **The information cited in this report reflects the sources available at the time of writing (January 2009). It is due for revision and updating in 2010.**

1. THE STATE-OF-THE-ART OF AFRICAN NIP

We can distinguish between three different types of NIP:

1. Formally accredited NIP;
2. Formal NIP-accreditation in progress; and,
3. Information systems without a formal status.

1.1 Formally accredited NIP

A list of all formally accredited information points for FP7 is given on the CORDIS website, the official information platform for European Research and Development (R&D) and exploitation of European R&D results. CORDIS is an acronym for the Community Research and Development Information Service [see http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/get-support_en.html].

The information points are divided into the following two categories:

1. National Contact Points (NCPs) located in a European Union Member State or in a state associated to the 7th Framework Programme; and,
2. FP7 contacts in third countries located outside the European Union (named NIP in this report).

The link “FP7 contacts in third countries” leads to a menu, where countries (“Select a country”) and thematic areas (“NCP Function”) can be selected.

Accredited NIPs can be found in five African countries: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt and South Africa (see Annex 1, countries marked green, and Annex 2). Algeria, Egypt and South Africa support larger NIP-offices with contact persons for a large number of thematic areas. Morocco and Tunisia only have smaller offices—two National Coordinator NCPs (Morocco) and one National Coordinator NCP and one INCO NCP (Tunisia).

NIPs that are not (yet) officially nominated cannot be found on the CORDIS website. Therefore, a survey was undertaken for this report in order to build a knowledge of all the official and unofficial FP7 information systems in Africa. For this purpose the following individuals were contacted via e-mail and asked if they were aware of any NIP that belongs to category (1.2) Formal NIP-accreditation in progress or category (1.3) Information systems without a formal status:

1. All African accredited NIP coordinators, that can be found on CORDIS;
2. All German NCP coordinators;
3. The coordinators of projects dealing with African topics:

ST-EAP (Science and Technology – Europe Africa Project)

<http://www.st-eap.org/>

INT-ER-LINK (Promoting International Cooperation for Environmental Research Through Dissemination and Networking Activities)

<http://www.interlink-fp6.com/>

PAEPARD (Building up a Platform for African-European Partnership on Agricultural Research for Development)

<http://www.fara-africa.org/networking-support-projects/paepard/>

MIRA (Mediterranean Innovation and Research Coordination Action)

<http://www.miraproject.eu/>

CPN-YAS-PRD (Contact Point Network to Attract Young African Scientists to Participate in EU-funded Poverty Related Disease Research Projects)

<http://www.cpnafrika.eu/>

INCONTACT (Network of the INCO-NCPs)

<http://www.ncp-incontact.eu>

All persons that were invited to the “Meeting of Coordinators of Projects Targeting Sub-Saharan African Countries” (17th September 2008 in Bonn)—organised within CAAST-Net by Nadia Meyer (PT-DLR). Altogether, 43 individuals were contacted of which feedback was received from nine.

1.2 Formal NIP-accreditation in progress

In the frame of the FP7 project, INCONTACT, NIPs were set out to be formally accredited in eleven countries: Ghana, Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda (see Annex 1, countries marked yellow). The officials from these countries were trained at an INCONTACT workshop in Pretoria in December 2008. In the near future, they should be officially nominated by their Governments to the European Commission for official accreditation as FP7 Information Points (NIP). It is not yet decided whether these officials will be NIP Coordinators or thematic NIPs; this will be the decision of their respective Governments.

1.3 Information systems without a formal status

The FP6 project CPN-YAS-PRD has established a network of regional (RCPs) and local (LCPs) Contact Points in sub-Saharan Africa, which was initiated in spring 2007. These Contact Points do not have a formal status. However, they adopt the same mission as the formally accredited NCPs and NIPs; that is, they provide information about funding opportunities under FP7, raise awareness about the programme, provide training for scientists interested to apply for FP7 funding, and assist them in proposal writing as well as during the project’s execution. The focus of CPN-YAS-PRD is to provide

young African scientists with the necessary information about FP7, and to encourage them to participate in EU-funded research programmes on Poverty-Related Diseases (PRD). It should be noted that the future of these RCPs and LCPs is entirely associated with the project so sustainability is an issue.

Three RCPs and nine LCPs were established (see in Annex 1 the countries framed in dark and light red respectively):

Eastern Africa The RCP was originally located in Kenya but following some structural re-organisation in the project, the RCP is currently being established in Uganda and an LCP established in Kenya. LCPs are located in Sudan, Ethiopia, and originally Uganda, and are currently being established in Kenya.

Southern Africa RCP is located in Zambia. LCPs are located in Namibia, Zimbabwe and Malawi.

Western/Central Africa RCP is located in Cameroon. LCPs are located in Burkina Faso, Benin and Nigeria.

2. BEST PRACTICES IN OFFICIALLY NOMINATING FP7 CONTACTS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

It is recommended that FP7 contacts in third countries are formally accredited since these contact points are invited to NCP-meetings in Brussels; are directly informed by the European Commission; are supported by their national governments.

However, contact points that were established in the frame of an EU project often have not been accredited by their respective governments. These information systems without a formal status face the problem that their continuation and financing is uncertain once their projects come to an end. Nevertheless, projects continue to play a valuable role by engaging in FP7 awareness-raising. In addition, such unofficial information systems can of course technically support the establishment of officially accredited information system. Moreover, these information points should be encouraged and supported to aim towards formal accreditation. The experience gained and results achieved during the course of the project could directly and indirectly support their official appointment.

Within CAAST-Net itself, new NIPs are intended to be established. To start with, this will be done in Cape Verde. The following approach is recommended when officially nominating NIPs:

1. Find areas or countries where official NIPs are lacking.
2. Plan a training workshop in these areas/countries, where the future NIPs should be trained.
3. Contact the appropriate government authorities (ministries/agencies recognised by the African Union as the official government contact points for Science & Technology) in the countries to request nominations for the workshop. Only national governments can designate FP7 information points; how the specific individuals are chosen is the countries own prerogative.
4. Inform the respective government authorities about already existing information systems without a formal status in the designated countries/areas.
5. Train the nominated persons in the workshop.
6. Start the process of official accreditation as FP7 Information Points (NIP) with the European Commission through the responsible Government agencies.

It is important to note that individual countries have to fund and sustain the accreditation and subsistence of NIPs themselves. Hence, countries with comparatively small FP7 engagement and/or restricted research capacities should not over-invest initially. Thus it is advised that the newly accredited NIP should start out as general or overall FP7 Information Points. The next stage in the evolution would then be to appoint additional thematic NIPs in selected areas.

ANNEX 1

Map of NIP in Africa*

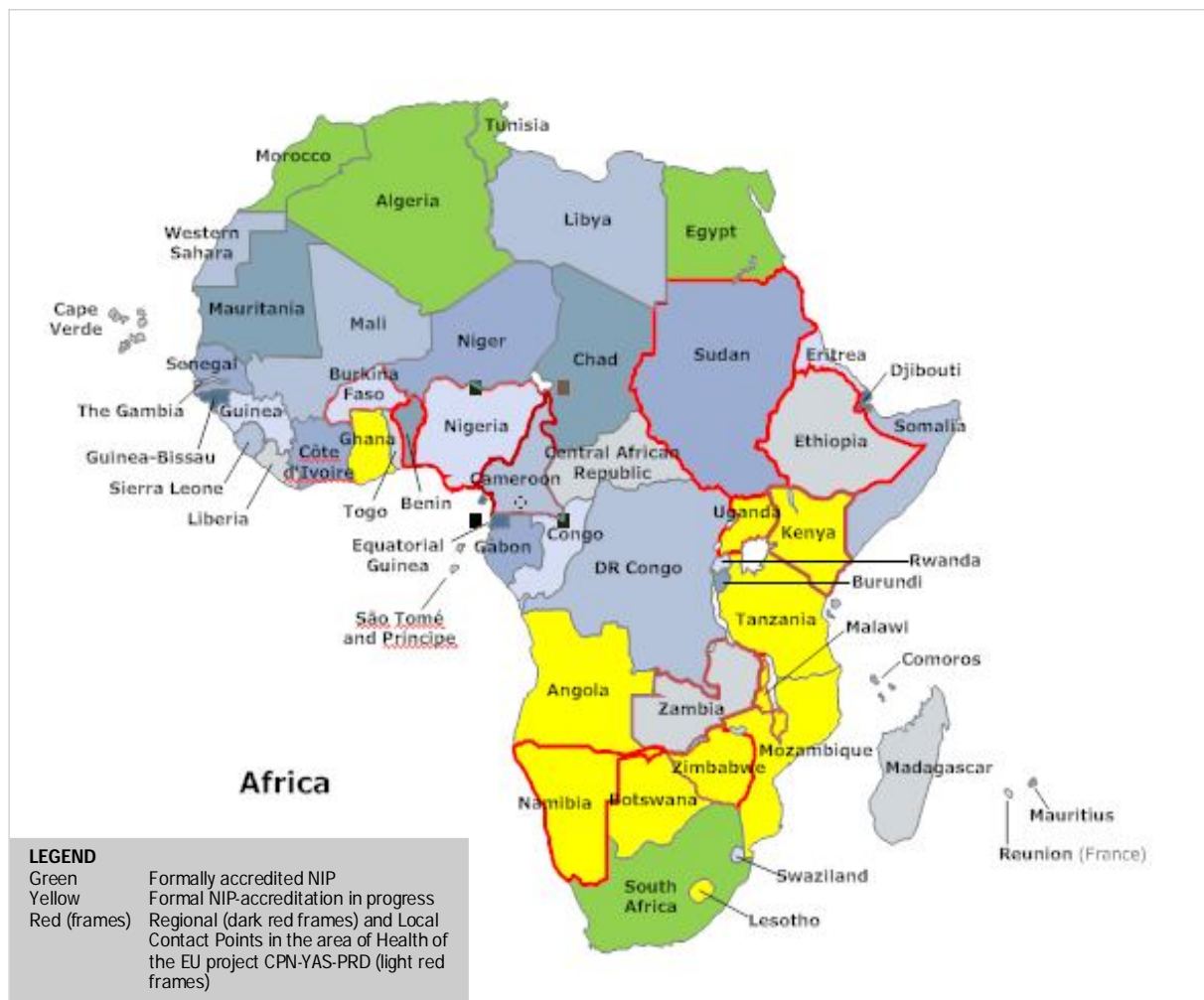


Figure 1. Status and Location of FP7 Information Points in Africa.

*CAAST-Net's geographical focus is Sub-Saharan Africa. Western Sahara, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt are cited in this map for completeness.

ANNEX 2

Accredited FP7 contacts in Sub-Saharan Africa*

South Africa

1. CINGO, Ndumiso (Prof.)	
NMP NCP	Record Control Number: 20664 Update Date: 2008-06-24
TSHWANE University of Technology (TUT) Pretoria Private Bag X680 0001 Pretoria SOUTH AFRICA	Tel: +27-12-382-6367 Fax: +27-12-429-8549 URL: http://www.tut.ac.za Programme acronym: FP7-NMP
2. DE VILLIERS, Van Zyl (Dr)	
EURATOM NCP	Record Control Number: 19854 Update Date: 2007-02-01
South African Nuclear Energy Cooperation Nuclear Technology and Services P O Box 582 0001 Pretoria SOUTH AFRICA	Tel: +27-82-9071123 Fax: +27-12-3055925 URL: http://www.necsa.co.za Programme acronym: FP7-EURATOM
3. DU TOIT, Daan (Mr)	
INCO NCP	Record Control Number: 19853 Update Date: 2007-03-29
Department of Science and Technology South African Mission to the European Union (Brussels) Rue de la Loi 26 Bte7-8 1040 Brussels (BELGIUM) SOUTH AFRICA	Tel: +32-473-687514 Fax: +32-2-2854402 URL: http://www.dst.gov.za Programme acronym: FP7-INCO
4. EKSTEEN, Johan (Mr)	
ICT NCP	Record Control Number: 19843 Update Date: 2007-02-01
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Meraka Institute Private Bag x 395 0001 Pretoria SOUTH AFRICA	Tel: +27-82-4670854 Fax: +27-12-8414720 URL: http://www.csir.co.za Programme acronym: FP7-ICT
5. ERASMUS, Corinda (Dr)	
Bio NCP	Record Control Number: 19842 Update Date: 2008-03-31
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) P.O. Box 395 0001 Pretoria SOUTH AFRICA	Tel: + 27-12-8412163 Fax: + 27-12-841356 URL: http://www.csir.co.za Programme acronym: FP7-KBBE

6. LE ROUX, Renee (Miss)	
Environment NCP	Record Control Number: 19846 Update Date: 2007-02-01
Comment: Aeronautics NCP	
National Research Foundation Knowledge Field Development P O Box 2600 0001 Pretoria SOUTH AFRICA	Tel: +27-82-4477017 Fax: +27-12-4814005 URL: http://www.nrf.ac.za Programme acronym: FP7-ENVIRONMENT
7. MASANGANE, Phindile (Dr.)	
Energy NCP	Record Control Number: 20662 Update Date: 2008-06-24
South African National Energy Research Institute (SANERI) Sandton P.O.Box 786141 2146 Sandton SOUTH AFRICA	Tel: +27-11-280-0444 Fax: +27-11-280-0573 URL: http://www.saneri.org.za Programme acronym: FP7-ENERGY
8. MOKONYAMA, Mathetha (Mr)	
Transport NCP	Record Control Number: 19848 Update Date: 2007-02-05
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Private Bag x 395 0001 Pretoria SOUTH AFRICA	Tel: +27-83-4575648 Fax: +27-12-8414044 URL: http://www.csir.co.za Programme acronym: FP7-TRANSPORT
9. MUOFHE, Mmboneni (Mr)	
National coordinator NCP	Record Control Number: 19839 Update Date: 2007-05-08
Department of Science and Technology Private Bag x 894 0001 Pretoria SOUTH AFRICA	Tel: +27-82-909856 Fax: +27-86-6810056 URL: http://www.dst.gov.za Programme acronym: FP7
10. PARKER, Iqbal (Prof)	
Health NCP	Record Control Number: 19841 Update Date: 2007-02-01
University of Cape Town Medical Biochemistry Faculty of Health Sciences University of Cape Town Observ- atory 7925 Cape Town SOUTH AFRICA	Tel: +27-21-4066259 Fax: +27-21-4066060 URL: http://www.uct.ac.za Programme acronym: FP7-HEALTH
11. PARKER, Kamallunddien (Dr)	
Transport NCP	Record Control Number: 19847 Update Date: 2007-02-01
Comment: Surface Transport NCP	
Advanced Manufacturing Technology Strategy Manufacturing Technology Private Bag x 395 0001 Pretoria SOUTH AFRICA	Tel: +27-82-4158548 Fax: +27-12-8427616 URL: http://www.csir.co.za Programme acronym: FP7-TRANSPORT

12. PINTO, Cristina (Miss)	
Legal and financial NCP	Record Control Number: 19840 Update Date: 2007-02-01
University of the Witwatersrand Private Bag 3, Wits 2050 Braamfontein SOUTH AFRICA	Tel: +27-84-5549670 Fax: +27-11-7171065 URL: http://www.wits.ac.za/enterprise Programme acronym: FP7-LEGALFINANCIAL
13. RAMUSI, Mothibi (Mr)	
Space NCP	Record Control Number: 19851 Update Date: 2007-02-01
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Frontier Science Private Bag x 395 0001 Pretoria SOUTH AFRICA	Tel: +27-82-9929929 Fax: +27-12-8436471 URL: http://www.csir.co.za Programme acronym: FP7-SPACE
14. TAUTE, Barend (Dr)	
Security NCP	Record Control Number: 19850 Update Date: 2007-02-01
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Defence, Peace, Safety and Security Private Bag x 395 0001 Pretoria SOUTH AFRICA	Tel: +27-12-8414063 Fax: +27-12-8414750 URL: http://www.csir.co.za Programme acronym: FP7-SECURITY
15. TLHAGALE, Mamohloding (Ms.)	
Mobility NCP	Record Control Number: 20665 Update Date: 2008-06-24
Department of Science and Technology (DST) Pretoria Private Bag X894 0001 Pretoria SOUTH AFRICA	Tel: +27-12-843-6340 Fax: +27-12-349-1037 URL: http://www.dst.gov.za Programme acronym: FP7-PEOPLE
16. VAN ZYL, Christa (Dr.)	
SSH NCP	Record Control Number: 20663 Update Date: 2008-06-24
Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) Pretoria Private Bag X41 0001 Pretoria SOUTH AFRICA	Tel: +27-12-302-2014 Fax: +27-12-326-0263 URL: http://www.hsrc.ac.za Programme acronym: FP7-SSH

* As given on CORDIS (http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/third-countries_en.html, December 2008).