

# Revised Strategic Plan 2015/16 – 2019/20

Presentation to  
Select Committee on Communications & Public  
Enterprises

**6 April 2016**



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thinking in the  
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# ASSAF Mandate

- Promote & inspire achievements in all fields of scientific enquiry & grant recognition for excellence
- Proactively, or upon request, undertake studies on matters of public interest with a view to providing evidence-based scientific advice to government and other stakeholders



## ASSAf Vision

- **ASSAf aspires to be apex organisation for science & scholarship in South Africa, recognised & connected nationally & internationally**
- **Through its Membership representing the collective voice of most active scholars in all fields, ASSAf aims to generate evidence-based solutions to national problems**



# ASSAf Mission

- Recognise scholarly achievement and excellence
- Mobilise Members to contribute expertise
- Systematic & evidence-based studies
- Promote development & quality of system of SA research publications
- Publish science-focused periodicals to showcase SA research
- Partner with national, regional & international organisations to build science capacity in NSI
- Raise funding for sustainable national academy
- Communicate effectively with stakeholders



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# ASSAf Values

- **Strength in Membership – give time voluntarily**
- **Membership is ‘brains trust’ of nation**
- **Undertake science advisory activities**

## Advice:

- Authoritative
- Independent
- Objective and free of vested interests
- Trusted
- Voluntary involvement
- Rigorous analysis of evidence & peer review
- Transparent
- Multi-disciplinary



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# Legislation/Policies

- Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) Act (*Act No 67 of 2001*)
- Science and Technology Laws Amendment Act (*Act No 16 of 2011*)
- ASSAf Constitution with 14 Regulations
- PFMA (*Act No1 of 1999*)
- National priorities as per MTSF
- White Paper on Science and Technology (1996)
- Ten-Year Innovation Plan for Science and Technology (2008-2018)
- National Skills Development Strategy (2011)
- National Development Plan (2012)



# Strategic Plan 2015/16 – 2019/20

Strategic Plan updated as result of:

- Introduction of Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) framework
- Organisational design exercises commissioned by Council



# ASSAf Goals

- Recognition and reward of excellence
- Promotion of innovation and scholarly activity
- Effective, evidence-based scientific advice
- Public interest in and awareness of science & science education
- National, regional and international linkages



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# Alignment with Government Goals

- Responsive, coordinated and efficient National System of Innovation (NSI)
- Increased knowledge generation
- Human capital development
- Using knowledge for economic development
- Knowledge utilisation for inclusive development



# Alignment with Government Goals

Strategic Goals	Indicators	Government Goal
(1) Recognition and reward of excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted membership drives to increase and diversify Academy membership</li> <li>• Award of 2 Science-for-Society gold medals p.a.</li> <li>• Sydney Brenner fellowships</li> <li>• AU-TWAS Young Scientist Prize</li> <li>• Humanities Book Prize</li> <li>• Support of South African Young Academy of Science</li> </ul>	Human capital development

# Alignment with Government Goals

Strategic Goals	Indicators	Government Goal
<p><b>(2) Promotion of innovation and scholarly activity</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Distinguished Visiting Scholars</li> <li>• Regional scholarly lectures</li> <li>• Annual Humanities lecture</li> <li>• Publication of SA Journal of Science</li> <li>• Convening of workshops</li> <li>• Conducting project-related activities</li> <li>• Implementation of Scholarly Publishing Programme</li> <li>• Young Scientists' activities</li> <li>• Women in Science activities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Human capital development</b></p>

# Alignment with Government Goals

Strategic Goals	Indicators	Government Goal
<p><b>(3) Promotion of effective, evidence-based scientific advice</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of Scholarly Publishing Programme</li> <li>• Evidence-based studies in targeted areas such as health, education, climate change, energy etc.</li> <li>• Dissemination of study reports for improved uptake and impact of evidence-based studies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased knowledge generation</li> <li>• Human capital development</li> <li>• Using knowledge for economic development</li> </ul>

# Alignment with Government Goals

Strategic Goals	Indicators	Government Goal
<p><b>(4) Promotion of public interest in and awareness of science and science education</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publication of <i>Quest: Science for South Africa</i></li> <li>• Participation in national science events</li> <li>• Hosting of public lectures on a wide variety of topics</li> <li>• Implementation of STEM Education Committee activities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Human capital development</b></p>

# Alignment with Government Goals

Strategic Goals	Indicators	Government Goal
<p>(5) Promotion of national, regional and international linkages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening and initiating bilateral Academy agreements</li> <li>• Strengthening and initiating science academies in Africa, particularly the SADC region</li> <li>• Taking a leadership role in Africa's Science Academy Development Agenda (ASADA)</li> <li>• Hosting and supporting ICSU ROA and TWAS ROSSA</li> </ul>	<p>Increased knowledge generation</p>

# Direct Contributions to Triple Challenges

Poverty	Inequality	Unemployment
Standing Committee on Science for Reduction of Poverty & Inequality reconstituted	Transformation of ASSAf membership in terms of race & gender  Ensuring membership of Standing Committees is fully representative	Employment and skills development of interns

# Indirect Contributions to Triple Challenges

Poverty	Inequality	Unemployment
Hosting Annual Meeting of African Science Academies (AMASA) in November 2016 – theme is Poverty Reduction	Values of ASSAf embrace Constitution of SA	Raising of science awareness & providing information on science careers through Quest

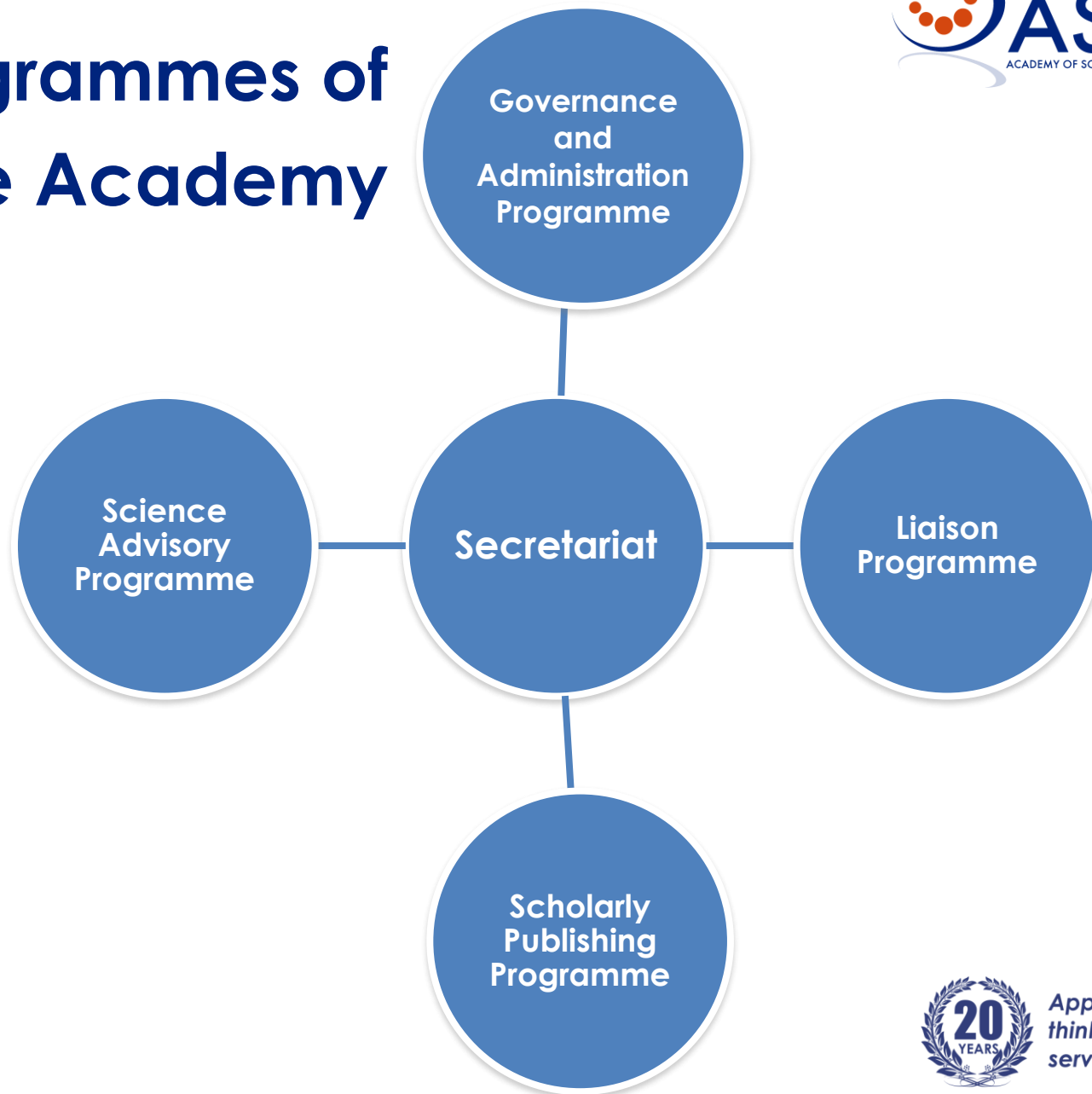


# Organisational Environment

- Governed by Council
- 13 Members – 12 Elected, 1 Ministerial appointment
- 470 Members - 25% women  
28% black
- 34 Staff members  
57% women  
65% black



# Programmes of the Academy



# Programme 1: Governance and Administration

- Central to efficient functioning of the Academy
- Cross-cutting administrative & financial support
- Responsible for all reporting and compliance

## **New Activities for 2016/17**

- ASSAf 20-Year Anniversary celebrations
- Publication of “History of ASSAf”
- Publication of book profiling ASSAf Members
- Institutional Review



## **Sub-programme: Governance**

### **Promote good governance through ASSAf Council**

- Elections of new Council members
- Elections of new office-bearers & members of standing committees of Council
- Performance evaluation of outgoing Council
- Induct new Council members

## **Sub-programme: Finance and Risk**

### **Ensure appropriate financial management systems**

- Compile risk register
- Implement risk management strategy
- Ensure effective supply chain management



## **Sub-programme: Human Resources**

### **Provision of HR management services**

- Design & implement induction programme for staff
- Address gaps in ASSAf policies & procedures
- Ensure compliance with policies & procedures

## **Sub-programme: Knowledge Management**

### **Develop systems/processes to ensure reporting & compliance**

- Develop systems & procedures for document management
- Compile comprehensive stakeholder database

## Sub-programme: Communication

- Provide effective & targeted communication to support Academy vision
- Build ASSAf brand
- Communicate achievements of ASSAf & Members

## Goals for 2016/17

- Develop communication strategy
- Achieve greater social media presence
- Develop e-publications strategy for study reports
- Provide support for 20-Year anniversary celebrations



# Scholarly Publishing Programme

**Strategic Objective 1:** Increase visibility, accessibility & searchability of SA accredited scholarly journals

- Add 7 journal titles to SciELO SA OA platform

**Activities:** Open access platform

- Conclude license agreements with new journals
- Prepare new journals for OA platform
- Host annual SciELO SA Users' Group
- Monitor & evaluate impact of OA platform



# Scholarly Publishing Programme

## Strategic Objective 2: Improve quality of SA scholarly journals, books & conference proceedings

- Publish 2 discipline-grouped panel reports
- Coordinate activities of National Scholarly Book Publishers' Forum & National Scholarly Editors' Forum

## Activities

- Evaluation of books, conference proceedings for DHET
- Hold 4 webinars on scholarly publishing topics
- Provide DOI service to SciELO journals





# Scholarly Publishing Programme

## Activities (contd)

- Assist with online hosting & managing of SciELO journals
- Update & expand SA journal database
- Convene National Science Editors' Forum
- Host NSBPF
- Monitor value & impact of activities of SPU
- Advise on implementation of policy



# Scholarly Publishing Programme

## Study of scientific journal & book publishing: 2005 – 2014

- Publish report on impact of DHET policy
- Establish impact of the SPU in South Africa
- Engage stakeholders



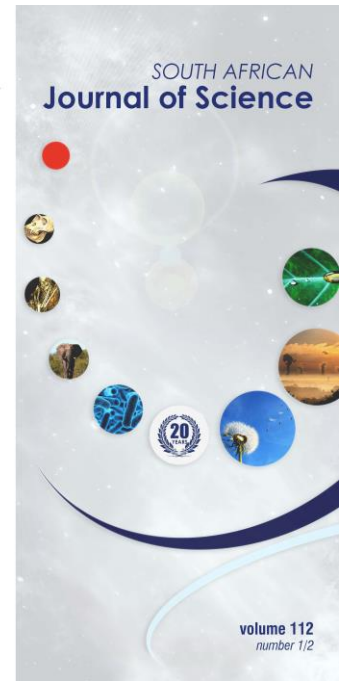


SOUTH AFRICAN  
**Journal of Science**

## Strategic Objective 3: Promote visibility & research through publication of SAJS

- Publish 6 issues per annum
- Highlight ASSAf's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Introduce article-level metrics for improved impact measurement
- Undergo ASSAf's peer-review evaluation to assess quality
- Undertake an independent bibliometric assessment to monitor impact

ASSAf turns 20  
Safe spending rates for  
South African retirees  
Mitigating  
human–elephant  
conflict: responses of  
African elephants to  
a bee threat  
Indicative hazard  
profile for strong  
winds in South Africa  
Radiological and  
genetic analysis of a  
Late Iron Age mummy



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## Strategic Objective 4: Promote awareness of science among youth

- Full-colour, quarterly, popular science magazine
- Print-run 25 000 per issue
- Aimed at Grades 10 -12, educators and scientific community
- Improve impact through
  - Targeted distribution strategy
  - Greater cooperation with DBE, University Education Departments, SAASTA, science centres



# Liaison Programme: Membership

## Increase and diversify the Membership of the Academy

- Increase women & black Membership
- Maintain accurate database of Members
- Publish book profiling ASSAf Members – part of 20-Year Anniversary celebrations



# Liaison Programme: National

## Recognise and reward excellence in science and promote scholarly activity

- Forge strategic partnerships in NSI
- DVS & regional lectures – Humanities lecture & Humanities Book Prize
- ASSAf Gold Medals, Sydney Brenner Fellowship

## Promote science engagement with society

- Develop Science Engagement Strategy, implementation plan
- Ensure engagement through Quest is fully inclusive



# Liaison Programme: International

**Aims to establish, strengthen and sustain productive collaborations with African and overseas academies of science and like-minded organisations to enhance capacity in S&T**

Programme structured as follows:

- **Strategic partnerships**
  - IAP
  - TWAS and TWAS ROSSA
  - ICSU and ICSU ROA
- **Africa collaboration**
- **Overseas collaboration**



# Liaison Programme: International: Strategic Partnerships

**Collaborate with and strengthen African & international science academies**

- Leading role in implementation of ASADA
- Host AMASA – November 2016
- Bilateral engagement – Leopoldina, others
- Support for ICSU ROA & strengthen relations with ICSU





# Liaison Programme: Young Scientists

**ASSAf aims to support SAYAS and increase participation of young scientists in science-related activities nationally and globally**

Goals for 2016/17:

- Provide secretariat for SAYAS
- Host annual Young Scientists' Conference
- Nominate young scientists for awards etc.
  - TWAS Young Affiliates
  - TWAS prizes
  - Young Physician Leaders Programme
  - Lindau Laureates Programme



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# Liaison Programme: Gender & STI

**ASSAf hosts the Organisation for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD) National Chapter and GenderInSITE regional focal point**

## Goals for 2016/17

- Increase membership of OWSD through targeted membership drive
- Host meeting of OWSD fellowship holders in SA
- Apply gender lens to ASSAf consensus studies and convening activities



# Science Advisory Programme

**Facilitate scholarly engagement on key national and global challenges**

**Provide evidence-based science advice in support of policy development**

- Implement systems for record-keeping
- Consolidate activities in line with priorities of the country, NDP
- Promote scholarly debate on topics of national, regional & global importance
- Engage with relevant stakeholders & policymakers
- Improve dissemination & uptake of study reports
- Monitor, evaluate & report on impact of study reports



# Science Advisory Programme

## Health Studies

- Finalise consensus study on *“Reconceptualising Education and Training of an appropriate Health Workforce for the Improved Health of the Nation”*
- Continue consensus study on *“Providing Core Competencies for MNS Disorders”*
- Continue consensus study on *“Ethical, Legal and Social Issues related to Human Genetics and Human Genomics”*
- Continue dissemination & impact evaluation of consensus study on *“Diversity in Human Sexuality: Implications for Policy in Africa”*



# Science Advisory Programme

## Education Studies

- Finalise consensus study on “*Revitalising Agricultural Education and Training in SA*”
- Host workshop on Mathematical Sciences (Partial Differential Equations) with Leopoldina
- Consensus study Mathematical Sciences for the Future



# Science Advisory Programme

## Science for Reduction of Poverty & Inequality

- Host Annual Meeting of African Science Academies (AMASA) – November 2016

## Humanities

- Initiate annual ASSAf Humanities Scholarly Lecture
- Initiate annual Humanities Book Award



# Science Advisory Programme

## Biosafety and Biosecurity

- Disseminate & monitor consensus study report on “*State of Biosafety and Biosecurity in South Africa*”
- Continue consensus study on “*New Genetic Engineering Technologies*”
- Host meeting on The State of Biosafety and Biosecurity in SA with SADC academies
- Collaborate with African science academies on biosafety & biosecurity



# Science Advisory Programme

## Climate Change

- Disseminate, monitor & evaluate impact of consensus study report on “*The State of Green Technologies in South Africa*”
- Launch and disseminate NASAC policymakers’ booklet on climate change in SADC region

## Energy Studies

- Seek funding for follow-up of The State of Energy Research in South Africa
- Publish, disseminate, monitor & evaluate impact of consensus study report on the “*Technical Readiness of South Africa for Hydraulic Fracturing*”





# Science Advisory Programme

## Blue Economy

- Initiate blue economy as a new focus area
- Partner with African science academies
  - Workshop on Blue Economy with African academies
  - Proceedings report/policymakers' to raise awareness



# PROJECTED BUDGET SUMMARY

## MTEF PERIOD: 2016/17 TO 2018/19

<b>Income: Details</b>				<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>
				<b>R'000</b>	<b>R'000</b>	<b>R'000</b>
DST: Baseline allocation				23 106	24 261	25 668
Income from publications				150	150	150
Interest receivable				800	800	800
Membership fees receivable				88	90	94
Other income				<u>40</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>40</u>
<b>Total projected income</b>				<b><u>24 184</u></b>	<b><u>25 341</u></b>	<b><u>26 752</u></b>

# PROJECTED BUDGET SUMMARY

## MTEF PERIOD: 2016/17 TO 2018/19

Expenditure: Details	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
	R'000	R'000	R'000
Administration & Governance	7 431	7 751	8 282
Liaison - National and International	4 994	5 243	5 506
Science Advisory Programme	3 808	3 999	4 199
Scholarly Publishing Programme	<u>7 951</u>	<u>8 348</u>	<u>8 765</u>
<b>Total projected expenditure</b>	<b><u>24 184</u></b>	<b><u>25 341</u></b>	<b><u>26 752</u></b>



# Abbreviations and Acronyms

- **AMASA** Annual Meeting of African Science Academies
- **ASADA** Africa's Science Academy Development Agenda
- **ASSAf** Academy of Science of South Africa
- **AU** African Union
- **DBE** Department of Basic Education
- **DHET** Department of Higher Education and Training
- **DOI** Digital object identifier
- **IAP** InterAcademy Partnership
- **ICSU** International Council for Science
- **ICSU ROA** International Council for Science Regional Office for Africa
- **MNS** Mental, neurological and substance use
- **MTSF** Medium-term Strategic Framework

# Abbreviations and Acronyms

- **MTEF**                    **Medium-term Expenditure Framework**
- **NASAC**                **Network of African Science Academies**
- **NSBPF**                **National Scholarly Book Publishers' Forum**
- **NSI**                    **National System of Innovation**
- **OA**                    **Open Access**
- **OWSD**                **Organisation for Women in Science for the Developing World**
- **PFMA**                **Public Finance Management Act**
- **SAASTA**            **South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement**
- **SADC**                **Southern African Developing Community**
- **SCIELO**              **Scientific Electronic Library Online**
- **SciELO SA**          **Scientific Electronic Library Online - South Africa**
- **SPU**                  **Scholarly Publishing Unit**
- **TWAS**                **The World Academy of Sciences**
- **TWAS ROSSA**      **The World Academy of Sciences Regional Office of sub-Saharan Africa**



# Thank you

Website: [www.assaf.org.za](http://www.assaf.org.za)



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