



**The African
Academy of Sciences**



Rising Research Leaders

*Building African research
leadership for science-driven
development of the continent*





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CIRCLE Visiting Fellows

Rising Research Leaders

Building African research leadership for science-driven development of the continent

The African Academy of Sciences has created five programmes dedicated to Rising Research Leaders, offering postdoctoral and postmasters training to support globally competitive research in African universities and research institutes and to help build knowledge-based economies on the Continent.

Implemented through the Academy's Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa (AESA), a partnership of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Agency and the Academy, programmes support The AAS's goal to provide resources for the best minds in Africa to

work in conducive research environments, produce quality and relevant data, and create innovations that have the potential to address health and developmental challenges on the Continent and globally.

The Rising Research Leaders programmes are:

- AESA-RISE Postdoctoral Programme
- The AAS Affiliates Programme
- African Postdoctoral Training Initiative (APTII)
- Climate Impact Research Capacity and Leadership Enhancement (CIRCLE)
- Future Leaders –African Independent Researchers Fellowship (FLAIR)

AESA-RISE POSTDOCTORAL PROGRAMME

AESA-RISE supports the training of postdoctoral researchers in Africa. With funding from the Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY), it builds on the foundation of the Regional Initiative in Science and Education (RISE), which has for a decade prepared PhD- and masters-level scientists and engineers in sub-Saharan Africa through competitively-

selected, university-based research and teaching networks.

Seven researchers, from Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda, have been funded by AESA-RISE. Their research areas include antimicrobial resistance, drug discovery for cancer and skin diseases, conservation of woodlands, and development of low-cost alloys used for military and civic applications, aircraft, bicycles and medical devices.

AESA-RISE objectives

1 Train postdoctoral researchers



2 Access to quality research facilities



3 Quality mentorship



4 Produce and promote use of scientific evidence



5 Science advocacy



THE AAS AFFILIATES PROGRAMME

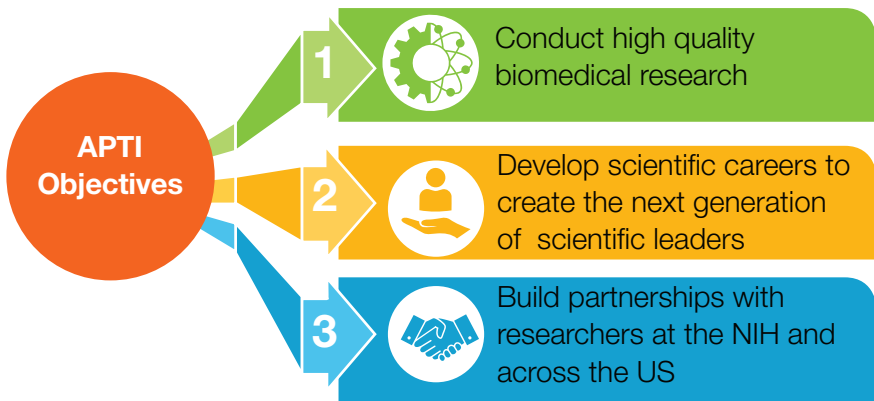
The Affiliates Programme recognises, mentors and develops exceptional early career African scientists. Affiliates are distinguished researchers who represent the most talented, promising men and women in and from the Africa.

AFRICAN POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING INITIATIVE (APTI)

APTI is a programme in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the U.S. National Institutes of Health. It offers postdoctoral training that will

enable African scientists to launch independent research careers, becoming scientific leaders in their fields.

The programme provides fellowships to African researchers to spend two years at the NIH to receive training and mentorship before returning to their African home institution at the conclusion of their two years at the NIH. Additional salary support is provided for a further two years to returning trainees to assist them to transition into independent research positions at their home institutions.



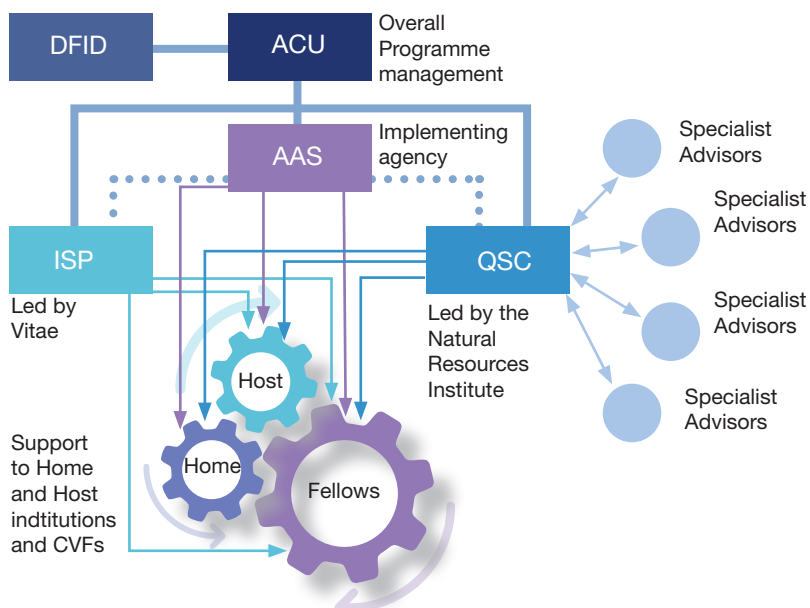
CLIMATE IMPACT RESEARCH CAPACITY AND LEADERSHIP ENHANCEMENT (CIRCLE)

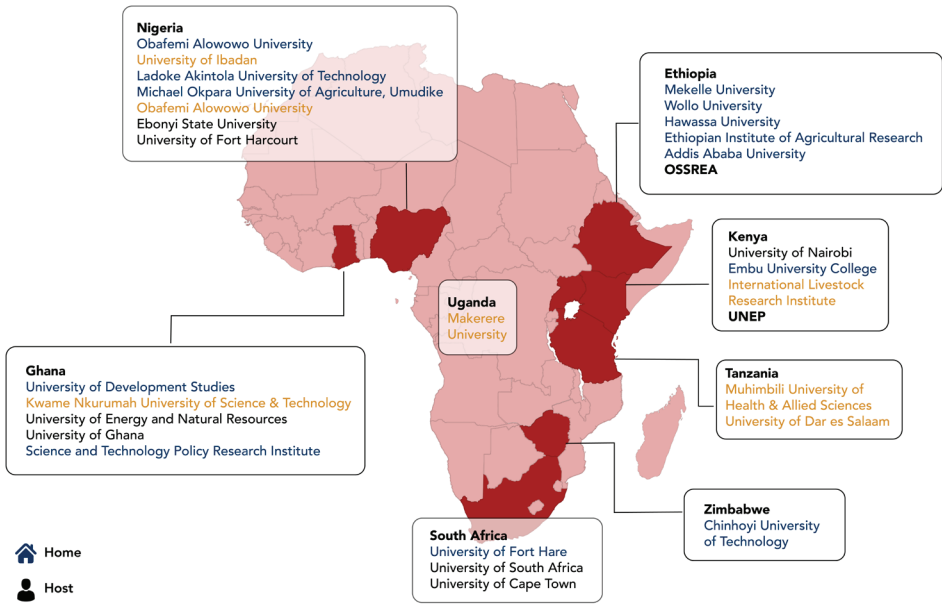
CIRCLE is a programme to build the capacity of early career African scientists to develop their skills and research results in the field of climate change. CIRCLE has trained 96 early career researchers — 36 postmasters and 60 postdoctoral CIRCLE Visiting Fellows — who spent a year in an African institution other than their own to undertake studies on the impact of climate change. Studies include five thematic areas: agriculture, energy,

health and livelihood, water, and policy. Three cohorts were named, from 2014 to 2016. CIRCLE is no longer offering postgraduate fellowships, but continues to support institutions from which its alumni are drawn and where they were based.

CIRCLE is jointly implemented by the AAS and the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), with support from the Department for International Development (DfID) of the United Kingdom.

The CIRCLE model





-  Home
-  Host
-  Host and Home

CIRCLE in a snapshot

- \$6M** invested
- 96** early career researchers from 24 African institutions
- 60** postdoctoral researchers
- 36** postmasters researchers
- 100%** gender parity (50% women; 50% men)
- 30** African institutions involved either as hosts or home
- 100%** of researchers publishing scientific articles



CIRCLE Visiting Fellows

FUTURE LEADERS – AFRICAN INDEPENDENT RESEARCHERS FELLOWSHIP (FLAIR)

FLAIR is a programme supporting the development of talented African early career researchers for independent research careers in sub-Saharan African institutions. Each FLAIR Fellowship is for two years and offers training support, including management, mentorship, and collaboration opportunities, both regionally and with the UK.

FLAIR Objectives

- **Develop Africa's next generation of research leaders** by supporting talented early career African researchers to establish their scientific independence, focus on developing their research and become leaders in their chosen discipline in the natural sciences
- **Support excellent research** by enabling African researchers to address areas of global significance across the natural sciences through high-quality research, which advances knowledge and innovation to benefit their country and address aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals
- **Enhance research environments.** By working through relevant partners, awards will help build institutional research capacity by strengthening and establishing good financial grants practice in African universities and research institutions
- **Foster collaboration and impact** by establishing mutually beneficial long-term networks of African Fellows and UK researchers to harness the expertise of the UK research base through equitable partnerships and enhancing knowledge exchange that translates into practical benefits and sustainable policy.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

Contact Judy Omumbo at j.omumbo@aaesciences.ac.ke to receive updates or to partner with us.

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