

● Innovative Capacity Building for Research Managers and Early-Career Researchers to facilitate Equitable and Impactful Partnerships

Globally, institutions are grappling with the challenge of ensuring that international collaborative partnerships are mutually beneficial, transparent, equitable, and reflect the different partners' values and priorities. Additionally, the value co-creation processes, experience, outputs as well as sustainability prospects enhance quality of partnerships and stakeholders. These attributes bear potential to contribute to the knowledge economy with a degree of impact. Therefore, it is critically important that partners in the research and innovation ecosystem, including the pre-award and post-award stages, co-design new approaches to facilitate equitable, sustainable, and impactful knowledge partnerships. The proposed workshop intends to bring together research and innovation ecosystem players to reflect on emerging frameworks and develop innovative approaches to strengthen institutional systems to promote mutually beneficial and impact collaboration. Amongst the desired outcomes of the workshop is an inclusive capacity development programme for research and innovation managers, and early-career researchers in Africa to enable them to facilitate and engage in international collaboration, respectively.

Proposed Programme Layout:

Time	Session	Facilitator
10 mins	Welcome remarks and introductions (10 mins)	Dr Rakeshnie Ramoutar-Prieschl Acting Deputy Director-General of Technology & Innovation. Department of Science & Innovation Head, Research Capacity Development, University of Pretoria (South Africa)
30 mins	Report on results from previous survey and workshops on sustainable equitable partnerships in Africa	Dr Farai Kapfudzaruwa Partnerships and Research Manager, Future Africa, University of Pretoria (South Africa)
45 mins	Breakout sessions to reflect on trends and scaling up capacity strengthening on equitable international collaboration	
	Transparent and equitable resource management	Dr Maggy Heintz Executive Director, UK Collaborative on Development Research (UKCDR) (UK)
	Redressing evidence hierarchies (i.e., redefining "quality evidence" and fostering diversity of knowledge and skills	Dr Nthabi Taole-Mjimba Deputy Vice-Chancellor Fort Hare University
	Critically engaging contexts, research communication and societal impact of partnerships	Dr Palesa Mothapo Deputy-Director, Postdoctoral Research Support University of Stellenbosch (TBC)
15 mins	<i>Refreshment break</i>	
45 mins	Reflections from breakout sessions	All <i>Facilitated by</i> Ms Samantha Linn Coert Strategic Partnerships Support Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) (South Africa)
30 mins	Open discussion session	<i>Facilitated by</i> Prof Laurine Chikoko Research Director Midlands State University (Zimbabwe)
	Identifying potential funders, allies and partners	
	Format of the capacity development programme – virtual, in-person, conference workshops	
	Linking capacity development to professionalization of research managers	
	Targeting programme for research and innovation managers and early career researchers	
10 mins	Way Forward	Dr Jose Jackson-Maleta Director, Alliance for African Partnership (AAP), Michigan State University (USA)

Presenters | Biographies:

- **Dr Farai Kapfudzaruwa, University of Pretoria (South Africa)**

Farai Kapfudzaruwa is a Grants and Strategic Partnerships Specialist at the University of Pretoria (UP) in South Africa where he is responsible for the implementation of the African Global University Project (AGUP) – UP's transformative internationalization initiative and related grants. Prior to joining UP he was Programme Coordinator for the Education for Sustainable Development in Africa (ESDA) initiative which was initiated by the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) in Tokyo, Japan with funding from the African Development Bank. From 2016-2017, Farai was a JSPS UNU Postdoctoral fellow at UNU-IAS. His postdoctoral research focused on the 2030 Agenda (SDGs), with particular emphasis on governance and linking the global vision with national implementation strategies in the Asia-Pacific and Africa. Farai holds a PhD in Business and Political Science from the University of Cape Town.

- **Dr Jose Jackson-Malete AAP, Michigan State University (United States)**

Dr Jose Jackson-Malete is the Co-Director of the Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) based at Michigan State University. AAP is a consortium of 10 African universities and a network of agricultural policy think tanks that co-create innovative solutions to global challenges with the goal of transforming lives in Africa. The priority areas of the AAP are in agri-food systems; water, energy, and the environment; culture; health and nutrition; youth empowerment and education. Jose has over 25 years of experience working in higher education and research environments in Africa, the Caribbean and the US. Her role at AAP is to provide strategic direction to the initiative with specific emphasis on building bridges amongst partners and higher education capacity strengthening. José has co-directed successful collaborative projects with university, community, industry and funding partners; she has been very involved in the development of the research management profession on the African continent and is the Past President of SARIMA. She is a food scientist and continues her research on the processing and physio-chemical quality characterization of fruit and vegetable products from Africa.

- **Dr Rakeshnie-Ramoutar-Prieschl, University of Pretoria (South Africa)**

Dr Rakeshnie Ramoutar-Prieschl currently holds the position of Head of Department: Research Capacity Development at the University of Pretoria where she is responsible for the portfolio that includes: (i) grants management, (ii) early career training and mentorship, as well as driving (iii) strategic partnerships in support of staff doctoral candidates. Rakeshnie previously led the Infrastructure and Emerging Research Areas portfolio for over 11 years, as the Director within the Human and Infrastructure Capacity Development Directorate at the National Research Foundation. In addition, she has served on various committees including the National Science and Technology Forum Awards and the Nanotechnology Public Engagement Programme and has served on various advisory boards and steering committees including the Centre for High Resolution Transmission Electron Microscopy. She is a member of the Executive Committee for the Organisation of Women in Science in Developing Countries, and the Chair of the Board of Trustees for Child Welfare South Africa. Dr Ramoutar-Prieschl obtained her Doctorate in business management and her Master's in biotechnology

- **Prof Laurine Chikoko, Midlands State University (Zimbabwe)**

Prof. Chikoko is currently the Executive Director of Research and Innovation at Midlands State University, Zimbabwe. Prof Chikoko has done consultancy work for international organizations and produced technical and policy documents. Professor Chikoko makes prolific and invaluable contributions to national policy formulation and reforms. Professor Chikoko is distinguished scholar, with an established research and publication record in monetary and financial economics. She has distinguished herself academically by training and examining PhD scholars regionally and internationally.

- **Dr Nthabi Taole-Mjimba, Fort Hare University (South Africa)**

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Fort Hare University

- **Ms Samantha Linn Coert, Human Sciences Research Council (South Africa)**

Strategic Partnerships Support, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) (South Africa)

- **Dr Maggy Heintz, UK Collaborative on Development Research (UKCDR) (UK)**

Maggy is Executive Director of UKCDR, the UK Collaborative on Development Research. In her role, she provides high-level engagement, strategic coordination and supports best practice amongst the UK main funders of international development research.

Maggy has a background in academic research, science diplomacy and research management, having being Head of Research and Business Development and International Research Development Manager at the University of Leicester (UK) for over 8 years. She worked with partners in LMICs, supporting consortium building and coordinating large scale challenge-led interdisciplinary research proposals. She is passionate about the added value brought by the research management profession.
