



SARA – Swedish – African Research Arena



STINT

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Preface

This report presents a study on establishing a Swedish cooperation hub for research, innovation, and higher education on the African continent.

Africa is both the world's quickest growing and demographically youngest continent, which will lead to a growing significance of Africa on the global stage. Technological development and leap-frogging have facilitated greater access to areas of science and technology previously reserved for high-income countries, such as space research. Several ongoing initiatives aim to make African universities more strategic and research-oriented, as reflected in their rise on university ranking tables in recent years. This development is expected to attract more talent, research partnerships, investments, and lead to greater competitiveness and more knowledge-based economies.

STINT was tasked with conducting this study by the Africa working group of IntSam, i.e. the Swedish national coordinating function for the funding of international research and innovation collaborations outside the EU. It was funded by IntSam via Vinnova and builds on a previous feasibility study, funded by IntSam via Formas.

The study was conducted by Erik Forsberg, STINT's Representative in APAC, who also wrote the report. Valuable feedback on draft versions of the report was provided by Prof. Mats Benner at Lund University and Emma Bäcké at Vinnova.

*Dr Andreas Göthenberg
Executive Director, STINT*

Stockholm, March, 2025

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Background

Africa's research and innovation landscape is undergoing a dynamic transformation marked by substantial potential and persistent challenges. Over the past decade, the continent has witnessed significant strides in scientific output, technological entrepreneurship, and higher education capacity. With a rapidly growing young population projected to constitute over a quarter of the global workforce by 2050, Africa's intellectual and innovative capital has the potential to be a critical contributor to global progress. Africa's research and innovation trajectory holds promise for acceleration. Over the long term, Africa's demographic dividend and digital leapfrogging could position it as a pivotal player in shaping sustainable development paradigms. Beyond the continent, these advancements hold transformative potential: African-led innovations in pandemic preparedness, climate adaptation, and green technology could redefine global health security, environmental stewardship, and economic resilience.

Yet, realising this vision demands confronting entrenched and emerging challenges. Systemic barriers, including fragmented funding mechanisms, infrastructural deficits, and enduring inequities in global research collaboration, continue to constrain the full realisation of this potential. In 2023, scientists from African universities contributed to only about 4% of the total volume of peer-reviewed scientific publications (Elsevier, 2025). At its current trajectory, Africa is looking at a growing divergence from the rest of the world and a multitude of efforts are needed if this trend is to be reversed and the gap closed (Cilliers, 2020). Financing gaps, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and geopolitical imbalances in knowledge production persist. Climate change, political instability, and ethical dilemmas in emerging technologies further complicate the landscape.

Against this backdrop, fostering equitable, sustainable partnerships between African higher education and research institutions (HERIs) and their counterparts in traditionally strong science nations, such as Sweden, is imperative in enabling African HERIs to reach their full potential and maximise their contribution to the development of their respective societies. Equitable international partnerships must prioritise African agency, ensuring that collaboration aligns with local priorities and builds enduring institutional capacity.

This report contains a proposal for establishing the Swedish–African Research Arena (SARA), a platform and infrastructure with the goal of significantly enhancing and supporting equitable partnerships in research, research-based innovation, and higher education between Swedish and African HERIs for the ultimate benefit of both sides.

Feasibility study

In 2022, the Africa working group of IntSam¹ commissioned STINT to conduct a feasibility study regarding the establishment of a cooperation hub for research, innovation, and higher education on the African continent. The aim was to investigate the interest of Swedish HERIs in creating a nexus for collaboration in research, research-based innovation, and higher education between Swedish and African HERIs and to suggest how such a hub could be structured. Specifically, the initiative was to focus on Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). An impetus for the initiative was the fact that although the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) provides substantial support for research and capacity building in Africa, a vacuum generally results when Sida phases out such initiatives. This makes it challenging to maintain established networks and create new partnerships, thereby risking losing opportunities created through Sida's work (SOU 2018:3). Furthermore, an analysis of Swedish development aid published in 2017 concluded that a new model for international research cooperation with low-income countries is needed (Nilsson & Sörlin, 2017). Therefore, establishing a new type of infrastructure that could promote and support equitable research partnerships was considered important.

The feasibility study was conducted through interviews and desk research during 2022. The conclusions and recommendations of the work were summarised in a report published by STINT in 2023 (STINT, 2023), which is referred to as the *feasibility study report* in the following.

¹ IntSam is the Swedish national coordinating function for the funding of international research and innovation collaborations outside the EU. IntSam members comprise Swedish research funders and, among others, include the Swedish Research Council, Vinnova (Sweden's innovation agency), Formas (a public research council for sustainable development), and Forte (the Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare). STINT is an adjunct member.

Comprehensive study

In 2023, the Africa working group of IntSam commissioned STINT to conduct a comprehensive follow-up study. This report summarises the study's conclusions.

The key purposes of the study were to test the assumptions from the feasibility study on the ground in SSA and to develop a full proposal for the hub, ready for launch assuming available funding. A pivotal part of the study was to prepare the proposal for the hub in collaboration with and thus supported by strategic stakeholders in Sweden and SSA.

Advisory Group

To ensure that strategic stakeholders did indeed contribute to the development of the final proposal, an Advisory Group comprised of strategic individuals from Sweden and SSA with relevant backgrounds and expertise was established. The Advisory Group consisted of (in alphabetical order):

- Mats Benner, Professor, Lund University School of Economics and Management
- Katarina Bjelke, Director General, Swedish Research Council
- Anders Hagfeldt, Vice-Chancellor, Uppsala University
- Tom Kariuki, CEO, Science for Africa Foundation
- Nkem Khumbah, Head, STI Policy and Partnerships, African Academy of Sciences
- Edward Kirumira, Director, Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study
- Rémy Kollessar, Director & Head of International Cooperation Division, Vinnova
- Isayvani Naicker, Founder, EviSights
- Magnus Schöldtz, Senior Advisor, Wallenberg Investments AB
- Therése Sjömander Magnusson, Director, Nordic Africa Institute
- Nelson Torto, Permanent Secretary, Government of Botswana

The Advisory Group reviewed the feasibility study's recommendations and, in a co-creation workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya, in January 2025, further developed proposals for organising and establishing the hub. The Advisory Group summarised their conclusions in a recommendation statement after concluding the workshop.²

² Edward Kirumira, Rémy Kollessar, and Magnus Schöldtz could not attend the Nairobi workshop and thus did not contribute directly to the Advisory Group statement.

Advisory Group recommendation statement

We, the members of the Advisory Group, strongly support the initiative to establish a Swedish African platform, including a physical node located in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), intending to strengthen, further develop, and sustainably support equitable research and innovation partnerships between Sweden and SSA. The initiative is highly relevant considering current developments in international scientific collaborations and the ongoing realignment between African nations and traditionally scientifically advanced nations. Sweden is uniquely positioned to develop a new partnership model, given that it lacks any significant colonial burden and its strong legacy of sustained research partnerships and scientific capacity building through the work done by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). We urge building on these strengths when building a new model for partnerships adapted to a changing world.

A hub implemented as intended would have substantial added value for Swedish–African research partnerships through information sharing and networking and as a facilitator for such partnerships.

Based on discussions within the Advisory Group, which in parts builds on the previous work done, we give the following specific recommendations:

- The platform should 'start small but think big' and adopt a rapid prototyping co-creation approach by collaborating with African organisations and experts to develop the most efficient and impactful learning organisation. It should strive to learn from the successes and failures of other nations' partnership models in Africa.
- A physical Swedish presence in Africa is crucial and should be a priority from the start. It should include full-time Swedish staff with an ample travel budget. Care should be taken with the initial staffing, as choosing the right people is crucial to initial success.
- We suggest that the platform initially establishes a presence in both eastern and southern Africa (tentatively in Nairobi in Kenya, and Gaborone in Botswana) by embedding it in existing organisations, e.g., think tanks, funders that have a pan-African outlook and that are prepared to contribute to the platform (in-kind or otherwise). Embedding the platform within a university or a Swedish Embassy is not recommended.
- The Advisory Group believes that the ideal organisational form of the platform would be that of an independent foundation funded by an endowment from public sources.
- If the above is not possible, the Advisory Group does not have a specific position on the platform's organisational placement – whether within a Swedish government agency, a research funding body, or as an independent organisation. However, we emphasise that the platform needs stable long-term public funding to be successful. Other funding sources, e.g., from the corporate sector, should be sought; however, such funding will likely only be forthcoming based on existing public funding.
- From its inception, the platform should establish an Advisory Board with 50/50 Swedish-African representation. This board should consist of pertinent leaders from academia and government who can advise the platform's leadership on the path forward and are well-placed to raise awareness of the platform among their respective constituencies.
- The platform should work closely with the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and provide input to the formulation of policy in areas related to its activities. It should also strive to ensure it can interface with pertinent leaders in African governments, research funders, and other relevant actors.
- Initially, we encourage the platform establish a 'coalition of the willing' to establish collaboration and early success cases. Initial activities should include the writing of joint reports and jointly organising meetings and events with relevant organisations. Balanced

and strategic communication about the hub will be critical. Good results will enable further funding and pave the way for coordinating joint calls.

- While the platform should overall be subject-agnostic, we propose that the hub could focus on a few thematic areas to begin with. These should be selected through consultations with key stakeholders in both Sweden and SSA.
- We encourage the platform to facilitate interactions on issues in an 'ecosystemic' way, i.e., connecting researchers, educators, businesses, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and social scientists to roll out innovations.
- In the long term, each such ecosystem could, with the hub's facilitation, develop competitive funding proposals to establish long-term 'Centres of Excellence'.
- We further encourage the establishment of a platform ecosystem in SSA that can facilitate the delivery of educational programs from Swedish universities in the region and provide support for increased student exchange in both directions.
- The platform should not aim to be a primary funder in the short and medium term but rather act to coordinate relevant joint funding calls. An early-stage success metric for the platform is the launch of the first joint Swedish – African funding call.

Proposal: The Swedish–African Research Arena (SARA)

The following outlines the proposal for establishing a cooperation hub for research, innovation, and higher education on the African continent.

Vision

Enabling Swedish higher education institutions and innovators to collaborate with African counterparts to contribute to and mutually benefit from scientific, social, and economic developments in Africa.

Goals

1. To contribute to robust, extensive, and long-term sustainable research partnerships between Swedish and African higher education institutions.
2. To support Swedish and collaborative Swedish–African innovation in an African context.
3. To contribute knowledge on research and its development in Africa and the African innovation system to higher education institutions, research funders, innovators, businesses, and decision-makers in Sweden.
4. To promote the education of future Swedish and African researchers and innovators from a broad spectrum of disciplines who have an understanding of both the African and Swedish contexts.

Activities

Trend analysis

As recommended by both the Internationalisation Inquiry (SOU 2018:3) and STINT (STINT, 2017), access to expert trend analysis concerning global academic developments is crucial for the Swedish higher education system. Well-functioning collaborations require a strong understanding of partners and their contexts. The effective cooperation of Swedish HERIs with their African counterparts, as well as the development of long-term strategies regarding Africa, depends on knowledge of Africa's research and innovation systems, relevant research questions and areas of interest for meaningful partnerships, and local conditions for conducting research. Sweden and the Swedish system possess expertise and experience in African research and innovation. Yet there is also a significant need to considerably enhance institutional competence to broaden the knowledge and understanding of HERIs and researchers across a wide range of disciplines. For these reasons, focusing on goal number 3 is a necessary key activity of SARA.

Promotion and strategic relationship-building

SARA should actively establish and maintain networks, strategic relationships, and long-term partnerships in Africa's research and innovation system. These include relationships with HERIs, research centres, research funders, decision-makers, incubators and accelerators, science parks, and Swedish businesses and organisations in Africa.

The large number of African alumni who have studied in Sweden and/or participated in Sida programmes should be included as an important component of such a network since these people represent very good Swedish–African contact points. Alumni are generally good ambassadors for Swedish academia and study opportunities in Sweden. Therefore, SARA should collaborate with alumni organisations and consider establishing a pan-African alumni organisation.

SARA should engage in African academic networks like the African Academy of Sciences (AAS),³ the African Research Universities Alliance,⁴ and the Association of African Universities (AAU)⁵ to name but a few.

This strategic relationship-building will enable SARA to

- act as an interface between Swedish and African higher education institutions so that meaningful partnerships may be established,
- provide advice and contacts to research funders and other organisations focused on research and innovation partnerships and student exchange,
- identify collaboration opportunities and communicate these to Swedish and African actors,
- conduct trend analysis effectively, and
- inform African actors on Swedish research and innovation.

A natural part of strategic relationship-building is to take initiative and/or contribute to organising conferences, workshops, and delegation trips, aim to be information on opportunities and conditions for collaborations and act as an interface for initiating new partnerships.

Coordination of funding calls

SARA shall not, at an early stage, aim to be a funder of research projects itself, but should focus on

- coordinating Swedish research funding for collaboration with Africa,

³ www.aasciences.africa

⁴ arua.org.za

⁵ aau.org

- establishing joint calls for funding of research programmes for Swedish–African partnerships, both between Swedish funders as well as between Swedish and African funders, and
- actively informing Swedish higher education institutions and researchers of funding opportunities relevant to African research partnerships.

In these efforts, SARA should be guided by the principle that research partnerships should receive joint Swedish–African funding to highlight their equality and increase the likelihood of mutual benefit. Joint funding should be understood as equitable rather than equal contributions and, recognising realities, it is also to be understood that this ambition cannot always be fulfilled.

Still, as far as possible, SARA should strive to obtain joint Swedish–African funding for the projects and calls it initiates, coordinates and/or conducts.

In the longer term, as discussed in a section below, SARA could explore options to fund joint research projects directly.

Support for education

The availability of a critical mass of researchers and innovators with experience from and a thorough understanding of the research context in both Africa and Sweden is a key enabler of extensive, viable research and innovation collaboration. This is why the support of educational exchange is one of the stated goals of SARA. Specifically, SARA should

- collaborate with Swedish higher education institutions and support their efforts to recruit African students to exchange programmes in Sweden,
- promote student exchange agreements between Swedish and African higher education institutions,
- collaborate with Swedish organisations and authorities in their marketing of Sweden as a study destination,
- collaborate with Swedish and African organisations and authorities that promote international student exchange, and,
- provide a database on the cooperation hub’s website with information on scholarships for studying in Africa relevant to Swedish students and vice versa for African students.

SARA should also develop a platform and an infrastructure to facilitate the delivery of courses and programs by Swedish HERIs in SSA.

Support for innovation partnerships

Innovation partnerships between Swedish and African HERIs innovators, entrepreneurs, and businesses are deemed to hold great potential. For example, such partnerships may involve collaboration to further develop technology and knowledge from Swedish HERIs to create solutions and products relevant to an African context.

As part of its strategic networking, SARA should prioritise building a network of contacts to support the development of Swedish–African innovation partnerships. Additionally, it should map and provide information on successful and effective partnerships. In its trend analysis activities, SARA should share knowledge on innovation in Africa and help Swedish HERIs and innovators identify opportunities and needs within the continent.

The cooperation hub should further develop structured partnerships to offer organised support for research-based innovation and the related development or restructuring of business models in the African context. Suitable partners include Business Sweden, the Swedish chambers of commerce in Africa, and private initiatives such as the Norrskan Foundation's Kigali House.⁶

Geographical Focus

The feasibility study was specifically tasked with suggesting a country where the cooperation hub should be located. To answer that question, a large dataset of relevant indicators was assembled through which a comprehensive ranking to suggest suitable locations was derived. This ranking was combined with the aggregate recommendation from more than 40 interviews with relevant stakeholders in Sweden and Africa that were conducted during the feasibility study to recommend Accra in Ghana, Nairobi in Kenya, and Gaborone in Botswana as potential locations for the collaboration hub.⁷

The comprehensive study concluded that it is not advisable for SARA to commit to a specific location or country. SARA is intended to be a platform supporting Swedish research and innovation partnerships with SSA as a whole, rather than a partnership hub focused on a specific country, which is a point that needs to be emphasised. Substantial confusion regarding this point ensued following the publication of the feasibility study report.

⁶ www.norrskan.org/eastafrica

⁷ The feasibility study report details how this conclusion was reached. Appendices A and B in the feasibility study report contain a complete list of persons interviewed and the data of indicator rankings, respectively.

Therefore, SARA should not establish a physical office in the traditional sense but rather maintain a regional presence, initially in Eastern and Southern Africa. The proposal is that SARA should embed itself within one host organisation in each region. While these host organisations have yet to be identified, the intention is that they should be located in Nairobi in Kenya and Gaborone in Botswana. A think tank with a pan-African focus or a similar organisation is ideal. Embedding SARA within a university is not recommended, as that would inevitably distort the perception of the regional focus. Similarly, while SARA should maintain a strong working partnership with Swedish embassies and other Swedish government agencies in SSA, it should not embed itself within a Swedish embassy to uphold independence and flexibility in operations.

It should be emphasised that an initial focus on Eastern and Southern Africa does not mean ignoring Western Africa. However, the comprehensive study concluded that it would be easier to start with a focus on these regions. Thus, the recommendation is to establish SARA focusing on Eastern and Southern Africa (while not ignoring Western Africa) and expand the regional focus as the organisation matures.

Organisation

The recommended organisational form for SARA is as an independent foundation. This would ensure substantial operational flexibility, which is advantageous given the long-term nature of SARA's mission.

SARA should have an advisory board, which should consist of pertinent Swedish and SSA leaders from academia, government, and industry, most of which should be from academia (or have an academic background). The purpose of the advisory board is to provide strategic and practical advice to SARA and to act as ambassadors to raise awareness and provide important connections, both of which will be especially important in its early stages.

At inception, SARA should be staffed by, at minimum, an executive director, with extensive contextual understanding of both Sweden and the aforementioned African regions, regarding science and technology and higher education. The executive director should be located full-time in SSA and be supported by a local administrator, and will be expected to devote a considerable part of his/her time travelling across the regions.

It is important to allow the organisation to evolve organically and gradually build up operations. This will allow space for learning on location and serve as a foundation for the initiative's organic development based on identified needs, opportunities, and stakeholders' requests.

SARA should be governed by a board of directors, who will, in turn, appoint the executive director and recommend members to be appointed to the advisory board.

Funding

The recommended method of funding SARA is through an endowment fund at its formation as this would give SARA substantial degrees of freedom. The source of the endowment fund should be public funding (or at least a majority should be). If a sufficiently large endowment is not initially feasible, grants from research funders, ministries, and other public sources are an alternative.

Several other sources are possible, most notably membership fees/donations from Swedish HERIs and private donations; however, such funding is unlikely to materialise unless a public funding base exists. This was made explicit during discussions with representatives from Swedish industry as part of the comprehensive study.

The funding provided should enable SARA to have an annual operational budget of at least 2.5 million SEK. If an endowment fund cannot be established, an operational budget provided should be guaranteed for an initial 5 years to ensure that SARA has time to be sufficiently established and proven to be able to secure funding beyond the initial period.

The EU as leverage

The European Union has increasingly prioritised research collaboration with SSA to bridge gaps in innovation, capacity, and knowledge while fostering mutual benefits. Key initiatives under programs such as Horizon 2020 – and its successor, Horizon Europe – have supported joint research projects, capacity-building efforts, and mobility schemes for researchers. These initiatives are designed not only to enhance scientific excellence in Africa but also to ensure that partnerships remain equitable and mutually beneficial. The EU–AU Innovation Agreement (European Commission, 2023), signed in 2023, marks a milestone in deepening structured collaboration between Europe and Africa. This agreement seeks to align innovation agendas and harmonise research priorities to address global challenges and specific regional needs. It strongly emphasises establishing equitable partnerships by promoting joint decision-making and co-designed projects, thereby addressing historical imbalances in research collaborations.

The direction of the EU initiatives thus aligns well with that of SARA, and engaging with EU initiatives can provide significant leverage for SARA's goals and activities. However, Sweden needs its own strategy to benefit fully from EU initiatives regarding African research collaboration. Thus, leveraging the EU is not to be considered an alternative to establishing SARA but rather a complement to its goals and activities.

Furthermore, as the Advisory Group has noted, Sweden's historical experience uniquely positions it to establish a new partnership model that could serve as a blueprint for broader EU collaboration with SSA.

Proposals for expanded operations in the longer term

The above proposal outlines a suitable starting point for the organisation. Expanding its scope and activities should be considered if SARA demonstrates significant value in strengthening Swedish–African research and innovation partnerships. Future decisions on the particulars of an expansion should be informed by experience, stakeholder input and requests, and advisory board recommendations, with final approval by the board of directors. That said, we provide a few blue-sky directions to consider.

- The establishment of a dedicated SARA research fund to support Swedish–African collaborative projects, researcher mobility, etc. The management of the fund’s call for proposals, proposal review, etc., could be done in partnership with one or several entities in SSA as a capacity-building initiative. The bulk of such a research fund should come from public sources.
- SARA should establish a student scholarship fund to support student mobility in both directions. It is reasonable to aim to fund such a scholarship with donations from the business community and, potentially, from the Swedish Institute and Sida.
- Establish a physical infrastructure in SSA, including research facilities for Swedish researchers to conduct research in collaboration with African colleagues. Organisations such as Nordic Centre⁸ and the Sino–Danish Centre,⁹ both in China, can provide relevant experiences and inspiration for such an establishment. Such a space would also then be a natural physical headquarters of SARA and the focal point for the infrastructure through which Swedish HERIs can deliver courses and educational programs, as discussed in the section on the recommended activities above.
- Establishing, in collaboration with appropriate partners, an incubator to support the commercialisation of collaborative research-based innovation done in partnership between Swedish and SSA entities. Such an initiative requires a separate budget and is best operated as a separate organisation after establishment, albeit with a strong link to SARA and its activities.

⁸ www.nordiccentre.net

⁹ sdc.university

Summary

This report represents the final response to the request from the Africa working group of IntSam for a proposal concerning the creation of a cooperation hub for research, innovation, and higher education on the African continent.

The proposal for the Swedish African Research Arena (SARA) includes a vision, four clearly stated goals derived from the vision, and recommended activities that support the fulfilment of these goals. Recommendations for how SARA should be organised, funded, and established are laid out.

The proposal outlined has broad support among academic communities in Sweden and SSA. The suggestion for the organisational form and how this should be funded, as well as the activities SARA should focus on once established, represent the best chance of achieving success with the initiative's intended purpose.

What remains is the necessary funding to launch, which was beyond the scope of this study to secure. It is now up to the community of HERIs, research funders and policymakers in Sweden to collectively ensure that this initiative of substantial importance for the future of Swedish–African partnerships can be realised.

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Appendix

Many face-to-face meetings through which advice on the SARA initiative was sought and given were conducted during the comprehensive study. Discussions were held with following persons:

- Adjorlolo, Samuel, Executive Director, Research and Grant Institute of Ghana
- Agyenim, Francis Boateng, Director, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research - Insitute of Industrial Research (Ghana)
- Ajisebutu, Wale, CEO, 21st Century Technologies Ltd. (Nigeria)
- Akosa, Nickie, Honorary Consul, Consulate of Sweden in Accra
- Amollo, George, Director of the School of Physics and Earth Sciences, Technical University of Kenya
- Andala, Dickson, CEO, National Research Fund Kenya
- Aryeetey, Ernest, Secretary-General, African Research Universities Alliance
- de Villiers, Wim, Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Stellenbosch University
- du Toit, Daan, Deputy Director-General: International Cooperation and Resources, Department: Science and Innovation, Republic of South Africa
- Elliott, Elin, Chief External Relations, International Affairs and Business Executives Council, Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences
- Flärd, Helge, Minister Counsellor, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Sweden in Nairobi
- Gaseitsiwe, Simani, Principal Investigator, Botswana-Harvard Health Partnership
- Gitau, Evelyn, Chief Scientific Officer, Science for Africa Foundation
- Hachigonta, Sepo, Director: Strategic Partnerships Strategy, Planning and Partnerships, National Research Foundation (South Africa)
- Hagfeldt, Anders, Vice-Chancellor, Uppsala University
- Hahn-Englund, Annika, Ambassador, Embassy of Sweden in Abuja
- Håkansson, Maria, Ambassador, Embassy of Sweden in Kampala
- Ibru, Sara, Trade & Business Promotion Officer, Embassy of Sweden in Abuja
- Iyer, Priya, Pro-Vice-Chancellor People and Impact, Botho University
- Jörnrud, Martin, First Secretary, Trade and Economic Affairs, Embassy of Sweden in Pretoria
- Judith Omumbo, Head of Programmes: Science Solutions for Emerging Global Priorities, Science for Africa Foundation
- Juholt, Håkan, Ambassador, Embassy of Sweden in Pretoria
- Kariuki, Thomas, CEO, Science for Africa Foundation

- Kayihura, Muganga Didas, Ag. Vice Chancellor, University of Rwanda
- Khumbah, Nkem, Programme Manager Science Technology & Innovations, Policy, Governance & Partnerships, African Academy of Sciences
- Kirumira, Edward K., Director, Stellenbosch Institute of Advanced Study
- Korsten, Lisa, President, African Academy of Sciences
- Kotut, Kiplagat, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics, Research & Extension), University of Embu
- Kwizera, Arnold, Ecosystem Manager, Norrsken East Africa, Norrsken House
- Löfstrand, Maria, Development Analyst and Program Officer for Economic Growth and Employment, Embassy of Sweden in Kampala
- Maithya, Harrison, Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academics, Research, and Innovation, South Eastern Kenya University
- Makhura, Prudence, Director: Overseas Collaborative Grants, Knowledge Advancement and Support, National Research Foundation (South Africa)
- Maroba, Miriam B., Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Skills Development, Government of Botswana
- Masheto, Gaerolwe, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Botswana-Harvard Health Partnership
- Moahi, Kgmostoso, Ag. Academic Services, Botswana Open University
- Moyo, Sikhulile, Laboratory Director, Botswana-Harvard Health Partnership
- Mugendi, Daniel, Vice-Chancellor, University of Embu
- Mulaa, Francis, Ag. Vice Chancellor, University of Nairobi
- Nilsson, Kent, Honorary Consul, Consulate of Sweden in Gaborone
- Njagi, Jacob K., Ag. Director Resource Mobilization & Partnerships, National Research Fund Kenya
- Nor, Barni, First Secretary, Embassy of Sweden in Kigali
- Norria, David, Vice Chancellor, University of Botswana
- Oduor, Richard, Registrar (Research, Innovation, and Outreach), Kenyatta University
- Ogega, Obed, Programme Manager, African Academy of Sciences
- Oti-Boateng, Peggy, Executive Director, African Academy of Sciences
- Pauw, Christoff, Programme Manager, Stellenbosch Institute of Advanced Study
- Petterson, Robin, Head of International Trade and Development, Business Sweden
- Pretorious, Tyron, Rector and Vice-Chancellor, University of the Western Cape

- Ndikumana, Raymond, Deputy Vice Chancellor– Strategic Planning and Administration, University of Rwanda
- Schöldtz, Magnus, Senior Advisor, Wallenberg Investments AB
- Segerström, Lotta, Head of Political, Economic, and Commercial Affairs, Embassy of Sweden in Kampala
- Sjömander Magnusson, Thérèse, Director, Nordic Africa Institute
- Ssemanda, Mathias, Manager International Relations and Partnerships, Makerere University
- Tapela, Mataba, Executive Director– Natural Resources and Materials, Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation
- Teague, Johanna, Ambassador, Embassy of Sweden in Kigali
- Torto, Nelson, Permanent Secretary, Government of Botswana
- Totolo, Otlógetswe, Vice Chancellor, Botswana International University of Science and Technology
- Tucker, Conrad, Director, Carnegie Mellon University Africa
- Vicini, Caroline, Ambassador, Embassy of Sweden in Nairobi
- Wurie, Ramatulai, Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Sierra Leone

In addition, seminars during which the project was presented and where valuable discussions ensued, where held at:

- Nordic Africa Institute
- Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- Swedish Ministry of Climate and Enterprise

STINT, The Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education, was set up by the Swedish Government in 1994 with the mission to internationalise Swedish higher education and research.

STINT promotes knowledge and competence development within internationalisation and invests in internationalisation projects proposed by researchers, educators and leaderships at Swedish universities.



STINT

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