



# Regional Office for Africa

## Annual Report 2013/2014

Strengthening international science  
for the benefit of society





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# Acronyms

ACCESS	Applied Centre for Climate and Earth Systems Science	HSRC	Human Sciences Research Council
AfroMont	African Network on Mountain Research	IAMP	InterAcademy Medical Panel
AISA	Africa Institute of South Africa	ICSU	International Council for Science
AMCOST	African Ministerial Committee for Science and Technology	ICSU EB	International Council for Science Executive Board
AMMA-NET	African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis Network	ICSU RCA	International Council for Science Regional Committee for Africa
ANSWER	African Network for Sustaining and Widening Earth-systems Research	ICSU ROA	International Council for Science Regional Office for Africa
ASPSC	African Science Plans Steering Committee	ICSU ROLAC	ICSU Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
ASSAf	Academy of Science of South Africa	ICTP	International Centre for Theoretical
AU	African Union	IKS	Indigenous Knowledge Systems
AYGS	AISA Young Graduates and Scholars	IMU	International Mathematics Union
CODESRIA	Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa	INQUA	International Union for Quaternary Research
CPA	Consolidated Plan of Action	ISSC	International Social Science Council
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research	IUCr	International Union of Crystallography
DFG	German Research Foundation	IUFoST	International Union of Food Science and Technology
DFID	Department for International Development	IUPHAR	The International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology
DST	Department of Science and Technology, South Africa	MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
EB	Executive Board	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
GA	General Assembly	NANOAFNET	NANOsciences AFrican NETwork
GEC	Global Environment Change	NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development

## Acronyms (continued)

NRF	National Research Foundation of South Africa	START	System for Analysis Research and Training
OWSDW	Organisation for Women in Science in the Developing World	STISA	Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa
PECS	Programme on Ecosystem Change and Society Social	STISA	Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa
SAAFoST	South African Association for Food Science and Technology	TWAS	The World Academy of Sciences
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community	UN	United Nations
SAEON	South African Environmental Observation Network	UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
SANBio	Southern Africa Network for Biosciences	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
SAPECS	Southern African Program on Ecosystem Change and Society	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
SAUNET	Sustainable Africa University Network	UNISA	University of South Africa
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals	UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
SETI	Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation	WAYS	World Association of Young Scientists
Sida	Swedish International Development Agency	ZAR	South African Rand
SSEESS	Swedish Secretariat for Environmental Earth Systems Science		

ICSU's Mission, Vision and Focal Areas

Message from the Chair of the Regional Committee

Director's Overview

Executive Summary



# ICSU's Mission, Vision and Focal Areas

## Mission:

ICSU endeavours to strengthen international science for the benefit of society through mobilising knowledge and resources of the international science community. To this end, ICSU seeks to: identify and address major issues of importance to science and society; facilitate interaction amongst scientists across all disciplines and from all countries; promote the participation of all scientists in the international scientific endeavour; and provide independent, authoritative advice to stimulate constructive dialogue between the scientific community and governments, civil society, and the private sector.

## Vision and focal areas:

ICSU's long-term strategic vision is for a world where science is used for the benefit of all, excellence in science is valued and scientific knowledge is effectively linked to policy making and implementation. To achieve this, ICSU identified key priorities and associated activities that focus on three areas: International Research Collaboration; Science for Policy; and Universality of Science.

## ICSU Regional Office for Africa:

In Africa, ICSU Regional Office for Africa (ROA) is mandated to fulfil ICSU's mission of strengthening international science for the benefit of society on the continent through promoting, facilitating and coordinating activities of the ICSU family in the region. The Regional Office endeavours to promote the development and strengthening of science in the context of regional priorities, and to bring the scientific activities and programmes of the ICSU Family closer to the African scientists through multi-disciplinary and trans-boundary collaborative research.





## Message from the Chair of the Regional Committee



ICSU will be meeting soon in Auckland for its General Assembly. This event will no doubt be attended by many members of the ICSU family. GA meetings hold a high premium in ICSU agenda and this year's event is no different especially when it comes at a time when ICSU is being reviewed. Nonetheless, science will be high on the agenda.

At the level of the region, the Regional Office for Africa (ICSU ROA) located in Pretoria, South Africa, has been organizing several events designed to showcase ICSU's work in strengthening partnerships in international research collaboration, science for policy and advocating the universality of science. The period 2013-2014 has been a period for the strengthening of the collective efforts to strengthen international science for the benefit of society.

In line with its strategic objectives, ICSU has embarked in 2013 on two important initiatives Future Earth and IPBES. IPBES proposed to embark on a global assessment of the planet's biodiversity while Future Earth will act as a global platform to deliver on solution-oriented research for sustainability; promote effective interdisciplinary collaboration across the natural sciences; propose timely information for policy-makers; encourage the participation of policy makers, funders, academics, business and industry as well as sectors of civil society in co-designing and co-producing research agendas; knowledge and thereby increase capacity building. This major initiative of ICSU will build on the success of existing global environmental change programmes.

The Rio+20 Conference in 2012 once again reiterated the fact that people are and should be at the centre of sustainable development. The conference placed emphasis on the challenges and opportunities stemming from the Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and for eradication of poverty. The conference underscored the fact that climate issues are cross-cutting and requiring collective action. Climate change could easily become the single-most important development threat facing the human family. It bears noting that Africa is responsible for only 4% of greenhouse gas emissions but will bear the brunt of a changing climate. Agriculture, biodiversity, health, nutrition, disease patterns, water cycles, migration are all issues impacted by climate change.

Slowly and surely, civil society as well as the business community is gradually accepting that science and scientists have an important role to play in implementing the socio-economic agenda. Perhaps the biggest catalyst for change has been the increasing awareness that many of the big social and environmental challenges of our age, once seen as obstacles to progress, can become opportunities for innovation and development.

As the world's pre-eminent scientific body, ICSU has a unique role to play in navigating this fast-changing landscape, drawing on its track record of success and positioning itself for the challenges of the 21st century. Our core mission of mobilizing science for society, boosting scientific and participatory collaboration, addressing the gender dimension of science, and providing independent, quality advice to all stakeholders remains as relevant as ever.

ICSU is poised strategically to take on these new and emerging challenges both globally and through



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## Message from the Chair of the Regional Committee (continued)

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its Regional Offices. Policy recommendations should integrate the best available knowledge across the natural, social and engineering sciences. Emphasis will constantly be made at strengthening science and technology, which are essential for the implementation of sustainable development policies, programs and projects. These challenges will require new research capacity, especially the involvement of young scientists and scientists from developing countries, and a balanced mix of disciplinary and interdisciplinary research that actively involves stakeholders and decision makers.

ICSU ROA is committed to meeting the challenges and to further strengthening science for the benefit of the continent.

**Prof Ameenah Gurib-Fakim**

## Director's Overview



The 2013/14 financial year has been a significant one for ICSU ROA in many ways. Not only is the Office awaiting reconstitution of its Regional Committee (RCA), following expiration of the last one's three-year term in December 2013, but it is also going through a five-year review of its activities. The hosting term by South Africa is also ending towards the end of 2014, and processes already started in 2013 to prepare the way forward. Clearly we have gone through an exciting but also nerve-racking period, and we are not quite through yet.

Work to prepare for the reconstitution of the RCA already started in October 2013, with some expert nominations received. The process was however put on hold to wait for recommendations of the report of the five-year review. This in itself is a sensible move, but it means that the Office will have to do without the much needed strategic guidance expected from the Regional Committee for almost a year. This time around though, the Executive Board of ICSU is following a well thought-out process in appointing the new RCA, and we look forward to a positive outcome.

The second review of the Office was started at the end of 2013, culminating with a site visit in June 2014. It has been quite a journey of reflection on the growth that the Office has experienced over the past 5 years or so. A lot has been achieved, but a lot could also have been done better by all involved, as the review report will hopefully indicate when it comes out in October. A brief snapshot of the individual strategic objectives of ICSU ROA:

### **Identification and addressing of major science and technology challenges in Africa through planning and coordination of research**

Implementation of science plans in the four thematic priority areas, namely, sustainable energy, hazards and disasters, health and human well-being, as well as global environmental change (including climate change and adaptation) has remained the main activity of the Office. The research consortia established in 2011 and 2012 have mainly worked on writing new funding proposals or reviewing old ones, and collaborating on book projects around various sub-themes. ICSU ROA has continued to coordinate most activities of consortia and sub-consortia, in the process expanding databases of experts per thematic/sub-thematic area with scientists who were not part of the task teams that did initial work on the science plans. Engagement with funders and publishers has continued, both to mobilise funding for research activities and to facilitate the publishing of collaborative book projects.

The African Science Plans Steering Committee has been established to spearhead and harmonise activities across the different science plans and to review the latter for appropriateness to current scientific developments.

Following the African Future Earth consultative meeting in South Africa and the Future Earth launch at the Rio+20 conference in 2012, there has been a momentum of activities on the African continent driven by ICSU ROA, mainly funded through the 20-month Sida grant to ICSU. The young scientists' group that resulted from the African Future Earth meeting (ANSWER) has grown from strength to strength under the guidance of ACCESS, with both ICSU ROA and CODESRIA assisting where

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## Director's Overview (continued)

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possible. Plans are underway to host the long-awaited meeting to engage development/ aid funders in Global Environmental Change research in South Africa, as well as a follow up Future Earth meeting for a broader range of African stakeholders, both to be funded through the Sida grant to ICSU.

### **Assisting the ICSU family in planning and implementation of activities on the continent while developing and maintaining links with national, regional and international partners**

ICSU ROA has increasingly worked with UN agencies over the past year through different activities, a strategic expansion of the Regional Office's partnerships. Interactions with African ICSU members has improved since the post-GA30 Forum in Pretoria in 2012 and other face to face opportunities the Office has enjoyed with this group. However, the payment of membership dues remains a challenge. The Office has made lots of efforts to have some of its activities hosted in other countries on the continent; this way it gets an opportunity to interact with not only the host, but also other national and sub-regional organisations. The ICSU Small grants programme is another vehicle that has promoted interactions between the Regional Office and Scientific Unions on the continent.

### **Facilitation of scientific collaboration and networking as well as free flow of scientists and scientific knowledge across borders within the continent and beyond**

The database of African researchers as well as research and academic institutions continues to grow with each new scientist contact. The databases of scientists, stratified according to the four science plans are also expanding substantially.

Interactive sessions co-hosted with key ICSU ROA partners have facilitated constructive interactions among scientists on various scientific topics.

Activities on the 20-month grant secured from Sida in March 2012 have continued into 2014, facilitating scientific collaboration through various activities, including the Global- Regional Energy integration workshop in Mexico and the Africa Energy Implementation workshop in Kenya, both of which promoted researcher links across the global south.

ICSU ROA also co-organised and hosted with UNESCO Nairobi a workshop on Environmental and Health Impacts of Mining activities in Sub-Saharan African Countries, SA in May 2013.

The SSEESS small grants, which have been awarded to African researchers for 2 years running, have opened up the Regional Office to new science consortia, adding to both its database and portfolio of activities.

### **Encouraging and improving capacity building in Africa**

Following on the very successful capacity building workshops with START in 2012 to 2013, discussions have continued to secure funds within the new Sida proposal for more activities to build research capacity in Africa. If we are successful in securing the requested research grants, capacity building will be done within the context of such funded projects.

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## Director's Overview (continued)

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We have continued to be involved in the UNESCO initiative for Women in science, and partnering in the annual African Young Graduates and Scholars' conference, with the Africa Institute of South Africa. Some African Scientists were funded to attend congresses and conferences in their fields of expertise. The Office continues to engage with WAYS and strengthen ANSWER to be a formidable complement to Future Earth.

### **Promoting indigenous and traditional knowledge and skills to showcase science that is being conducted in Africa for Africa**

Book projects coordinated by the Office have become a way of engaging scientists on thematic areas while they seek funding for projects. The Hazards and Disasters' book is almost at final stages of being published by the Africa Institute of South Africa. Two books in the pipeline, i.e African Indigenous Medical Knowledge and Human Health, and Food and Nutrition Security, are taking shape and will be published with the University of South Africa (UNISA). The Office has also been invited to the SADC IKS Workshop, which is an annual event rotating in the sub-Region.

### **Promoting the application of science in policy for development**

ICSU has continued to play a key role as the science and technology coordinator in the Sustainable Development Goals development process of the United Nations. ICSU ROA plays the same role in Africa, at Regional Economic Commission and national fora. As a member of the NEPAD Working Group for the revision of the Consolidated Action Plan on Science and Technology, ICSU ROA has been involved in the development of the AU STI2024.

### **Conclusion**

ICSU ROA still has a lot of work to do to strengthen science to benefit the African society. To this end, an operational plan for the next 3 years is underway. We have been fortunate that South Africa has recommitted itself to host the Office for the next 5 years to 2020, which minimises any potential disruption that comes with an end of an era. Current discussions on the next host institution, the new memorandum of agreement to be signed and the pending review report will hopefully give guidance to the best way forward. The membership drive remains an on-going challenge. As always, we are thankful for the support we receive from our scientists, the host country and institution, as well as our broad network of partners. We are where we are today because of all of you.

**Dr Edith Madela-Mntla**

# Executive Summary

## Implementation of ICSU ROA Science plans

The implementation of its four science plans has been at the core of ICSU ROA's activities during the 2013/14 financial year. The international research consortia continued to work on developing project proposals on each of the science plans and some of these proposals were submitted in response to calls for funding. A 12-member Science Plans Implementation Steering Committee was established to guide and harmonise the implementation process. This Committee held its first meeting in March 2014, during which a process was triggered to establish an operating charter as well as to formalise the roles and responsibilities of members of the Committee.

To align their activities with those of ICSU at global level and with those of the other regions of the globe, the African energy scientists attended (with financial support from the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) the ICSU Global-Regional Integration Workshop on Sustainable Energy that was held in April 2013 in Mexico City, Mexico. A follow-up ICSU Regional Implementation Workshop on Sustainable Energy in sub-Saharan Africa was held in Nairobi, Kenya in May 2013. These events gave the regional energy scientists a platform to interact and foster collaborative links with those from other parts of the developing world.

The Hazards and Disasters consortium, in collaboration with the Sustainable Africa University Network (SAUNET) of Sweden, held a workshop in September 2013 that sought to strengthen the north-south collaboration and the development of sellable project proposals on hazards and disasters. The workshop, which was sponsored through a grant from the Swedish Secretariat for Environmental Earth Systems Science (SSEESS), developed a template for developing generic proposals that could be easily modified and tailor-made in response to specific calls.

In an effort to facilitate the interaction amongst scientists and promote the participation of scientists at regional and international events, ICSU ROA solicited funds for some members of the Health and Human Well-being consortium to

attend the International Conference on Indigenous Knowledge Systems, which was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in April 2013. The conference was organised by South Africa's Department of Science and Technology (DST).

With funds from the SSEESS Research Links Programme - Project Planning Grant, the Global Environment Change (GEC) consortium, in partnership with scientists from the Stockholm International Water Institute, Sweden, held a workshop in May 2013. From this workshop, a substantive project proposal was developed and submitted to SSEESS. Most of the consortium members as well as other GEC scientists from the region have continued to contribute to the Future Earth activities in Africa.

## Capacity development

During the 2013/14 financial year, the Office continued to support capacity building initiatives of its partners in the region. It supported the IUM grant application to ICSU and also made contributions to support the Applied Centre for Climate and Earth Systems Science's (ACCESS) ten-day workshop on the Habitable Planet, which was held in July 2013 in Kenya. The Office has continued to support and advise the African Network for Sustaining and Widening Earth-systems Research (ANSWER) where it sponsored their participation at regional and international events.

## Publications and general communication

The Regional Office has continued to improve the visibility of ICSU in the region as well as that of the African scientific community on the continent. This was done through presenting ICSU at major regional and international events. In collaboration with partners, the Office has doubled its efforts to publish books in each of the four thematic areas. These books, most of which will be published in collaboration with partners, will include themes on Nanotechnology, Hazards and Disasters in Africa, African Indigenous Medical Knowledge and Human Health, Food and Nutrition Security in Africa, Africa Climate Variability and Change, and Sustainable Energy.

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## Executive Summary (continued)

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The Office also organised a number of scientific events and produced reports that were shared with stakeholders and partners within and outside the region. ICSU ROA thrived to reach out to the general public through posting information at its interactive website, the electronic mailing systems, exhibiting the Office's materials at regional and international scientific events as well as through public lectures.

### Scientific Collaboration and Networking

To support its activities and programmes in the 2013/14 financial year, ICSU ROA continued to establish working relationships with new partners but strengthening the existing ones. The Regional Office has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) of South Africa and a process has been triggered to sign one with the Africa Institute of South Africa (AISA).

The Office has also continued to work with and support programmes of the ICSU Family on the continent, especially in implementing Future Earth activities, and in preparation for the 31st ICSU General Assembly. ICSU ROA attended and contributed to the Scientific Unions' annual meeting held Paris, in May 2013. At regional level, ICSU ROA offered logistical and financial support to maximise the attendance of African scientists at events organised by Scientific Unions on the continent. These include the South African Association for Food Science and Technology (SAAFoST) 20th Biennial International Congress and Exhibition, held in Pretoria, South Africa in October 2013.

### Strategic partnerships

During the 2013/14 financial year, ICSU ROA continued to strengthen its collaboration with the partners which it has a long-term agreement and shared resources with, in a bid to reach out to the scientific community within and outside the region. These strategic partners include the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa, the DST and Sida.

### Partnerships with Inter-Governmental Bodies

ICSU ROA maintained its interaction with national governmental institutions and intergovernmental bodies in Africa to ensure that policies and decisions on the continent are developed and implemented on a foundation of science based evidence. The Regional Office has been involved in activities organised by the African Union, through NEPAD, where the Office was part of the Working Group to review the African Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA), and drafted a new document: the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA) 2024.

During this financial year, the Office worked closely with the African Union Commission, UNECA and UNEP in developing the post-2015 development framework and contributed to the drafting of recommendations for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) formulation process. ICSU ROA represented the scientific and technological community group at the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals that was held in October - November 2013, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. During this meeting, the Regional Office successfully lobbied for the inclusion of a sustainable development goal meant to promote research, science, innovation and technology development.

### Challenges

Since January 2014, the Regional Office has been working without the ICSU RCA as the terms of all the statutory members, which ended December 2013, were not renewed and replacements were not made. The uncertainties in the hosting of the Office and the possibility of prematurely terminating the working contracts of the ICSU ROA staff, by the NRF, lingered around the Office during the last part of the financial year. The Office also continued to encounter challenges in soliciting extra financial resources (from other African countries) for outreach exercises as well as for implementation of its extra-budgetary activities and programmes.



Introduction

Organisation and Governance

Core Activities



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## Introduction

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As the mandate of ICSU Regional Office for Africa is to promote the advancement of science, engineering, technology and innovation (SETI) for the socio-economic development of Africa, the Office has, over the years, engaged in several activities that seek to achieve this goal. Through its activities, ICSU ROA pursues strengthening of international science for the benefit of society in the region. It also seeks to bring scientific activities of the ICSU family closer to individual scientists, educational and research institutions, national and regional professional bodies, policy and decision makers/implementers as well as other stakeholders in the region. At the same time, the Office endeavours to ensure that the voice of the African scientific community influences the international science agenda, and that scientists from the continent are involved in international scientific research guided by regional priorities.

To achieve this, the Regional Office strives to plan and roll out scientific activities that aim to build and/or strengthen intra- and inter-regional linkages and collaborations as well as foster south-south and north-south collaborations. The Office has taken it upon itself to work with partners and stakeholders in the region with the aim of developing links and strengthening engagements between the scientific community in Africa and the policy/decision makers. In pursuing these objectives, ICSU ROA fulfils the three fundamental principles of ICSU as enshrined in its Strategic Plans 2006 - 2011 and 2012-17, namely: (i) International Research Collaboration; (ii) Universality of Science; and (iii) Science for Policy.

Over the years, ICSU ROA has established partnerships with research networks, development agencies and intergovernmental bodies, including United Nations (UN) agencies. In collaboration with and/or with support from its partners, the Regional Office works to harness the experience, knowledge and skills found within the ICSU family to promote international multi-disciplinary research collaborations and networking.

In a bid to strengthen trans-boundary research for the socio-economic development of the continent, the Office has prepared and published four science plans on: (i) Sustainable Energy<sup>1</sup>; (ii) Health and Human Well-being<sup>2</sup>; (iii) Natural and Human-induced Hazards and Disasters<sup>3</sup> and (iv) Global Environmental Change (including Climate Change and Adaptation)<sup>4</sup>. The development of these science plans was guided by the ICSU Strategic Plan 2006-2011, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and regional priorities.

The implementation of these four science plans remains the main role of the Regional Office and is done by international research consortia led by an African Science Plans Steering Committee (ASPSC). The ASPSC will ensure that the projects developed under these science plans are multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional and trans-boundary in nature.

Besides focusing on the implementation of its four science plans, the Office continues to put the works of African scientists in the global limelight and bring them to the international scientific community, policy makers as well as the public in general through the publication of a series of books, covering different scientific themes.

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1 <http://www.icsu.org/africa/publications/reports-and-reviews/icsu-roa-science-plan-on-sustainable-energy/roa-science-plan-on-sustainable-energy>

2 <http://www.icsu.org/africa/publications/reports-and-reviews/icsu-roa-science-plan-on-health-human-well-being/roa-science-plan-on-health>

3 <http://www.icsu.org/africa/publications/reports-and-reviews/icsu-roa-science-plan-on-hazards-disasters/roa-science-plan-on-hazards>

4 <http://www.icsu.org/africa/publications/reports-and-reviews/icsu-roa-science-plan-on-global-change/>

## Organisation and Governance

### ICSU ROA Secretariat

Throughout the 2013/14 financial year, ICSU ROA operated with its full staff complement of five, namely: the Regional Director, an Administrative Assistant, two Programme Specialists (Science Officers), and a Communications Officer. The composition of the ICSU ROA Secretariat is given in Annex A at the end of this report.



### ICSU Regional Committee for Africa

The ICSU Regional Committee for Africa (RCA), which gives guidance to and oversees the scientific direction of the Office, is a strategic scientific body consisting of eight appointed renowned scientists from the continent as well as four ex-officio members. The ex-officio members include the ICSU ROA Regional Director, as well as representatives of the ICSU Secretariat, the Regional Office's host institution and the ICSU Executive Board (EB). The composition of the ICSU RCA as at the end of 2013 is given in Annex B at the end of this report.



The mandate of the members of the RCA expired on 31 December 2013. The EB, in consultation with the ICSU Secretariat as well as the Regional Office, has been since the end of March 2014 (end of the Office's financial year) working to constitute the new RCA. As a result, only one of the two scheduled RCA meetings was held during this financial year. This meeting was held in Pretoria, South Africa, in August 2013, and the second one, which had been scheduled for March 2014, has been postponed until the new RCA is in place.

The August 2013 RCA meeting was preceded by a half-day seminar that focused on sustainable energy as well as food and nutrition security in Africa. The seminar, which was organised in collaboration with the Africa Institute of South Africa (AISA), one of ICSU ROA's partners, gave the Committee members an opportunity to interact with local scientists and staff of, AISA, which hosted the seminar. Two Committee members, Prof Hillary Inyang (Botswana) and Prof Tito Fernandes (Mozambique), gave presentations that were well received.

During the course of the 2013/14 financial year, ICSU ROA engaged the RCA members continuously and involved some of them in its scientific international activities.

## Core Activities

### Implementation of ICSU ROA Science Plans

The implementation of ICSU ROA's four science plans is ongoing and formed the main set of activities of the Office during the 2013/14. The international research consortia, which were established during 2011 and 2012, have worked to develop project proposals on each of the four thematic areas. Some of these proposals have been submitted, in collaboration with international partners, in response to calls for funding.



To guide and harmonise the science plan implementation process, ICSU ROA set up an African Science Plans Steering Committee. This Committee is composed of twelve (three from each science plan) leading, competent and active African scientists within and outside the continent. Members of this Committee were selected based on their expert leadership in each of the four science plans and who have demonstrated expertise as well as leadership in their relevant fields. The role of the Committee is to lead proposal development and the implementation processes, tapping into the overall expertise of consortia members as well as other scientists within and outside the region.

The African Science Plans Steering Committee held its first meeting on 24 - 25 March 2014. This meeting, which was held in Pretoria, South Africa, focused on establishing an operating charter formalising the roles and responsibilities of members of the Committee and consequently those of the respective sub-committees/consortia. It also sought to set the tone for trans-disciplinary and cross-boundary scientific collaborations that will promote the implementation of the science plans within the context of Future Earth.

### ICSU ROA Science Plan on Sustainable Energy

The energy consortia, in collaboration with scientists from within and outside the region, have been working to align the activities of the region with those of ICSU at global level, such as the Future Earth, as well as with those of the other regions of the globe. With financial support from the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), the Regional Office staff, together with some energy scientists from the region, attended the ICSU Global-Regional Integration Workshop on Sustainable Energy that was held on 7-10 April 2013 in Mexico City, Mexico. This workshop was followed by an ICSU Regional Implementation Workshop on Sustainable Energy in sub-Saharan Africa, which was held in Nairobi, Kenya on 7 - 8 May 2013. The workshops gave the regional scientists an opportunity to interact with counterpart energy scientists from other parts of the globe in a bid to integrate regional sustainable energy activities into a coherent global-regional framework and align them within the framework of Future Earth.



Following on the recommendations of the Kenya energy workshop, the sustainable energy consortium embarked on an effort to publish a book on the challenges and successes of energy utilisation in Africa. The Office is playing a coordinating role, working with scientists in the field from the region to publish this book in 2015.

### ICSU ROA Science Plan on Natural and Human-induced Hazards and Disasters

Following the African Regional Implementation Workshop on Hazards and Disasters that was held in Dakar, Senegal in



## Core Activities (continued)

September 2012, the hazards and disasters consortium submitted a joint proposal with the Sustainable Africa University Network (SAUNET) of Sweden in response to the Swedish Secretariat for Environmental Earth Systems Science (SSEESS) Research Links Programme-Project Planning Grant. This grant was awarded to help strengthen north-south collaboration and develop sellable project proposals on hazards and disasters. The African scientists and their Swedish counterparts successfully held a two-day workshop in September 2013 in Pretoria, South Africa. The workshop came up with a template to develop generic integrated research proposals that would be modified and submitted for funding in response to funding calls.



The Hazards and Disasters consortium is far-advanced in publishing a book on hazards and disasters in Africa that is meant to generate interest from different sectors of society on the continent and abroad. The book cover is scheduled to be launched in April 2014 at a symposium to be held at the University of Mauritius through a partnership between ICSU ROA, AISA and the University of Mauritius.

### ICSU ROA Science Plan on Health and Human Well-being

Two members of the Health and Human Well-being consortium, Prof Charles Wambebe (Nigeria) and Prof Phillippe Rasoanaivo (Madagascar), were sponsored by the Office to participate in the International Conference on Indigenous Knowledge Systems, which was held in Johannesburg, South

Africa, in April 2013. The conference was organised by South Africa's Department of Science and Technology (DST).

The consortium is working on publishing a book on African Indigenous Medical Knowledge and Human Health with the University of South Africa (UNISA). Manuscripts have been received from the authors and are undergoing the peer review process. The editorial team for this book comprises Prof Charles Wambebe and Prof Phillippe Rasoanaivo. Another book under preparation is on Food and Nutrition Security in sub-Saharan Africa. This book will be edited by Prof Sunita Facknath (Mauritius) and Prof Tito Fernandes (Mozambique). They have put together a chapter outline and solicited authors are busy writing chapters to the book.

Both books will be published by UNISA Press through a partnership with ICSU ROA.

### ICSU ROA Science Plan on Global Environmental Change (including Climate Change and Adaptation)

Following the award (in 2012) of the SSEESS Research Links Programme-Project Planning Grant to the research consortium working to develop a project on the 'Impact of Climate Change on Rainfall and Water Resources in sub-Saharan Africa', the consortium members, together with their Swedish counterparts from the Stockholm International Water Institute, met for a two-day workshop in April 2013, in Pretoria, South Africa. From this workshop, coordinated by ICSU ROA, the team developed a substantive project proposal that was submitted to SSEESS and copied to the Regional Office in



## Core Activities (continued)

July 2013. The consortium leader, Prof Jonathan Matondo (Swaziland), was sponsored by ICSU ROA to attend the Africa Climate Conference that was held in Arusha, Tanzania, on 15 - 18 October 2013. The conference sought to identify the state of knowledge on the African climate system, define and drive an African agenda for future climate research as well as develop a framework for mainstreaming climate information into decision making.

The Office has advised the members of the consortium to submit their project proposal in response to the 2013 Royal Society-Department for International Development (DFID) Africa Capacity Building Initiative open call for proposals, where water issues in Africa was one of the focal areas. The consortium was also encouraged to submit a proposal again in response to the SSEESS call for 2014.

### Capacity Building

Capacity building is a key component of ICSU's promotion of science for the benefit of society, and ICSU ROA has been putting in efforts to support ICSU Unions' capacity building activities in the region through supporting the Unions' applications to the ICSU Small Grants programme. In the 2013/14 financial year, the Regional Office supported the proposal of the International Mathematical Union (IMU) titled "East African Capacity and Network Project", which was awarded the ICSU grant. The grant will be used to address ICSU's strategic priority of supporting capacity building and science education, particularly mathematical education, through the development and capacity building of mathematics educators and mathematicians in the region.



The Office has also been supporting capacity building activities of other organisations/partners in the region. ICSU ROA made a contribution in support of the Applied Centre for Climate and Earth Systems Science's (ACCESS) ten-day workshop on the Habitable Planet, which was held on July 2013 in Kenya. The workshop was attended by young scientists from all the sub-regions of the continent.



ICSU ROA has continued to support the African Network for Sustaining and Widening Earth-systems Research (ANSWER) by emerging researchers, which was launched during the 2012 Future Earth Regional workshop for Africa. ANSWER is intended to serve as an umbrella body under which Earth-systems research and activities of emerging researchers in Africa would be

showcased. The initiative has also been endorsed by both the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), while it continues to be nurtured and hosted by ACCESS. ICSU ROA and ACCESS assisted in the development of a flyer outlining ANSWER's objectives, which has been used for online recruitment of members from all over the continent. ICSU ROA has funded the founder and coordinator, Steve Orowolo, to present the initiative at the AISA Young Graduates and Scholars (AYGS) Conference in February 2014 that was held in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Office will also sponsor him to attend a meeting between development funders and research funders to be held in Johannesburg in May 2014, as well as the follow-up Future Earth stakeholder meeting to be held in Pretoria in June 2014.

In May 2013, all ICSU ROA staff successfully completed a 60-hour A1.1 French course corresponding to "the European Frameworks of Reference for Languages" and has again embarked on the second level of the French course, which commenced in August 2013.



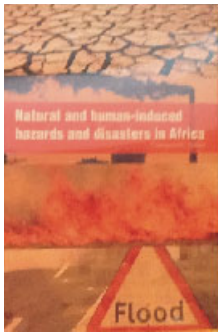
## Core Activities (continued)

### Publications and General Communication

To increase the visibility of the Regional Office and that of the scientific community on the continent and in other parts of the globe, ICSU ROA produced and circulated publicity material via different media.

### Publications

#### Book Project



To showcase African success stories on issues of scientific research and development on the continent, and to ensure that scientists from the continent are active players in SETI for sustainable socio-economic development of the continent, ICSU ROA has embarked on a process of publishing (in collaboration with its partners) a series of books in different thematic areas written by scientists in the field. Publication of these books will

encourage networking and collaborative research among scientists on the continent through joint ventures.

The Office is collaborating with AISA in publishing a book on Management of Solid Waste in sub-Saharan Africa. This book, which will be distributed by AISA, is one of the books that will be launched in Mauritius in April 2014. AISA and ICSU ROA have also worked together to prepare (for publication) another book on Natural and Human-induced Hazards and Disasters in Africa. Preparations to publish this book are at advanced stages and it will also, hopefully, be launched in Mauritius along with the former book. A cover has already been developed for it.

The Regional Office has also been working with African scientists to publish other books in the following thematic areas: African Indigenous Medical Knowledge and Human Health; Food and Nutrition Security in sub-Saharan Africa; Climate Variability and Change in Africa; and Sustainable

Energy in Africa. Manuscripts for these books are at different stages of development and publications are scheduled for late 2014 and early 2015.

#### Reports of Workshops/Conferences

During the 2013/14 financial year, ICSU ROA organised or partnered in the organisation of a number of workshops/conferences on the continent. The most important of these events included:

- The project planning workshop by the Global Environmental Change consortium that took place in Pretoria, South Africa, in April 2013. This workshop was organised with financial support from the SSEESS.
- The workshop sought to facilitate the formation of an international research consortium of Swedish scientists and a network of African climate change scientists, which will design project plans and subsequently develop project proposals in the fields of climate change as well as water resources management.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and ICSU ROA Workshop on Environmental and Health Impacts of Mining activities in Sub-Saharan African Countries, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in May 2013.
- ICSU Regional Implementation Workshop on Sustainable Energy in sub-Saharan Africa that was held in May 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya, organised by the Regional Office for Africa in collaboration with Maseno University. The workshop was also attended by scientists from other ICSU regions and promoted south-south collaborations in the process.
- The physical meeting of the Future Earth Interim Committee for Africa, which was held in Stellenbosch, South Africa, in August 2013. The Committee consolidated its report for the 6-month work period and made recommendations for the implementation of Future Earth in the region.

## Core Activities (continued)

- The project planning workshop by the Hazards and Disasters consortium that took place in Pretoria, South Africa, in September 2013. This workshop, which was organised with financial support from SSEESS, aimed at facilitating the development of project proposals meant to reduce the adverse impact of geo- and hydro-meteorological hazards and disasters in Africa aimed at facilitating the development of project proposals that will seek to minimise adverse impacts of geo- and hydro-meteorological hazards and disasters in Africa. These proposals target research funding from regional as well as international research and development agencies.
- The South African Association for Food Science and Technology (SAAFoST) Congress and Exhibition that was held in Pretoria, South Africa, in October 2013. ICSU ROA contributed to this event through funding two African scientists to attend and make presentations.
- The African Science Plans Steering Committee Meeting that was held in Pretoria, South Africa, in March 2014. This was the first meeting of the Committee, and it served to formalise the terms of reference and the programme of work.

Reports from all these events are available on the Office's website and can also be obtained from the Regional Office on request.

### General Communication



During the 2013/14 financial year, ICSU ROA strived to reach out to the general public through interactive website content. It also reached out to the scientific community through keynote presentations, electronic systems exhibiting the Office's publicity material at national, regional and international scientific and/or policy meetings.

### Public Lectures

Presentations on the Office's programmes and activities were made at different scientific fora, including the following:

- the Global-Regional Integration Workshop on Sustainable Energy held in Mexico City, Mexico, on 8 - 9 April 2013.
- the Southern African Program on Ecosystem Change and Society (SAPECS) meeting held on 15 - 17 April 2013 in Cape Town, South Africa.
- the UNESCO and ICSU ROA Workshop on Environmental and Health Impacts of Mining in Sub-Saharan African Countries held on 2-3 May 2013 in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- the ICSU Regional Implementation Workshop on Sustainable Energy in sub-Saharan Africa held 7 to 8 May 2013, in Nairobi, Kenya.
- the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Engineering Needs and Numbers Task Team meeting that was held in Pretoria, South Africa, on 22 - 23 May 2013.
- the bi-annual event of the 5th African Conference for Digital Scholarship and Curation, which was held from 26-28 June 2013 in Durban, South Africa.
- the ICSU ROA-AISA Energy, Food and Nutrition Security in Africa Seminar, which was a side event of RCA15 held on 28 August 2013, in Pretoria, South Africa, hosted by AISA. ICSU RCA members Prof Hillary Inyang and Prof Tito Fernandez gave presentations on Sustainable Energy and Food and Nutrition Security in Africa, respectively.
- the 1st Bureau Meeting of the 5th African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology held on 1-4 October 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- the 5th Meeting of ICSU Officers, Regional Chairs and Directors held alongside the 110th EB meeting on 4 - 8 November 2013, in Paris, France.

## Core Activities (continued)

- the Southern Africa Network for Biosciences (SANBio) Business Plan Validation Workshop held on 14-15 November 2013, organised by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

### ICSU ROA Website

Although the global ICSU website is designed and managed by the webmaster at the ICSU Secretariat in Paris, the content of the Regional Office website is managed and updated regularly by the ICSU ROA Communications Officer in consultation with all ICSU ROA staff. General information about the Regional Office's activities as well as those of its partners and the ICSU Family on the continent is published on the Office's website. The website also carries information from other sources which is relevant to the African scientific community at large. This includes important announcements like partner events, grants and awards of interest to the



continent, calls for participation in international projects and programmes or nominations to special committees of ICSU and other international scientific bodies.

### Electronic mailing

The Regional Office has an extensive and dynamic electronic mailing list that serves as a vehicle to disseminate ICSU ROA information to its partners, stakeholders and networks as well as to the ICSU Family within and outside the continent. ICSU ROA also gathers scientific information from these entities and avails it to the African scientific community via this electronic mailing system.

### Marketing the Office

ICSU ROA developed, updated and printed flyers, banners, posters and folders which are being used to market the Office at various workshops, conferences and seminars



organised/co-organised by the Office as well as those organised by its partners. During the 2013/14 financial year, ICSU ROA staff participated in different events where materials with information related to the activities of the Regional Office were displayed.

## Scientific Collaboration and Networking

### Activities with the ICSU Secretariat and other Regional Offices

Professor Y T Lee, President of ICSU, made his maiden visit to South Africa (24 to 26 June 2013) at the invitation of the National Research Foundation accompanied by Dr Carthage Smith,



ICSU Deputy Executive Director, as well as Prof Malegapuru Makgoba, ICSU Vice President for the Committee on Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR). During the three-day visit, he met with representatives of the DST, NRF, ASSAf, SAEON, University of Pretoria, HSRC, the South African ICSU Board and the South African Young Scientists' Association. The visit was meant to identify synergies and strengthen opportunities for South Africa to increase continental engagements in collaboration with ICSU and other global science initiatives. It was also meant to create an open forum to discuss issues related to the future hosting of the ICSU ROA by South Africa. During his visit to the University of Pretoria, Prof Lee gave a public lecture entitled *Dynamics of Chemical Reactions and Sustainable Development of Human Society*.

Typically, he took time off his busy schedule to visit the ICSU

## Core Activities (continued)

Regional Office for Africa where he interacted with the Director and staff, and discussed issues of mutual concern for the promotion of activities of ICSU in the region.

During the 2013/14 financial year, the Regional Office continued to work with and support activities of the ICSU Secretariat and the other Regional Offices, including the following:

*Global-Regional Integration Workshop on Sustainable Energy* that was organised by the ICSU Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) with financial support



from Sida through the ICSU grant. The event was held in Mexico City, Mexico, from 8 to 9 April 2013. It was attended by scientists from all the three Regional Offices of ICSU, including six from Africa plus two ICSU ROA staff. The workshop deliberated on issues related to the alignment of regional energy activities with the Future Earth initiative. It sought to harmonise inter-regional activities and to develop a common implementation strategy for an ICSU programme on sustainable energy.

*Meeting with Sida*, which took place at the ICSU Secretariat in Paris, on 24 April 2013, was attended by ICSU staff (including Regional Offices staff) and Sida representatives. It focused on presenting the latest updates related to the development of the next ICSU project proposal to be submitted to Sida for funding and sought to define potential activities, taking into consideration the priorities of ICSU and requirements of Sida.

*Results-based Management training course*, which took place at ICSU Secretariat on 25 - 26 April 2013, intended to equip ICSU staff with the skills and knowledge to establish an

effective performance measurement system and develop "good practices" for establishing effective performance management systems in the activities of ICSU, especially when managing grants from Sida.



*ICSU Regional Implementation Workshop on Sustainable Energy in sub-Saharan Africa*, which was held on 7-8 May 2012 in Nairobi, Kenya, was organised by the ICSU Regional Office for Africa in collaboration with Maseno University. It was one of a series of regional consultation/scoping and implementation meetings supported through the ICSU grant from Sida. The workshop was attended by most African scientists who participated in the Mexico workshop, as well as other African energy scientists. The ICSU Secretariat, the Regional Offices and scientists from other parts of the globe were also in attendance. Using the background information and building on the recommendations from the April 2013 Mexico workshop, the Regional Implementation Workshop sought to develop an overall energy implementation strategy for the region.

*Future Earth Regional Workshop for Middle East and North Africa*, which was held on 03 - 05 June 2012 in Cyprus, was aimed at providing an opportunity to raise awareness of Future Earth and reach out to stakeholders and networks as a way of enriching global





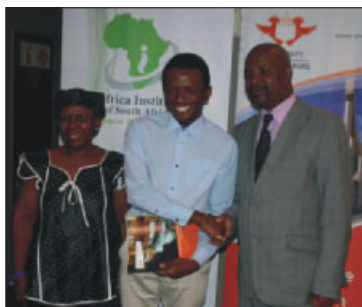


## Core Activities (continued)

continued to support, in writing, the applications of the Unions for funding to the ICSU small grants programme. It also availed its staff for any service that may be required, within the limits of its capabilities, for the smooth implementation of the granted projects. During the 2013/14 financial year, ICSU ROA supported the application of the International Mathematics Union (IMU) to the ICSU Grants Programme, which was successful.

### Activities with other Partners and Networks

During the course of the 2013/14 financial year, ICSU ROA continued to maintain a good working relationship with its traditional partners and networks, while establishing new relations.



#### *African Institute of South Africa (AISA)*

ICSU ROA and AISA have been working closely in developing and publishing two books: one on Solid Waste Management and the other on Hazards and Disasters. ICSU ROA and AISA are also in the process of developing a memorandum of understanding (MoU), which once signed, will describe a bilateral agreement between the two organisations and express a convergence of will between them as well as indicate an intended common line of action. As discussed previously in this report, the two organisations also collaborated in preparations for the half-day RCA15 side event on Energy, Food and Nutrition Security in Africa.

#### *Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)*

During the 2013/14 financial year, ICSU ROA and ASSAf held regular meetings to explore areas of common interest. These meetings opened up a lot of potential avenues that could promote science on the continent as well as outside. Through ASSAf, ICSU ROA obtained contact details of the science



academies in Africa that would serve as important links for expanding the ICSU family on the continent. On the other hand, ICSU ROA linked up ASSAf with the Academy of Science of Malaysia, which needed information regarding the roles of National Academies of Science on the continent - opening up links between the science academies from Africa and Asia.

ASSAf hosted the triennial InterAcademy Medical Panel (IAMP) Conference and General Assembly on 13 - 16 August 2013. The conference, which was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, addressed one of the most critical health challenges facing the global community - the changing patterns of non-communicable diseases. ICSU ROA sourced and provided sponsorship for air travel and accommodation of two African speakers from the region to participate in the conference. ICSU ROA's Director represented ICSU at the IAMP General Assembly and participated as a panellist for the Science-Policy Roundtable discussion.

#### *Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) of South Africa*

ICSU ROA and the CSIR have developed and signed an MoU. The two organisations are currently working together to develop collaborative projects to implement the document. During the 2013/14 financial year, meetings have been held to identify appropriate joint activities, which include the possibility of co-publishing a book on Nanotechnology as well as in the research areas of ACCESS.



## Core Activities (continued)

### *Southern African Program on Ecosystem Change and Society (SAPECS)*

SAPECS is a new collaborative programme between the CSIR, University of Stellenbosch and the Stockholm Resilience Centre. Owing its origins to ICSU's Programme on Ecosystem Change and Society (PECS), SAPECS is being developed as a trans-disciplinary regional research program that aims to advance stewardship of socio-ecological systems and ecosystems services in southern Africa. ICSU ROA was actively involved in the SAPECS meeting that was held on 15 - 17 April 2013 in Cape Town, South Africa. The meeting



sought to consolidate the SAPECS framework that was started at previous meetings. ICSU ROA was invited from the beginning of the process to share its own activities and highlight areas of synergy with its science plans as the SAPECS framework takes shape.

### *The Applied Centre for Climate and Earth Systems Science (ACCESS)*

The Regional Office continued to collaborate with ACCESS during the 2013/14 financial year. The Office sourced and provided financial support for ACCESS to organise the Habitable Planet Workshop, which was held from 01 to 10 July 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya. This workshop focused on evolution of Planet Earth's glorious diversity of flora and fauna, and the conditions required to maintain these favourable environments as well as on human-environment relationships, both in the distance past and present, to

investigate the impact that future global warming and climate change may have.

### *The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS)*

In June 2013 the Executive Director of the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), Prof Romain Murenzi visited ICSU ROA. During an interaction with the Regional Office staff, Prof Murenzi expressed the need for the two organisations to tap into each other's strengths as they continue to work together in developing science on the continent.



### **Strategic Partnerships**

During the 2013/14 financial year, ICSU ROA continued to strengthen its collaboration with the parties with which it has a long-term agreement and shared resources in a bid to reach out to the scientific community within and outside the region.

### *The National Research Foundation (NRF), South Africa*

The host of ICSU ROA, the NRF, is one of the closest strategic partners of the Regional Office. In partnership with the NRF, particularly the International Relations and Cooperation Directorate, the Regional Office played a huge role in shaping the successful programme for Prof Lee's visit to South Africa in June 2013.



The NRF regularly organises a corporate induction workshop that presents a great opportunity for all new staff members to

## Core Activities (continued)

gain a thorough understanding of the organisation across its various business divisions and units. Presentation of ICSU ROA's activities in such workshops provides an opportunity for management and new employees in the NRF to have direct and focussed conversations about the Regional Office's goals and priorities.

The NRF was a co-organiser of the 5th African Conference for Digital Scholarship and Curation, which was held in Durban, South Africa, on 26-28 June 2013. The conference aimed to unveil the opportunities and challenges that emergent data infrastructures bring to current and future scholarship. It drew together mixed participants from across the southern African region and beyond. Following the invitation from the World Data Systems Africa project team coordinated by the Knowledge Management Directorate and the South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON), the Regional Director attended the side event workshop for the Data Steering Committee and presented on ICSU's data infrastructures.

### *The Department of Science and Technology (DST), South Africa*

Apart from being the main funder of ICSU ROA, the DST has emerged as one of the main partners of the Regional Office, especially in the implementation of its science plans and profiling of the Office at regional and continental fora. During the 2013/14 financial year, the Regional Office met regularly with the Multilateral Cooperation Unit of the DST and these meetings focused on promoting and cementing collaborative



activities of interest to the two organisations and to the region.

The International Conference on Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS), which was organised by the DST in collaboration with North West University, took place on 17-20 April, 2013 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The conference brought together experts, academics, policy makers, government officials and civil organisations, to deliberate on IKS, as it relates to science and technology. As mentioned earlier in this report, two members of the sub-consortium on Modern bio-medicine, traditional medicine and Indigenous Knowledge Systems were sponsored by the Office to attend this Conference and network with other experts in the field.

With the support from the DST, ICSU ROA was requested to nominate someone who will represent the Office on the SADC Engineering Needs and Numbers Task Team. The team comprises engineers from the SADC region who are supported by UNESCO, NEPAD, ASSAf and ICSU ROA. In trying to address recommendations of the SADC Engineering Needs and Numbers workshop held in July 2012, the team met in Pretoria 22 - 23 May 2013, to develop the terms of reference and recommend how the engineering needs and numbers study of the region can be implemented.

The DST seconded an intern to the Office for one year and his term ended 31 July 2013. The two organisations are putting together a plan to have another intern seconded to ICSU ROA during the next financial year - as a way of enhancing the Office's capacity building endeavours, but also giving it additional manpower for its activities.

### *The Swedish International Development Agency (Sida)*

Sida has been a strong partner of ICSU ROA and for a long time, it has been supporting the Office's activities. Based on the discussions and efforts that commenced in the 2010/11 financial year, ICSU ROA worked together with other ICSU Regional Offices, the ICSU Secretariat and the Swedish Secretariat for Environmental Earth Systems Science (SSEESS), to seek financial support for the Regional Offices'

## Core Activities (continued)

ICSU Regional Implementation Workshop on Sustainable Energy in sub-Saharan Africa  
Nairobi, Kenya  
7 – 8 May 2013



activities that seek to strengthen high-quality research in the regions, integrate regional and global research activities, and enhance inter-disciplinary research collaboration as well ensure that science is integrated into international policy development and implementation.

With funds from Sida, scientists from the region were afforded an opportunity to interact with their counterparts from other parts of the globe as well as with one another. This was made possible through the ICSU Global-Regional Integration and Implementation Workshops as well as the activities of the Future Earth Initiative. Through the SSEESS grants, Swedish and African scientists managed to convene and came up with research proposals.

ICSU ROA, in collaboration with other ICSU Regional Offices, SSEESS/Sida and other development aid agencies have planned to organise workshops to develop future strategies of scientific research on the continent. A workshop involving major funding and development agencies and representative African scientists (Soweto 1) is planned for mid-2014. The occasion will seek to establish a common understanding of the priorities and objectives of the research funding communities, as a guide towards designing research proposals.

### Interaction with Intergovernmental Bodies

During the 2013/14 financial year, ICSU ROA has continued to interact with national governmental institutions and intergovernmental bodies to ensure that policies and decisions on the continent are developed and implemented on a foundation of science-based evidence. The Regional Office has been involved in activities organised by the African Union through NEPAD as well as those organised by the UN agencies.

### Southern African Development Community (SADC)

The workshop was organised by the SADC Secretariat in partnership with the Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources Programme, and funded by GIZ (Germany), with UNEP and UNDP as supporting partners.



### New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

ICSU ROA and the NEPAD have continued to work together in areas of common interest. ICSU ROA was part of the working group to review the African Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) and draft a new document: the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA2024). The working group comprising representatives from the African Academy of Sciences, African Union Commission, NEPAD Agency, African Development Bank, UNECA and UNESCO also served to support the High-Level Panel set up to advise the African Ministerial Committee for Science and Technology (AMCOST) on the new strategy. The review and drafting process was coordinated by the NEPAD Agency in close collaboration with the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology of the African Union Commission.

### United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

ICSU ROA has continued to work closely with UNECA in developing the post Rio+20 Agenda. With financial support from UNECA, the Regional Office attended the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals that was held from 31 October to



## Core Activities (continued)

05 November 2013, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. ICSU ROA represented and gave a statement on behalf of the scientific and technological community. With support from some member states, ICSU ROA managed to push the inclusion of a sustainable development goal meant to promote research, science, innovation and technology development.

### United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The Regional Office partnered with the UNESCO Nairobi Office to organise a Workshop on Environmental and Health Impacts of Mining in Sub-Saharan African Countries. This event, which took place on 2-3 May 2013 in Johannesburg, South Africa, sought to map the current situation related to environmental impact of mining and mineral processing in sub-Saharan African countries. It also sought to develop and establish uniform procedures for the evaluation of hazardous properties and parameters of mining wastes, as well as to assess their impacts on the environment and human health.



Particular attention was paid to old and abandoned mining facilities and wastes left after small-scale and artisanal mining. The Office provided logistical and financial support toward this workshop.

ICSU ROA was invited to be part of the launch of the UNESCO Africa Chair on Nanoscience and Nanotechnology that took place at the University of South Africa in Pretoria, South Africa, on 15 May 2013. The launch was organised by UNISA, in collaboration with UNESCO and iThemba Labs (a research facility of the NRF). This chair, which is a trilateral partnership between UNESCO, UNISA and the iThemba Labs, is a milestone outcome of the NANOSciences African NETWORK (NANOAFNET), and key partners that include, amongst others, the Abdu Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), TWAS, the Organisation for Women in Science in the Developing World (OWSDW), the Science and Technology Directorate of the French Embassy, the NRF and the US National Science Foundation. It was at this event that a relationship was started with UNISA which has led to the UNISA Press getting involved in ICSU ROA coordinated books.

### United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

ICSU ROA was invited to participate in a two-day Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals consultation meeting that was held in Nairobi, Kenya on 6-7 June 2013. The meeting was jointly organized by UNEP and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, and brought together participants from the major groups and stakeholders to voice their perspectives on the Post-2015 development framework and draft recommendations for the SDGs formulation process.



Financial Report

Challenges of the 2013/14 Financial Year

Conclusion

Annexes





# Financial Report

The income and expenditure statement of ICSU ROA for the 2013/14 financial year stood as below:

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

	Year ended 31 March 2014	Year ended 31 March 2013
	ZAR	ZAR
<b>INCOME RECEIVED</b>		
Department of Science & Technology	2,000,000.00	
ICSU Secretariat, Paris	1,004,798.18	1,841,741.94
Conference Income	213,995.24	35,239.38
Publication Income	26,748.53	
Ademe - Interlink project refund		33,698.80
<b>NRF CONTRIBUTION</b>	<b>2,817,284.70</b>	
<b>UNCOMMITTED FUNDS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR</b>	<b>1,071,443.98</b>	<b>1,946,350.42</b>
<b>FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>7,134,270.63</b>	<b>5,894,030.54</b>

## Financial Report (continued)

<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>4,785,814.91</b>	<b>4,822,586.56</b>
<b>RUNNING EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,739,448.46</b>	<b>2,155,142.51</b>
Audit fees	75,368.00	25,344.48
Bank charges	2,288.34	5,578.33
Computer Consumables	639.60	36,638.16
Conferences and Workshops	360,294.73	348,171.10
Exchange control loss	451.12	9,379.78
Fees for Services	4,261.82	104,854.58
Marketing costs	4,688.93	17,558.05
Purchases	1,175.31	2,414.87
Postage and Courier	25,032.30	20,539.83
Printing		90,168.48
Publications	63,684.06	155,233.80
Recruitment and training	87,011.96	54,678.00
Refreshments	4,272.72	3,500.76
Stationery	3,117.67	7,911.04
Telephone	18,410.76	20,221.46
Travel and Subsistence - international	794,230.93	
Travel and Subsistence - local	294,520.21	
HR Related Costs	3,042,537.97	2,635,129.43
<b>CAPITAL EXPENSES</b>		
Computers and Equipment	3,828.48	32,314.62
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>2,348,455.72</b>	<b>1,071,443.98</b>

## Challenges of the 2013/14 Financial Year

Despite the successes registered during the financial year 2013/14, ICSU ROA has also encountered governance and operational hurdles during this period. The mandate of all the statutory members of the ICSU RCA expired on 31 December 2013, thus the Office had to work without an RCA up to the end of March 2014 (end of the Office's financial year), while awaiting the Office's review and finalisation of a new Committee. This has a potential to affect planned activities, especially the development of the ICSU ROA Business Plan for 2015/16.



There have been mixed signals from the hosting institution about the possible change in the host of the Office and the possibility of prematurely terminating the working contracts of the ICSU ROA staff. The anticipated change in host and concurrent lack of consensus on the adhering body issue negatively impacted on long-term planning of ICSU ROA activities.

At the operational level, the Office has continued to encounter challenges to solicit extra financial resources from other countries for outreach exercises as well as for implementation of additional activities and programmes. Communication at various levels on the continent continues to be a perpetual challenge due to poor infrastructure. This often led to limited access to information to and from some of the stakeholders; an act that compromised the Office's efforts to promote collaborative research activities across the continent.



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## Conclusion

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The activities of ICSU ROA continued growing in the 2013/14 financial year as the Regional Office continued to receive funding from Sida through the grant to ICSU, which ensure closer collaboration with other ICSU Regional Offices. The Sida grant through the SSEESS has injected more life into the work of the ICSU ROA consortia on Global Environmental Change and on Hazards and Disasters. The main engine driving the Regional Office along the road towards success is its sound partnership with science, technology and innovation organisations and institutions working on sustainable socio-economic development in Africa. ICSU ROA will continue to build on its growing list of strategic partnerships and networks for scientific collaboration, including funding agencies.

The database of scientists in the priority areas and research and academic institutions on the continent continues to grow as more experts get identified through networking activities. We remain hopeful that this will bring much needed skills and expertise for the betterment of promoting research that will benefit society in Africa and provide scientific evidence for rational policies in African countries.

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## Annexes

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### Annex A: Secretariat of ICSU Regional Office for Africa

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Dr Edith Madela-Mntla (South Africa) e.mntla@icsu-africa.org	Regional Director
Dr Daniel Nyanganyura (Zimbabwe) d.nyanganyura@icsu-africa.org	Programme Specialist
Dr Richard Glover (Ghana) r.glover@icsu-africa.org	Programme Specialist
Mr Bongani Mahlalela (South Africa) b.mahlalela@icsu-africa.org	Communications Officer
Ms Hazael Naidoo (South Africa) h.naidoo@icsu-africa.org	Administrative Assistant



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## Annexes (continued)

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### Annex B: Composition of the ICSU Regional Committee for Africa (until end of 2013)

#### Statutory Members

Ameenah Gurib-Fakim (Chairperson)  
Centre for Phytotherapy Research Mauritius  
aguribfakim@gmail.com

Abdourahamane Konare  
Recherche Scientifique et de l'Innovation Technologique  
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Hilary Inyang  
Botswana International University of Science and Technology  
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#### Ex-Officio Members

Steven Wilson  
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Edith Madela-Mntla  
Regional Director  
ICSU Regional Office for Africa  
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Kennedy Reed  
(Representative of ICSU EB)  
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory  
Livermore, USA  
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Alan Christoffels  
(Representative of the NRF)  
University of the Western Cape  
Cape Town, South Africa  
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## Annexes (continued)

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### Annex C: ICSU Members and Associates in Africa

#### Annex C1 - ICSU National Members in Africa

Angola:	Foundation of Science and Development (Member since 2010)
Cameroon:	Cameroon Academy of Sciences (Member since 1999)
Egypt:	Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (Member since 1925)
Kenya:	Kenya National Academy of Sciences (Member since 1980)
Malawi:	National Research Council of Malawi (Member since 2006)
Mauritius:	Mauritius Research Council (Member since 2005)
Morocco:	Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique (Member since 1925)
Namibia:	Ministry of Education: Directorate of Research, Science and Technology (Member since 2008)
Nigeria:	Nigerian Academy of Science (Member since 1963)
Seychelles:	Seychelles Centre for Marine Research and Technology (Member since 1983)
South Africa:	National Research Foundation (Member since 1919)
Tanzania:	Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (Member since 2004)
Togo:	Chancelleries' des Universités du Togo (Member since 1993)
Uganda:	Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (Member since 1995)
Zimbabwe:	Research Council of Zimbabwe (Member since 1989)

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## Annexes (continued)

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### Annex C2 - ICSU National Observers in Africa

Botswana:	Botswana Institute of Technology Research and Innovation (Member since 2006)
Burkina Faso:	Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technologique (Member since 1981)
Côte d'Ivoire:	Académie des Sciences, des Arts, des Cultures d'Afrique et des Diasporas Africaines (Member since 1992)
Ethiopia:	Ethiopian Science and Technology Agency (Member since 2006)
Ghana:	Ghana Academy of Arts & Sciences (Member since 1961)
Lesotho:	Department of Science and Technology (Member since 2007)
Mozambique:	Scientific Research Association of Mozambique (Member since 1999)
Rwanda:	Kigali Institute of Science and Technology (Member since 2006)
Senegal:	Association des Chercheurs Sénégalais (Member since 1993)
Sudan:	National Centre for Research (Member since 1974)
Swaziland:	National Research Council (Member since 1993)
Zambia:	Zambia Academy of Sciences (Member since 2006)

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## **Annexes (continued)**

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### **Annex C3 - ICSU National Scientific Associates in Africa**

Madagascar:           Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique (Member since 1970)

Tunisia:                 Université Tunis El Manar (Member since 1931)

AAS:                     African Academy of Sciences

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# Strengthening international science for the benefit of society



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