



# Regional Office for Africa

## Annual Report 2014/15

Strengthening international science  
for the benefit of society

## ICSU Membership in Africa



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# Acronyms

AAS:	African Academy of Sciences	FORIN:	Forensic Investigations of Disasters
ACCESS:	Applied Centre for Climate and Earth Systems Science	GA:	General Assembly
AFEC:	African Future Earth Committee	GCGC:	Global Change Grand Challenge
AFURC:	African Unity for Renaissance Conference	GEC:	Global Environmental Change
AISA:	Africa Institute of South Africa	HSRC:	Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa
AMCOST:	African Ministerial Committee for Science and Technology	ICMI:	International Commission of Mathematics Instruction
ANSWER:	African Network for Sustaining and Widening Earth-systems Research	ICSU:	International Council for Science
APP:	Annual Performance Plan	ICSU ROA:	ICSU Regional Office for Africa
ASADI:	African Science Academy Development Initiative	ICSU ROLAC:	ICSU Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
ASPSC:	African Science Plans Steering Committee	IGAC:	International Global Atmospheric Chemistry Project
ASSAf:	Academy of Science of South Africa	IMU:	International Mathematics Union
AU:	African Union	IPO:	International Programme Office
AYGS:	AISA Young Graduates and Scholars	IRDR:	Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction
CANP4:	4 <sup>th</sup> Capacity and Network Project	ISSC:	International Social Science Council
CODATA:	Committee on Data for Science and Technology	IUCr:	International Union of Crystallography
CODESRIA:	Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa	IUE:	Institute of Urban Environment
CSIR:	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research	IUGG:	International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics
CSPR:	Committee on Scientific Planning and Review	IUPHAR:	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
		NASAC:	Network of African Science Academies

## Acronyms (continued)

NEPAD:	New Partnership for Africa's Development		Innovation
NRF:	National Research Foundation of South Africa	Sida:	Swedish International Development Agency
PharfA:	Pharmacology for Africa	SSEESS:	Swedish Secretariat for Environment and Earth Systems Science
QIST:	15 <sup>th</sup> International Conference on Science and Technology	START:	SysTem for Analysis Research and Training
RCA:	Regional Committee for Africa	STISA:	Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa
SAASTA:	South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement	ToR:	Terms of Reference
SADC:	Southern African Development Community	TWAS:	The World Academy of Sciences
SAIF:	Southern African Innovation Forum	UN:	United Nations
SAIS:	Southern African Innovation Support	UNECA:	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
SAPECS:	Southern African Program on Ecosystem Change and Society	UNEP:	United Nations Environment Programme
SARIMA:	Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association	UNESCO:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
SASBCP:	South African Society for Basic and Clinical Pharmacology	UNISA:	University of South Africa
SASSCAL:	Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Use	WDS:	World Data System
SAUNET:	Sustainable Africa University Network	WSSF:	World Social Science Forum
SAYAS:	South African Young Academy of Science	XEW:	Xiamen Expert Workshop
SCP:	Sustainable Consumption and Production	ZAR:	South African Rand
SETI:	Science, Engineering, Technology and		

ICSU's Mission, Vision and Focal Areas

Director's Overview

Executive Summary



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# ICSU's Mission, Vision and Focal Areas

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**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 (ICSU 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.



## Director's Overview



This is a year of reflection for ICSU ROA from different perspectives. The end of term review done during most of 2014 yielded a report that was a mixed bag of both opinions and suggestions. One could not help but focus only on the constructive aspects and recommendations emanating from the exercise. This was further confirmed by discussions at both ICSU's Committee on Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR) and Executive Board (EB) meetings that took place in early 2015. The proposals from both these meetings are yet to be implemented, pending reports of reviews of the other two ICSU Regional Offices, which started in early 2015.

to establish a new one were received, but the process is yet to be finalised. This has been due to other strategic processes that had to inform ICSU on how to move forward and what recommendations to implement. The process has now resumed, with a number of good nominations received, and we hope to have an RCA confirmed in time to hold the first meeting in September/October. There have been a few challenges to achieving a well-balanced, representative Committee, which are currently being addressed through different strategies. We look forward to getting strategic guidance from this group of African science leaders again.

The Science Plans have received focussed attention through the African Science Plans Steering Committee, which, although established in late 2013, only met physically in March 2014 after much work was done behind the scenes. The Steering Committee will later lead workshops to review the current Science Plans in June 2015, and we hope to publish these revised documents with stakeholder input before the end of 2015. The implementation, which is at the core of ICSU ROA's work, continues.

We continue to solidify our relationship with the Network of African Academies (NASAC), which for now is around collaboration in the awarding and management of research grants emanating from the envisaged five year Sida grant to ICSU. The proposal for this and other activities in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, has been evolving over the past year, led by the ICSU global secretariat. We will continue with efforts to explore other possible avenues of collaboration with NASAC in the future, especially taking advantage of ICSU ROA's closer linkages with the Academies, some of whom are already National Members of ICSU.



## Director's Overview (continued)

One of the resolutions of the second Future Earth Regional Workshop for Africa hosted by ICSU ROA in June 2014, was the establishment of a representative African Future Earth Committee (AFEC) that would ensure participation of the African continent in the Future Earth global initiative, which includes the establishment of an African node. ICSU ROA was to play Secretariat to the work of this Committee and the African Academy of Sciences would have oversight, till there was a node in place, at which stage the role of the Committee would be reviewed.

The Committee of 11 members, which had its first teleconference in March 2015, will hold its first physical meeting in August 2015.



# Executive Summary

## Implementation of ICSU ROA Science Plans

The 2014/15 financial year witnessed more vigorous activities towards implementation of the four science plans of ICSU ROA. Pursuant to a recommendation of the African Science Plans Steering Committee (ASPSC) at its maiden meeting in March 2014 for a review of the science plans to reflect current trends, mechanisms were set into motion to trigger electronic consultations among African scientists with expertise in the thematic areas of the four science plans. These consultations commenced in February 2015 and will culminate in physical workshops in June 2015 to consolidate ideas into reviewed science plans.

The Sustainable Africa University Network (SAUNET) of the Uppsala University and ICSU-ROA co-organized a one-day consortium building workshop with sponsorship from the Swedish Secretariat for Environmental Earth System Sciences (SSEES) at Eklundshof, Uppsala in Sweden on October 31, 2014. The workshop, which was attended by four members of the ICSU ROA Hazards and Disasters, provided a platform for the exchange of knowledge and information between African and Swedish scientists necessary for the understanding, prediction, assessment and mitigation of hazards and disasters impacting Africa. It also started a process of building North-South partnerships.

Five other scientists and the Programme Specialist responsible for the Hazards and Disasters consortium participated in a 3-day project proposal consolidation workshop held in Yamoussoukro, Cote d' Ivoire from 2 to 4 December, 2014 sponsored by the Directorate-General of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation of the Cote d' Ivoire. The workshop reviewed the existing project proposals in the sub-thematic areas of geological and hydrometeorological

hazards and agreed on areas of concentration to be integrated with vulnerability and risk assessment studies, under one broad title "Resilience to hazards and disasters in Africa" to be submitted in response to the Sida Grant call.

The Sustainable Energy consortium, in collaboration with energy scientists from within and outside the region, worked to align the activities of the region with those of the other regional offices including integration of energy issues into Future Earth. A process has also been started to publish a book highlighting the challenges and success stories on energy technology and utilisation on the continent, in the coming financial year.

As part of efforts to align its regional activities with those of ICSU at global level such as the Future Earth initiative members of the Global Environmental Change consortium actively participated in both the Soweto I meeting and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Future Earth Regional Workshop for Africa. The consortium has also embarked on a process to publish a book to give insight into climate variability and change in Africa by the end of the next financial year.

## Capacity development

The Regional Office continued to support capacity building activities of ICSU Unions in the region by prompting, endorsing and facilitating the submission of their applications for the ICSU Small Grant. The applications of the International Mathematical Union (IMU), the International Union of Crystallography (IUCr) and the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) were endorsed by the Office for submission for the ICSU Small Grant 2015. Only the IMU and IUCr were awarded the grants in this financial year.

## Executive Summary (continued)

Capacity building activities of other organisations/ partners in the region were equally supported by the Office. Worthy of mention are:

- the 4<sup>th</sup> Capacity and Network Project (CANP4) organized by the International Commission of Mathematics Instruction (ICMI) (a commission of the IMU) in collaboration with the Aga Khan University Institute for Educational Development-East Africa in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, 11-12 September 2014 to build capacity in mathematics education and create a sustainable regional scientific network that would improve mathematics education in Africa.
- the African Institute of South Africa (AISA)-Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Young Graduates and Scholars (AYGS) conference held at the University of Cape Town (South Africa) from March 2 to 4, 2015, to promote knowledge production amongst young scholars as well as provide a platform for emerging African scholars to engage and exchange ideas pertaining to the challenges faced by African societies.

Staff capacity development was also given the needed attention.

- In August 2014, all ICSU ROA staff successfully completed a 60-hour A1.2 French course corresponding to “the European Frameworks of Reference for Languages” to equip them with the communication skills needed to engage scientists from the francophone parts of Africa.
- Dr Daniel Nyanganyura completed a one-year Management Development Programme course offered by the University of Stellenbosch Business School while the B. Admin degree programme of Bongani Mahlalela with the University of South Africa (UNISA) is still ongoing.

### Publications and general communication

The visibility of the Regional Office continued to be enhanced in the region and among the scientific community on the continent through participation of senior staff as well as consortia members in major regional and international scientific events.

The Office continued to put the works of African scientists in the global spotlight and brought them to the attention of the international scientific community, policy makers as well as the public in general through coordinating their activities around the publication of a series of books covering different scientific themes. This resulted in various stages of development and packaging of manuscripts for imminent co-publication of books on Natural and human-induced hazards and disasters in Africa, African Indigenous Medical Knowledge and Human Health, Food and Nutrition Security in Africa, Africa Climate Variability and Change, and Energy Technology and Utilisation in Africa: Challenges and Successes.

Reports produced from several scientific events organised/co-organised by the Office were disseminated among relevant stakeholders and strategic partners within and outside the region. The Office used its interactive website, electronic mailing systems, exhibitions and lectures to reach out to the general public.

### Scientific Collaboration and Networking

Scientific collaboration and networking activities of the Office were enhanced through maintenance of existing partnerships, reactivation of near-extinct ones and establishment of new ones. The strong show of support for collaboration with the NASAC as an African

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## Executive Summary (continued)

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partner responsible for awarding and management of research grants emanating from the Sida proposal being developed by ICSU on “Building Capacity for Integrated Research on Global Sustainability in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean” is one clear testimony.

The Regional Office has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the HSRC of South Africa which will enhance collaborative activities with the latter, particularly the organisation of the Annual Young Graduates and Scholars' (AYGS) Conference, African Unity for Renaissance Conference (AFURC) and Africa Day Expo and the World Social Science Forum (WSSF).

Interaction between the Office and national governmental institutions and intergovernmental bodies in Africa were maintained to ensure that its programmes and activities receive the necessary buy-in and support, politically and financially from relevant stakeholders and partners on the continent. The Regional Office was involved in activities organised by the African Union, through its agencies like the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as well as participation in sessions of the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST).

Introduction

Organisation and Governance

Core Activities



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# Introduction

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In line with its mandate to promote the advancement of science, engineering, technology and innovation (SETI) for the socio-economic development of Africa, ICSU Regional Office for Africa in the year under review further pursued the strengthening of international science for the benefit of society in the region. The scientific activities of the ICSU family were brought 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 has always endeavoured 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 has continued to strive to plan and coordinate 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. To maximise benefits and use synergies, the Office, works with partners and stakeholders in the region with the aim of developing links and strengthening engagements between the scientific community and academics in Africa, as well as policy/decision makers and the public in general. In pursuing these objectives, ICSU ROA fulfils the three fundamental strategic objectives of ICSU as enshrined in its Strategic Plans 2006 - 2011<sup>1</sup> and 2012-17<sup>2</sup>, 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>3</sup> (ii) Health and Human Well-being<sup>4</sup> (iii) Natural and Human-induced Hazards and Disasters<sup>5</sup> and (iv) Global Environmental Change (including Climate Change and Adaptation)<sup>6</sup>. The development of these Science Plans was guided by the ICSU Strategic Plan 2006-2011, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and regional priorities.

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.icsu.org/publications/reports-and-reviews/icsu-strategic-plan-2006-2011/icsu-strategic-plan-2006-2011?searchterm=strategic+>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.icsu.org/about-icsu/strategic-priorities/strategic-plan-2012-17?searchterm=strategic+>

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

<sup>4</sup><http://www.icsu.org/africa/publications/reports-and-reviews/icsu-roa-science-plan-on-health-human-well-being/roa-science-plan-on-health>

<sup>5</sup><http://www.icsu.org/africa/publications/reports-and-reviews/icsu-roa-science-plan-on-hazards-disasters/roa-science-plan-on-hazard>

<sup>6</sup><http://www.icsu.org/africa/publications/reports-and-reviews/icsu-roa-science-plan-on-global-change/>

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## Introduction (continued)

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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. The ASPSC which is made up of twelve leading, competent and active African scientists selected based on their expertise in the four thematic areas of the Science Plans 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.



# Organisation and Governance

## ICSU ROA Secretariat

The 2014/2015 financial year had the Office operating with its full staff complement of five, namely: the Regional Director, an Administrative Assistant, two Programme Specialists (Science Managers), 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) 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). Its role is to give strategic guidance to and

oversee the scientific direction of the Office. The tenure of the last committee came to an end in December 2013. A new RCA is in the process of being constituted, including the remaining two members from the old RCA.



L to R: Mr Bongain Mahlela, Dr. Edith Madela-Mntla, Dr. Daniel Nyanganyura, Ms Hazael Naidoo and Dr. Richard Glover

## Core Activities

### Implementation of ICSU ROA Science Plans

The financial year 2014/15 witnessed more concerted efforts at the implementation of ICSU ROA's four Science Plans by the research consortia of African scientists in the thematic areas, under the coordination and guidance of the ASPSC. The maiden meeting of the committee in Pretoria from 24 to 25 March, 2014 discussed and adopted the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) and mapped out the implementation strategy for the Science Plans. The ASPSC agreed that the four Science Plans be reviewed and updated to reflect emerging trends and be generic in nature to give them a longer shelf-life.

### ICSU ROA Science Plan on Sustainable Energy

This consortium continued working to align the activities of the region with those of the other regional offices including integration of energy issues into Future Earth. This was done in collaboration with energy scientists from within and outside the region. The energy consortium started a process to publish a book highlighting the challenges and success stories on energy technology and utilisation on the continent – this book is scheduled for publication in the next financial year.

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

Four members of the Hazards and Disasters consortium participated in a one-day consortium building workshop co-organized by the Sustainable Africa University Network (SAUNET), Uppsala University and ICSU-ROA. The workshop, which was held on 31 October, 2014 at Eklundshof, Uppsala in Sweden, was sponsored by the Swedish Secretariat



for Environmental Earth System Sciences (SSEES). The event provided a platform for the exchange of knowledge and information between African and Swedish scientists necessary for the understanding, prediction, assessment and mitigation of hazards and disasters impacting Africa as well as for building partnerships.

Five scientists from the consortium and the Programme Specialist responsible for the Hazards and Disasters Science Plan of ICSU ROA participated in a three-day project proposal consolidation workshop held in



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## Core Activities (continued)

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Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire from 2 to 4 December, 2014. The workshop formed part of the activities of the 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Science and Technology (QIST) organised by the Directorate-General of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation (Department of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation) of Cote d'Ivoire under the broad theme "Future Earth". The workshop reviewed the existing project proposals in the sub-thematic areas of geological and hydrometeorological hazards and agreed on areas of concentration to be integrated with vulnerability and risk assessment studies, under one broad title "Resilience to hazards and disasters in Africa" to be submitted in response to the Sida Grant call.

Preparations for the publishing of a book on Natural and human-induced hazards and disasters in Africa received further impetus over the period with the successful launch of the book cover in April 2014 at a symposium held at the University of Mauritius through a partnership between ICSU ROA, AISA and the University of Mauritius. Consortium members actively engaged in electronic review of the science plan in preparation for a physical meeting in Pretoria in June, 2015.

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

The manuscripts of the two books being developed by some consortium members on (i) African Indigenous Medical Knowledge and Human Health and (ii) Food and Nutrition Security in sub-Saharan Africa, have been submitted to the University of South Africa (UNISA) Press for peer review, prior to publication under a partnership between UNISA and ICSU ROA. Consortium members started electronic review of the

science plan in preparation for a physical workshop in June, 2015.

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

The Global Environmental Change consortium has been working on aligning its regional activities with those of ICSU at global level, especially the Future Earth initiative. A number of these members actively participated in both the Soweto I meeting and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Future Earth Regional Workshop for Africa. The consortium has embarked on a process to publish a book to give insight into climate variability and change in Africa, before the end of the next financial year.

### Capacity Building

Capacity building is paramount to ICSU's promotion of science for the benefit of society. The Regional Office therefore continued to support ICSU Unions' capacity building activities in the region by prompting them to apply for the ICSU Small Grant when the call came out and facilitating their appropriate submission through endorsement as a Regional Office as well as supporting their effort in Africa.

During this financial year, the Regional Office endorsed the applications of the IMU, the IUGG and the IUCr for the ICSU Small Grant 2015. The grants were awarded to the IMU and IUCr for project proposals titled "Global change impact on diseases and alien species expansion" and "Building Science Capacity in Africa via Crystallography", respectively. ICSU ROA will work very closely with and play a supporting role to these Unions in the implementation of these projects.

Support for capacity building activities of other

## Core Activities (continued)

organisations/partners in the region continued over the period.

The Regional Office supported the 4<sup>th</sup> Capacity and Network Project (CANP4) that was organized by the International Commission of Mathematics Instruction (ICMI) (a commission of the IMU) in collaboration with the Aga Khan University Institute for Educational Development-East Africa. The CANP4, which was held on 11 - 12 September 2014 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, aimed at building capacity in mathematics education and creating a sustainable regional scientific network that would improve mathematics education in Africa. The Office was given the opportunity to make a presentation on its programmes and activities.



- ICSU ROA participated in the AISA-HSRC 9<sup>th</sup> AYGS conference held at the University of Cape Town (South Africa) from March 2 to 4, 2015, under the theme: Agenda 2063 - an opportunity for Africa. The conference sought to promote knowledge production amongst young scholars as well as provide a platform for emerging African scholars to engage and exchange ideas pertaining

to the challenges faced by African societies. The representative of ICSU ROA made a presentation on Africa's scientific development and the potential contribution of young scientists through ICSU ROA. ICSU ROA also assisted with the adjudication of papers presented on science and technology.

- ICSU ROA has continued, during this financial year, to render support to the African Network for Sustaining and Widening Earth-systems Research (ANSWER). This network, established during the African Future Earth Consultative Workshop in 2012, aims to serve as an umbrella body under which the Earth-systems research works and activities of emerging African researchers can be showcased. ANSWER is hosted by ACCESS and has received endorsement from the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA).
- In August 2014, all ICSU ROA staff successfully completed a 60-hour A1.2 French course corresponding to "the European Frameworks of Reference for Languages" – the knowledge which will be vital in communicating with scientists from the francophone parts of Africa.
- Dr Daniel Nyanganyura completed a one-year Management Development Programme course offered by the University of Stellenbosch Business School customised for NRF employees and funded by the NRF. This course provides a broader understanding of management and leadership issues, and helps to develop a basic understanding of the different fields of management. It is meant to equip managers on a middle management level with the necessary competencies to implement their organisations' strategic objectives.



## Core Activities (continued)

- Bongani Mahlalela continued with his B. Admin degree programme with UNISA during the 2014/15 financial year. He is studying management and administrative functions performed in the public sector, designed to enhance the administration skills needed to function effectively.

### Publications and General Communication

As usual, the Office produced and circulated publicity material via different media, and also exhibited at events, to increase its visibility and that of the scientific community on the continent and in other parts of the globe.

### Publications

#### *Book Project*

Publication of books to encourage networking and collaborative research among scientists on the continent through joint ventures received further boost over the period. A book on Management of Solid Waste in sub-Saharan Africa was published in collaboration with AISA-HSRC and launched in Mauritius in April 2014. ICSU ROA has also substantially advanced preparations towards publication of another book on Natural and Human-induced Hazards and Disasters



in sub-Saharan Africa, the cover of which was also launched at the same event in Mauritius.

Over the same period, much progress has been made through efforts at publishing other books authored by scientists from other thematic areas. Manuscripts of two books, one on African Indigenous Medical Knowledge and Human Health and the other on Food and Nutrition Security in sub-Saharan Africa, have been submitted to the UNISA Press for peer review prior to publication. The Office is also coordinating the publication of two more books, one on Climate Variability and Change in Africa and the other on Energy Technology and Utilisation in Africa: Challenges and Successes. Manuscripts of the first book are undergoing a peer review process while the scientists are still compiling chapters for the energy book.

### General Communication

#### *Organisation/Partnering in organisation of Workshops/Conferences*

Over the period under review, the Office organised or partnered in the organisation of a number of workshops/conferences on the continent, notably:

#### *Symposium/Book Launch, Mauritius*

The symposium on Africa in Global Environmental Change was a partnership activity between ICSU ROA, AISA and the University of Mauritius (UOM). The event was a culmination of a long process of writing two books between all or some of the three institutions and involved not only the launching of the books by the Minister of Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, but also a presentation and discussion on the Future Earth initiative. The Faculty of Agriculture, from which a few senior staffers are involved in ICSU ROA's book

## Core Activities (continued)



projects and other consortium activities coordinated and hosted the symposium on behalf of the University. The Minister (himself a scientist) reiterated his support for the advancement of science in Mauritius and for strengthening links with the rest of the African continent. The symposium was also attended by the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the University of Mauritius Council, Prof S Jugessur as well as Dr Arjoon Suddhoo, Executive Director of the Mauritius Research Council (MRC) and doubles as Secretary of the Mauritius Academy of Science and Technology. A group of young scientists also participated in the symposium.

### *Soweto I Meeting, Johannesburg*

On 5-6 May 2014, ICSU, in partnership with Sida convened a meeting at the Soweto campus of the University of Johannesburg to enhance collaboration between the development aid and global environmental change communities to achieve development goals in Africa. This meeting, initially dubbed Krusenberg II but later renamed Soweto I, aimed to understand development challenges in Africa and how integrated, trans-disciplinary research on global sustainability could help address them. It also

sought to identify needs and priorities for research on global sustainability common to development and research funding communities in Africa. Participants also explored new partnerships and mechanisms for supporting integrated trans-disciplinary research and capacity building activities on global sustainability in the region. Several key outcomes were derived from



the meeting to advance the agenda of funding GEC research activities on the continent.

### *NRF Induction Course*

The NRF regularly organises a corporate induction workshop that presents a great opportunity for all new staff members to 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 Office's host institution (NRF) to have direct and focussed conversations about the Regional Office's goals and priorities. At an induction course held in May 2014, ICSU ROA presented to the participants its programme and activities in particular and of ICSU in general.

## Core Activities (continued)

### *4<sup>th</sup> African Unity for Renaissance Conference and Africa Day Expo, Pretoria*

ICSU ROA partnered in organising the 4<sup>th</sup> African Unity for Renaissance Conference and Africa Day Expo in Pretoria, South Africa, from 22 to 25 May, 2014. These twin-events are organised annually by the AISA-HSRC in collaboration with a number of partners, ICSU ROA having been one of them for the past two years. The conference was attended by participants from academia, science and technology, cultural and governance institutions and civil society organizations from all over the continent. Based on the theme “African Solutions to African Problems”, the Conference comprised plenary and parallel sessions. Speakers during this event and side events included H.E Thabo Mbeki, former President of South Africa and H.E Dr Salim Ahmed Salim, former Secretary General of the then OAU and Prime Minister of Tanzania. ICSU ROA played very prominent roles on different days, with its affiliated scientists reviewing papers to be presented. Prof Ray Durrheim (ICSU ROA Hazards and Disasters expert) did a plenary presentation while Dr Edith Madela-Mntla, ICSU ROA Director chaired/facilitated several sessions and did a press interview on the importance of the event to science and technology. The two Programme Specialists also acted as rapporteurs for some sessions.

### *Site visit of the Review Panel for the End-of-term Review of the ICSU Regional Office for Africa*

As part of the ICSU ROA end-of-term Review process, a site visit of the Review panel took place in Pretoria, 18-20 June, 2014. A six - member panel led by Prof Christopher Leaver and including the Secretary-General of ICSU, Dr David Black, held a three-day meeting, during which a number of stakeholder



representatives were interviewed about their interactions with the Office. These included individuals from the NRF, ICSU National Board of South Africa, ASSAf, members of the RCA whose membership has been renewed, representatives of some ICSU Unions, CSPR members, representatives from NEPAD and other stakeholders. The visit essentially involved discussion and analysis of input received from the Regional Director of ICSU ROA as well as the identified respondents in person, via skype or tele-conference and development of the draft report. Prof Leaver earlier paid a familiarization visit to the ICSU ROA premises, followed by the entire team. The visit was to afford the panellists the opportunity to know the physical location of the Office and appreciate first-hand, the facilities and working conditions available to staff. More importantly, it served as an informal platform for interacting with staff of the Office.

*Future Earth Regional Workshop for Africa II*  
ICSU ROA, in collaboration with the University of Pretoria (UP), successfully organised a 2<sup>nd</sup> Future Earth Regional Workshop for Africa, which was held at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, from 23 to 24 June, 2014. The workshop, funded through the



## Core Activities (continued)



remainder of the Sida grant to ICSU, was attended by 70 participants (from across Africa) who represented national governments, intergovernmental bodies, regional economic communities, UN agencies, academic and research institutions, science academies, ICSU national members and scientific unions. Its main objective was to reflect on the report of the Future Earth Interim Committee, broaden the dialogue on Future Earth in Africa, and also chart the way forward for the development and successful implementation of Future Earth in Africa including the establishment of an African Future Earth node. From the report, the participants proposed a number of activities to be carried out in the implementation of Future Earth on the continent, which included the establishment of the African Future Earth Committee

that would run with these activities until such time that a Regional node had been established and become operational. The workshop constituted a nominations committee to identify eleven prominent African scientists that would make up the African Future Earth Committee (AFEC), following a transparent nominations process.

The membership of this Committee was drawn from all sub-regions of the continent taking into consideration the main official languages, the diverse and trans-disciplinary nature of the stakeholders involved in Future Earth activities, as well as gender balance. ICSU ROA acted as Secretariat and the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) oversaw the process. AFEC was finally established in February 2015 and

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## Core Activities (continued)

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held its first meeting by teleconference in March. A physical meeting is scheduled for mid-2015 pending availability of funding.

### *Conferences, Meetings and Scientific Fora attended*

The Office's programmes and activities were espoused at various meetings and scientific fora attended by the Director or Programme Specialists. Prominent among these were:

- Roundtable on "Effective Management of Research and Innovation Policy in Developing Countries- Research Priorities and Gaps, Durban, SANTRUST (19-20 May, 2014)
- SADC Joint Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Science, Technology and Innovation, Education and Training, Mozambique (16-20 June, 2014)
- SARIMA Conference, Botswana (6-19 July, 2014)
- CODATA International Workshop on Open Data and Knowledge Environment for Sciences and Sustainability in Developing Countries, Nairobi, Kenya (6-8 August, 2014)
- ICMI-IMU CANP East Africa Workshop, Tanzania (1-13 September, 2014)
- Scoping Meeting of Climate Change Research Development, Marrakech, Morocco (5-7 October, 2014) and the 4<sup>th</sup> Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa, Marrakech, Morocco (8-10 October, 2014)
- Multi-Stakeholder Consultation on the 10-year Framework Programmes (10YFP) on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), Pretoria (29 October, 2014)
- Global Research Council (GRC) African Summit, Stellenbosch (23-25 November, 2014) 2<sup>nd</sup> National Conference on Global Change, Port Elizabeth (1-5 December, 2014)

- Post-African Science Academy Development Initiative (ASADI) African Academy Development Workshop, Velmor Hotel Estate, Centurion (17-19 February, 2015)
- Air Quality Workshop, Kenya (11-12 March, 2015).

### *ICSU ROA Website*

The ICSU ROA website continued to serve as a medium for disseminating general information about the Regional Office's activities, those of its partners and the ICSU family on the continent. The website content is managed locally by the Communications Officer, with input from other staff. Also published on the website for the benefit of the African scientific community at large were important announcements like partner events in Africa, 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 extensive and dynamic electronic mailing list of the Regional Office was utilized in disseminating ICSU ROA information to its partners, stakeholders and networks as well as the ICSU family within and outside the continent. The Office also gathered scientific information from these entities and availed it to the African scientific community via this electronic mailing system.

### *Marketing the Office*

At various workshops, conferences and seminars organised/co-organised by the Office as well as those organised by its partners, the Office was marketed, using printed flyers, banners, posters and folders on its

## Core Activities (continued)

programmes and activities. These marketing materials were either distributed by staff of the Office or scientists working in the various consortia who participated in different events on the continent and beyond, some funded by ICSU ROA.

### Scientific Collaboration and Networking

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

##### ICSU 31<sup>st</sup> General Assembly (GA 31)

The Regional Director, the two Programme Specialists, a retained RCA member and some representatives of national member bodies on the continent participated in the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual General Assembly of ICSU held in Auckland, New Zealand from 31<sup>st</sup> August to 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2014. The Assembly, which was held under



the auspices of the Royal Society of New Zealand, was opened by New Zealand's Prime Minister John Key. Outgoing ICSU President and Nobel Prize laureate Professor Yuan-Tseh Lee, in his speech, paid tribute to the achievements of the global environmental change research programmes which are in the process of

merging into Future Earth. The President of the Royal Society of New Zealand, David Skegg, noted that of the previous ICSU General Assemblies, only three had been held in the southern hemisphere and this was the first in the South Pacific. Peter Gluckman, Chief Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of New Zealand in a keynote speech stressed the importance of public trust in science which is essential for solving the key challenges society faces in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. One of the key highlights at the assembly was the election of a new Executive Board of ICSU. Two prominent African scientists, Prof Daya Reddy and Prof Cheryl de la Rey, were voted as President-elect and ordinary member of the Executive Board respectively. Professor Gordon Mc Bean, an internationally recognized Canadian meteorologist and climate change expert assumed the presidency, to which he had been elected at the previous GA in Rome, Italy in 2011.

##### 2<sup>nd</sup> Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction (IRDR) Conference and Scientific Committee Meeting, Beijing, China

Prof Samuel N. Ayonghe, from Cameroon and a member of the ICSU ROA consortium on Hazards and Disasters represented the Office at the 2<sup>nd</sup> IRDR Conference 2014 as well as the 11<sup>th</sup> Scientific Meeting of the IRDR held in Beijing, China from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2014. The IRDR conference aimed to advance the development of trans-disciplinary and multidisciplinary alliances for in-depth, practical disaster risk reduction research studies to reduce the risk from disasters and attain sustainable development by shifting the focus from response/recovery to prevention/mitigation. Prof Ayonghe also participated in the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IRDR Science Committee where he gave a presentation on the activities of the ICSU ROA regarding research on natural hazards and disasters in Africa, emphasizing that the ICSU ROA Hazards and



## Core Activities (continued)

Disasters Science Plan published in 2007 was being reviewed by the researchers, taking into cognizance current trends and in line with the objectives of the IRDR programme and the Forensic Investigations of Disasters (FORIN) methodology.

### **CODATA International Workshop on Open Data and Knowledge Environment for Sciences and Sustainability in Developing Countries**



This event was hosted by Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya, in collaboration with the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA), World Data System (WDS) and other partners including ICSU ROA. The Regional Director represented the Office and gave a presentation on “Future Earth and African Actions”. She also participated in developing guidelines on “Sciences and Sustainability: Future Earth data sharing principles” and summarised the inputs of another for incorporation into the Nairobi Data Guidelines. The ICSU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) was also represented. More training sessions and workshops were recommended to mainstream data

issues, which are currently mostly neglected, especially in developing countries.

### **SciDataCon 2014, the International Conference on Data Sharing and Integration for Global Sustainability and WDS Members’ Forum**



SciDataCon 2014, which used to be called CODATA conference, is held every two years, and is an important showcase of open science around the world. At this conference, which was held in New Delhi, India on developing country data, it became clear that issues of managing and sharing data in developing countries are still a huge challenge. The involvement of young scientists was particularly commendable since data issues are getting more complex with evolving technologies, and need new generations to continuously keep up with the times. The non-attendance of the Chinese delegation due to travel challenges resulted in the proposed panel discussion being replaced by another parallel oral presentation session, mostly by African delegates. It was recommended that ICSU ROA actively sensitises African scientists and policy makers around

## Core Activities (continued)

the importance of data, as well as challenges that developing countries face in this regard. Support will be needed for this, especially from South Africa, which has been a role player for some time, and the only member of both CODATA and WDS on the continent.

### Urban Health IPO Launch

The Regional Director represented the Office at the Xiamen Expert Workshop (XEW) on Urban Health and Well-being and IPO launch from 6 to 11 December 2014 at the Institute of Urban Environment (IUE), Chinese Academy of Sciences, Xiamen, China.



The three-fold objectives of the meeting were to bring together leading global researchers working in disciplines related to urban health and well-being to define the strategic and thematic priorities and the medium- and long-term outcomes and activities of the programme, prepare an outlook statement on Urban Health and Well-being: a Systems Approach, and to launch the international programme office (IPO) at IUE. She gave a presentation on ICSU ROA's Regional Thematic Priorities in Urban Health and Well-being and also participated in two Working Groups, on "Capacity

building and education" and "Data needs, management and visualization". It was highly recommended that ICSU ROA and its research scientists stay close to and align their work on health and human well-being with the programme of the new International Programme Office (IPO) where possible; the IPO Executive Director promised to do the same where possible and appropriate for the global level.

The Regional Director also paid a one-day visit to the IPO for IRDR where she met with the IPO staff and held further discussions with the Executive Director on the envisaged participation of the Regions in the World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan in early 2015, for which ICSU ROA has both nominated and funded African scientists to attend preparatory meetings. It was noted that integration with the programme of the IRDR has to continue, despite challenges posed by regional science plans pre-dating the IPO's programme. The Regional Office has to ensure representation of Africa in the Science Committee of the IRDR, as well as consider a regional committee (or even national committees of some sort where possible).

### Activities with the ICSU Family

The period 2014/15 saw an intensification of the Regional Office's support for activities of the ICSU Family on the continent.

### National Members

ICSU ROA successfully organised an African pre-31<sup>st</sup> ICSU General Assembly (GA31) meeting that brought together representatives from 13 ICSU National Members and 3 Scientific Unions in Africa on 25 June 2014, in Pretoria, South Africa. The main aim of this meeting was to consolidate the African members of

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## Core Activities (continued)

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the ICSU family's understanding and strategies for the ICSU GA31, so that they could seek consensus and mobilise support for proposals submitted to GA31 for the benefit of Africa. This meeting also gave the African ICSU family an opportunity to reflect on the main needs and challenges for the successful implementation of Future Earth<sup>1</sup> in Africa as well as explore avenues to foster the development and implementation of this initiative on the continent. The delegates also got an opportunity to receive an update on the activities of ICSU ROA and explored ways to harmonise and strengthen collaborative activities within the continent as well as with other regions of the globe.

### International Scientific Unions

#### *17<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Basic and Clinical Pharmacology*

The Office financially supported and participated in the 17<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (WCP 2014) held in Cape Town from 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2014. The Congress was hosted and coordinated by the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR), South African Society for Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (SASBCP) and Pharmacology for Africa (PharfA). ICSU ROA received much visibility through the participation of its Regional Director in several sessions which afforded her the opportunity to interact and network with a diverse group of participants, including the South African Minister of Science and Technology, particularly on the Future Earth Initiative. Another representative of the Office also chaired one symposium and participated in several other sessions. He also engaged a number of scientists on joining the Health and Human Well-being consortium and interacted with delegates from the Indian ICSU adhering body

regarding the forthcoming ICSU GA31. An exhibition was mounted to showcase the programmes and activities of the Office.

#### *4<sup>th</sup> Capacity and Network Project (CANP4) and the Pan African Conference and Summit*

As listed under Conferences, Meetings and Scientific Fora attended, the Office also supported and participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Capacity and Network Project (CANP4) and the Pan African Conference and Summit meeting organised by the ICMI and IUCr. Presentations were given on the programmes and activities of the Office at both events.

#### *Regional Summit Meeting-International Year of Crystallography*

The IUCr organised the Pan-African Conference and Summit meeting in Bloemfontein, South Africa, on 12 - 17 October 2014, as part of the ongoing activities for the International Year of Crystallography 2014. The conference discussions/presentations centred on the current state of crystallography in Africa while the summit focused on how Crystallography can be used as a potential vehicle to expand science in Africa and beyond. The representative of the Office at these two events gave a presentation on ICSU ROA's science activities in Africa, especially related to Crystallography.

### Activities with other Partners and Networks

Relationships with the Office's traditional partners and networks continued to be strengthened during the financial year ended. Efforts were also made to establish new ones where appropriate and feasible

<sup>1</sup><http://www.futureearth.info>

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## Core Activities (continued)

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### *African Institute of South Africa –Human Sciences Research Council (AISA-HSRC)*

- Collaborative activities between the Office and AISA-HSRC were given further boost with the launch of covers of two books being jointly published on *Management of Solid Waste in Africa*, and *Hazards and Disasters* at a symposium at the University of Mauritius in April, 2014.
- ICSU ROA and AISA-HSRC Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was finally signed.
- Other collaborative activities between the two organisations were the AYGS Conference, the AFURC and Africa Day Expo, African Fellowships and the WSSF (slated for Durban in September 2015).
- The Regional Director participated in the WSSF launch in Durban on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2014 and the regular Consortium Partners' meetings to plan the Forum.

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

- Regular meetings were held involving the two organisations as well as the DST and NRF to plan for the hosting of the Office by ASSAf.
- The Regional Director of ICSU ROA participated in the ASSAf Awards and South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS) Inauguration in Pretoria on October 14, 2014.
- ICSU ROA also participated in the ASSAf-organised Post-ASADI African Academy Development Workshop in Centurion, South Africa from 17 to 19 February, 2015, attended by high-ranking officials from African Science Academies, some of which are members of ICSU. A presentation was made on the role of ICSU ROA in advancing science on the continent.

- On 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2015, ICSU ROA senior staff joined ASSAf in interacting with Prof Bengt Gustafsson, a Swedish Astrophysicist, who visited South Africa to deliver a series of lectures.
- The Office also participated in the International Global Atmospheric Chemistry (IGAC) African Regional Working Group brain-storming meeting organised by ASSAf on March 24, 2015.

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

- Within the context of the MoU between ICSU ROA and the CSIR, a meeting was held between ICSU ROA and the CSIR's Materials Science and Manufacturing Division to explore possibilities of co-publishing a book on Nanotechnology. Efforts to accomplish this are still at the drawing board level due to the complexity of the discipline and changes in role players as discussions progressed.
- ICSU ROA, however, has a relationship with ACCESS which is a Centre of Excellence within the CSIR.

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

- The Office was represented at a workshop on "Policies for Resilience and Development in the Anthropocene" in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 20-21 October, 2014 organised by the Environment for Development (EfD) programme with involvement of institutions from Sweden, East Africa and other parts of the globe. ICSU ROA accepted a request for collaboration in identifying eligible institutions from the other sub-regions of the continent to join the programme.



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## Core Activities (continued)

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

- The Regional Director was invited as a respondent to an external international review panel convened by the NRF to, among others, review the alignment of ACCESS with the objectives of the Centre of Excellence funding instrument and assess its performance against the goals of the DST's Global Change Grand Challenge (GCGC) on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2014.
- She also participated as a member of the ACCESS Steering Committee at a meeting held at the CSIR on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2014.

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

- Despite the reported formalisation of a relationship between ICSU, TWAS and the Inter-Academy Panel (IAP) in early 2014, the Office was yet to explore what to do with TWAS at regional level. One of the possible opportunities is the imminent hosting of the TWAS Regional Office for sub-Saharan Africa (TWAS ROSSA) by ASSAf to be formalized during 2015.

## Strategic Partnerships

Relationships with our strategic partners continued to receive utmost attention during the financial year. Strategic partners like the National Research Foundation of South Africa (NRF), the Department of Science and Technology of South Africa (DST), the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and the Swedish Secretariat for Environmental Earth System Sciences (SSEESS) enjoyed maximum cooperation and collaboration with the Office in pursuit of the African scientific agenda.

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

The NRF, as the host of the Office, engaged it in many of its strategic and developmental activities during the reporting period. As a hosted Directorate, the Office regularly participated in the NRF's RISA Executive meetings on invitation. At the yearly NRF Induction Course, the Office was invited to share its programmes and activities with new employees. The NRF also partnered with the Office in organising the pre-ICSU GA31 National Members and Scientific Unions meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 in Pretoria as reported under activities of the ICSU family (National members) Dr Aldo Stroebe (Executive Director, International Relations and Cooperation) represented the NRF at this meeting, where he highlighted the NRF's contribution to African science through supporting the activities of the Regional Office. He encouraged other governments in the region to come on board and to get involved in the implementation of international mega-science programmes like the Future Earth initiative.

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

The DST continued to be the main funder of ICSU ROA over the period. Its oversight responsibility and strategic direction has driven the process for a smooth transition from the NRF to ASSAf as the new host of the Office, which is yet to be finalised by the beginning of the new financial year. The Office participated in a number of activities organised by the DST, prominent among which were the South African mini-National Summit on Future Earth on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 and Africa's Diplomacy Seminar on May 13, 2014. A representative of the DST, Dr Yonah Seleti, gave the keynote address at the Future Earth Regional Workshop for Africa II at the University of Pretoria in June, 2014.

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## Core Activities (continued)

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The DST seconded an intern to the Office for one year, from May 2014 to April, 2015. Plans are underway to have another intern seconded to ICSU ROA either by the DST or NRF during the next financial year – not only 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 remained the major funding agency for activities organised by ICSU ROA during the 2014/15 financial year through the grant awarded to ICSU in 2012. The Soweto I meeting held at UJ’s Soweto campus and Future Earth Regional Workshop for Africa II are but a few of such activities organised with Sida funding during the reporting period. The Office has in the past financial year been involved in compiling a 5-year project proposal with the global secretariat and other partners to be submitted to Sida on Building Capacity for Integrated Research on Global Sustainability in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. This proposal is a follow up to the Sida-funded pilot project “Strengthening the Involvement of Developing Countries in Setting and Implementing the Research Agenda for Global Sustainability”, which ICSU, together with its Regional Offices for Africa (ROA), Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), and Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) as well as the Global Change System for Analysis, Research, and Training (START) implemented during the May 2012 - June 2014 period.

### *The Swedish Secretariat for Environmental Earth System Sciences*

A number of African scientists with their Swedish collaborators from the Stockholm International Water

Institute, The Royal Institute of Technology, Umea University and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences benefited from the Swedish Secretariat for Environmental Earth System Sciences grant for holding proposal development workshops, with the support of the Office. With financial support from SSEESS, the Regional Director of ICSU ROA held a meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 in Stockholm with these Swedish researchers to discuss their plans and challenges. The objective of the meeting was for these scientists to engage ICSU ROA on their activities in Africa and their envisaged future plans after the funded projects. She also had a SSEESS Grant 2015 call finalisation meeting with Dr Neda Frahbakhshazad.

A one-day consortium building workshop was organized by SAUNET of the Baltic University Programme (BUP), Uppsala University and the ICSU ROA, on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2014 at Eklundshof, Uppsala. The workshop with the theme “Reducing the Risk of Natural and Human-induced Hazards and Disasters for Africa’s Sustainability”, was attended by four members of the ICSU ROA Hazards and Disasters consortium as well as the Regional Director and Programme Specialist responsible for that consortium, with SSEESS sponsorship.

## **Interaction with Intergovernmental Bodies**

The Office’s interaction and engagement with national governmental institutions and intergovernmental bodies remained constant as far as necessary to promote the African scientific agenda in this financial year. AU and UN collaborating bodies like AMCOST, NEPAD, UNESCO, UNECA and UNEP as well as Regional Economic Communities like the SADC, remained ICSU ROA’s traditional collaborators in this regard.

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## Core Activities (continued)

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### *Southern African Development Community (SADC)*

During the period under review, the Office honoured a number of invitations to participate in programmes and activities of SADC. SADC held the Joint Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), Education and Training from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 in Maputo, Mozambique. The Office was represented at the preliminary meeting of responsible Senior Officials in the sub-region, which deliberated on and adopted several decisions for approval by the Ministers on the last day of the meeting. A presentation on ICSU ROA's programmes and activities, including the Future Earth Initiative, informed the mandating of the SADC Secretariat to initiate a process to involve the community in Future Earth activities, bringing on board other organizations like the SASSCAL which is also involved in Climate Change activities.

By further invitation, the Office also participated in the SADC Regional Validation Workshop for the Green Economy Strategy and Action Plan held in Harare, Zimbabwe from 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 to review and validate the strategy prior to its finalisation and submission to the SADC member states.

The Office was again represented at the Southern African Innovation Forum (SAIF) jointly organised by SADC and the Southern African Innovation Support (SAIS) Programme from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 in Johannesburg.

### *African Union Commission*

The Office's involvement in the programmes and activities of the African Union Commission continued over the period. The Regional Director was invited to the 5<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST V) in Brazzaville, Congo, from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 to discuss and finalize the draft Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024) document. This invitation, however, could not be honoured because the meeting was held over the Easter holiday period and travelling arrangements were complicated.

### **Outreach Activities**

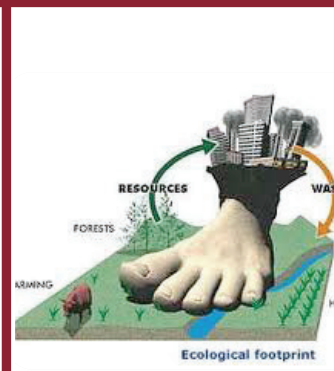
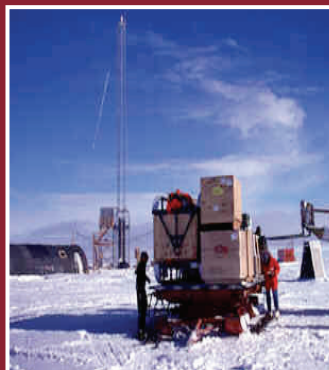
ICSU ROA scientific staff also made contributions to processes that used their scientific expertise without compromising their responsibilities. To this end, the Director is the Vice Chair of both the Medicines Control Council of South Africa and its Clinical Trials Committee. She is also part of the country's National Health Research Committee. In the latter capacity, she is involved in the World Health Organisation Afro Office's initiative to establish the African Forum for Health Research, which will be a biennial summit addressing health research issues on the continent, hosted on a rotational basis by different countries. The Programme Specialists have contributed to the scientific processes of ASSAf and the NRF, for example, interviewing of scientists and panel evaluations for scientific rating.

Financial Report

Challenges of the 2014/15 Financial Year

Conclusion

Annexes



# Financial Report

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH, 2015

	Year ended 31 March 2015	Year ended 31 March 2014
	ZAR	ZAR
INCOME RECEIVED		
Department of Science & Technology	2 000 000.00	2 000 000.00
ICSU Secretariat, Paris	1 056 982.50	1 004 798.18
ICSU Paris - Conference Income	974 091.64	213 995.24
Publication Income	2 052.56	26 748.53
<b>NRF CONTRIBUTION</b>	<b>2 049 416.19</b>	<b>2 817 284.70</b>
<b>UNCOMMITTED FUNDS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR</b>	<b>2 348 455.72</b>	<b>1 071 443.98</b>
<b>FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>8 430 998.61</b>	<b>7 134 270.63</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>5 306 493.79</b>	<b>4 785 814.91</b>
RUNNING EXPENSES	1 866 554.87	1 739 448.46
Audit fees	16 797.70	75 368.00
Bank charges	1 620.58	2 288.34
Computer Consumables	6 131.00	639.60
Conferences and Workshops	406 328.00	360 294.73

## Financial Report (continued)

Exchange		451.12
Fees for Services	142 790.57	4 261.82
Marketing costs	1 604.55	4 688.93
Purchases	1 629.51	1 175.31
Postage and Courier	3 322.23	25 032.30
Printing & Publications	56 641.00	63 684.06
Recruitment and training	5 136.00	87 011.96
Refreshments	3 908.14	4 272.72
Stationery	8 110.28	3 117.67
Telephone	14 128.40	18 410.76
Travel and Subsistence - international	910 599.82	794 230.93
Travel and Subsistence - local	287 807.09	294 520.21
 SALARIES	 3 438 359.87	 3 042 537.97
 <b>CAPITAL EXPENSES</b>		
 Computers and Equipment	 1 579.05	 3 828.48
 <b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) AT END OF YEAR</b>	 <b>3 124 504.82</b>	 <b>2 348 455.72</b>

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## Challenges of the 2014/15 Financial Year

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The numerous successes outlined earlier on came accompanied by a host of challenges in governance and operational activities of the Office over the period. The non-constitution of the RCA since the end of term of the last one at the end of December 2013 deprived the Office of vital strategic direction and guidance. As intimated in our last report, this invariably left a number of planned activities without endorsement as statutory, especially the development of the ICSU ROA Annual Performance Plan (APP) for 2015/16.

The rocky process of transition from the NRF to ASSAf indeed left staff in a quandary, characterized by senses of insecurity, concomitantly affecting permit renewal of the expatriate staff and interfering with the continuity of planned activities. Above all, it has impacted negatively on long-term planning of the Office's activities.



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## Conclusion

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The challenges notwithstanding, the ICSU ROA was able to satisfactorily carry through crucial programmes and activities outlined in its business plan for the 2014/15 financial year. The implementation activities of the Hazards and Disasters consortium were boosted through the sponsorship of the SSEESS and the Ivorian government to hold workshops to forge partnerships and develop proposals to be submitted for funding in response to calls. Several scientists associated with the Office were sponsored to participate in global activities and events of ICSU, thus affording them the opportunity to interact with and share ideas with colleagues from other parts of the globe on topical issues in their respective thematic areas.

It is hoped that a new RCA will be constituted in good time to restore strategic oversight of the Office's activities. It is the anticipation of the Office that transiting from the NRF to ASSAf will engender more collaborative activities with a wider network of scientific bodies with which ASSAf is affiliated, which should be possible once the teething challenges have been surmounted.



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# Annexes

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

Name	Position
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: ICSU Members and Associates in Africa**

#### **Annex B1 - ICSU National Members in Africa (including observers)**

Angola:	Foundation of Science and Development
Cameroon:	Academy of Sciences
Egypt:	Academy of Scientific Research and Technology
Kenya:	Kenya National Academy of Sciences
Malawi:	National Research Council of Malawi
Mauritius:	Mauritius Research Council
Morocco:	Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique
Namibia:	Ministry of Education: Directorate of Research, Science and Technology
Nigeria:	Nigerian Academy of Science
Seychelles:	Seychelles Centre for Marine Research and Technology
South Africa:	National Research Foundation
Tanzania:	Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology
Togo:	Chancelleries des Universités du Togo
Uganda:	Uganda National Council for Science and Technology
Zimbabwe:	Research Council of Zimbabwe
Botswana:	Botswana Institute of Technology Research and Innovation
Burkina Faso:	Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technologique

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## Annexes (continued)

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Côte d'Ivoire:	Académie des Sciences, des Arts, des Cultures d'Afrique et des Diasporas Africaines
Ethiopia:	Ethiopian Science and Technology Agency
Ghana:	Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences
Lesotho:	Department of Science and Technology
Mozambique:	Scientific Research Association of Mozambique
Rwanda:	Kigali Institute of Science and Technology
Senegal:	Association des Chercheurs Sénégalais
Sudan:	National Centre for Research
Swaziland:	National Research Council

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## Annexes (continued)

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### **Annex B2 - ICSU National Scientific Associates in Africa**

Madagascar:	Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique
Tunisia:	Université Tunis El Manar
AAS:	African Academy of Sciences



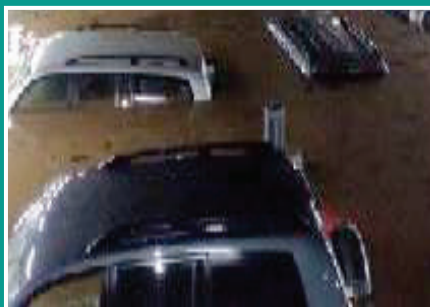
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## Disclaimer

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# Strengthening international science for the benefit of society

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