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# The role and institutional presence of the International Science Council (ISC) in Africa

**2023 Mid-Term Meeting of ISC Members  
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# Future Africa and its role in African science



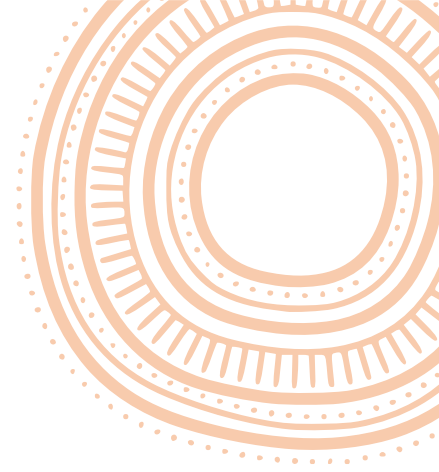
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FUTURE  
AFRICA



# What is Future Africa?



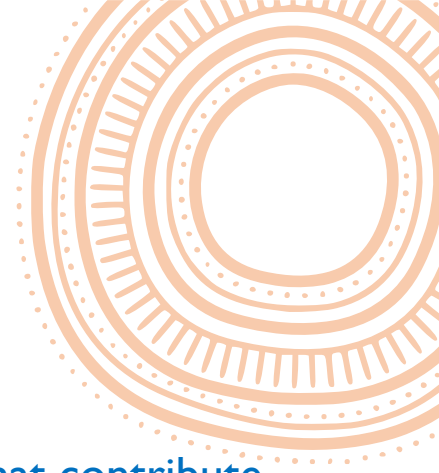
Future Africa is the University of Pretoria's pan-African collaborative platform for research that works across the sciences and with society to address Africa's biggest and most urgent contemporary challenges.



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# What makes Future Africa distinctive for the continent & global science?



- Its overarching purpose to develop and unleash the transformative potential of African sciences that contribute concrete solutions to complex societal challenges in Africa and beyond.
- A pan-African focus in a global context – that means addressing the most critical and interconnected socio-ecological and economic problems, with the aim of influencing and accelerating global sustainability transformations.
- Fostering meaningful interdisciplinarity that draws on knowledge, methods and approaches across all scientific fields and disciplines.
- Advancing transdisciplinarity through collaboration with stakeholders from policy, private sector, and civic society – focusing on co-designing and co-production of knowledge-oriented solutions.
- Promoting a holistic and systems approach to understanding and solving complex problems –focusing on the wider and interactive systems they are part of.
- Harnessing cutting-edge digital tools to fuel scientific discovery and reach the widest possible beneficiaries.



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# Future Africa's engagement in pan-African science platforms

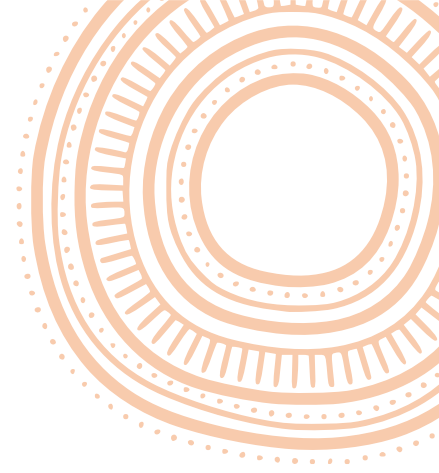


International Network  
for Governmental  
Science Advice



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# **Future Africa's collaboration with the International Science Council (ISC)**



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# Future Africa-ISC alignment



- The ISC 2022-2024 Action Plan scientific and organizational priorities are intrinsically aligned to Future Africa's priorities
  - Global Sustainability
  - Science in Policy and Public Discourse
  - Engaging more effectively with members and expanding the membership base
- This alignment is an opportunity for Future Africa to facilitate engagement with African stakeholders to:
  - Understand the interests and needs of Africa's science community
  - Reframe a value proposition for Africa's role in the ISC
  - Explore opportunities to foster equitable partnerships that enhance the voice and visibility of African perspectives in global science
  - Support the ISC increase its reach and relevance on the continent



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# Collaborative ISC scoping and mapping project



## Objective

- Convene a consortium of African partners to lead a pan-African scoping and development process aimed at identifying the need and ideal nature of a long-term ISC role and related institutional presence on the continent

## Timeframe

- 2 years (2023-2024)

## Main Outcome

- A report and proposal to the ISC Governing Board with recommendations about the ISC's future role and institutional presence in Africa, as well as an envisioned and feasible implementation pathway.



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# Project Coordination

## FA-ISC Task Force

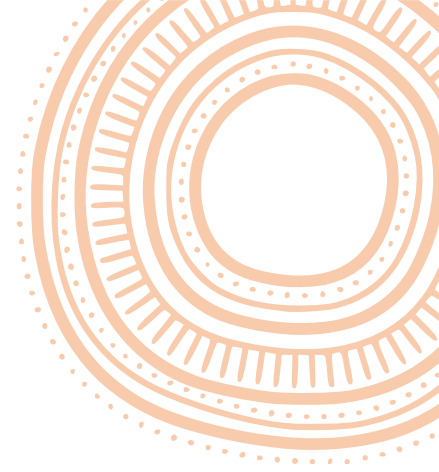
- Composed of 16 individuals nominated by ISC members from Africa, including ISC member representatives, ISC fellows, regional scientific organizations.
- Chaired by an ISC Member or Fellow, who will engage with and report to ISC Governing Board on behalf of the Task Force.
- Meet on a quarterly basis, mostly virtually.
- Task Force to be supported by a FA-ISC team

## Work Plan for FA-ISC Team

- Comprehensive stakeholder mapping
- Desk research
- Open consultations – through surveys, interviews, hybrid convenings across multiple sectors and sub-regions
- Communications, including reporting
- Report and proposal drafting
- Draft a fundraising prospectus and strategy



# Future Africa's value proposition



## Value proposition to the ISC

- Access to Future Africa networks, both pan-African and relevant global networks
- Knowledge of African science systems and access to key system decision-makers
- Office space and facilities, including meeting / collaborative venues at FA
- Financial accountability
- Access to relevant capacities to support the work proposed

## Value proposition to the ISC African members

- The possibility to expand their own pan-African and global networks, for example, through meetings with stakeholders on the continent
- To have influence in ISC development and strategy that is relevant to Africa
- To be part of the conceptualization of a global platform for African science



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# Thank You



<https://www.futureafrica.science>