

Draft Criteria for Accreditation of NEPAD Science and Technology Projects

1. Introduction

The aim of this document is to outline criteria that will be used to accredit project proposals as NEPAD projects in the area of Science and Technology. These criteria are intended to provide the Steering Committee with a clear and uniform standard to apply in endorsing NEPAD projects. This is intended to protect NEPAD as a brand and limit the possibility of confusion as to the identity of approved NEPAD Science and Technology projects.

2. Accrediting Authority

- 2.1 The Steering Committee for Science and Technology shall be the ultimate authority responsible for accrediting NEPAD projects.
- 2.2 The Steering Committee may enlist the services of individual experts or organizations in making preliminary assessments prior to the decision. The organizations that could be involved in this exercise include regional institutions, continental bodies and other international formations that have the requisite expertise and experience.
- 2.3 The NEPAD Secretariat shall serve as the point of entry of all applications for accreditation, before they are submitted to the Steering Committee for consideration.

3. Accreditation Criteria

It is expected that most Science and Technology cooperation projects would emanate from the processes directed by the Steering Committee, particularly in the Business Plan approved by the Ministerial Council. However, countries and organizations based in Africa or abroad, could present project proposals for consideration as NEPAD projects. The following criteria would be applied in considering the proposals:

3.1 Source, Nature and Content of the Project

- 3.1.1 The projects must be based on one or more of the 12 flagship programmes, in particular, and be designed to advance the Science and Technology Plan of Action, in general.
- 3.1.2 Projects, whichever source proposes or promotes them, must demonstrate "African ownership" in terms of the basis tenets of NEPAD.
- 3.1.3 Member countries would have decisive inputs in the conceptualization of the project and be responsible for their successful implementation.
- 3.1.4 The projects that would be considered for accreditation as NEPAD projects shall be of such a nature as to add qualitative or quantitative value to existing programmes.

3.1.5 Projects would be considered across the entire knowledge spectrum, namely, the production of new or cutting edge knowledge; technology development, transfer and extension; and, the rendition of services on the basis of established technologies and know-how.

3.2 Scope

3.2.1 Projects that would be considered as NEPAD projects shall consist of at least three participating member countries of the African Union.

3.2.2 The project should be of a nature that is likely to deliver a cross-border impact in one or more of the regions of the continent.

3.2.3 A project that is initially intended to be implemented in one region should have the capacity for replication in other regions, should it be necessary.

3.3 Funding

3.3.1 Projects that are commissioned by the Steering Committee in terms of the adopted Plan of Action and the approved business plan shall be funded from the funds raised by the NEPAD Secretariat.

3.3.2 The NEPAD Secretariat shall assist in raising funds for other approved projects.

3.3.3 Approved projects could also be funded from sources raised independently by member countries or organizations that promote the projects.

3.4 Project Finance and Accounting

3.4.1 Networks of institutions and other agencies that implement projects shall be formally constituted in a manner that would facilitate the raising, transfer, disbursement and accounting of funds.

3.4.2 Proper accounting provisions should be made explicit in all project proposals, including auditing provisions.

3.4.3 The Steering Committee reserves the right to demand financial statements and institute financial audits on all approved NEPAD projects.

4. Project Implementation

The responsibility of project implementation shall reside with the implementing authority designated in the project plan. The NEPAD Secretariat shall provide guidance under the oversight of the Steering Committee.

5. Conclusion

The Steering Committee shall review the above criteria regularly to ensure that they continue to serve their intended purpose.