

AAUN **AUSTRALIA AFRICA**
UNIVERSITIES NETWORK

Equal research partnerships, addressing mutual challenges

About AAUN

AAUN has developed distinct Australian African character in its equal partnerships

- ❑ The only consortium of universities spanning Australia and Africa
- ❑ Established to inject new vigour into the academic relationships between the two continents
- ❑ Working together to find innovative, long lasting, solutions for critical issues challenging both continents
- ❑ Building synergy and teamwork beyond that of individual partners, but not duplicating their individual programs.

AAUN has identified 5 “Securities” as areas of focus:

- **Environment, agriculture, food and nutrition**
- **Public Health in non communicable disease**
- **Higher education and research capacity**
- **Sustainability in mining and extractive communities**
- **Public Sector, employment and economic development**

Why Africa and Australia?

Australia and Africa are two Southern continents facing similar challenges:

- increasing agricultural productivity with climate change
- management of scarce water resources
- the revolution in higher education and research
- Public health in nutrition, obesity and heart disease
- Conservation and development of talent

The AAUN draws on the strengths of our network partners in each continent to provide sustainable solutions to our shared challenges.

Vision

Strategic higher education and research partnerships achieving distinct, innovative and sustainable solutions to challenges facing Australia and Africa.

Mission

To strengthen and enhance targeted Africa-Australia partnerships through a network of collaborative research and education initiatives. AAUN improves the capacity and connectivity of academic talent across the two continents. Through working with research institutions, business and government, AAUN delivers sustainable solutions to our joint challenges.

Strategies and Activities

- Develop and sustain the 53 AAUN intercontinental research teams
- Convene two major annual forums to drive Australia-Africa research & education priorities. Host up to ten joint targeted strategic workshops & conferences
- Expand the AAUN PRDF & attract new resources from governments / agencies
- Introduce an Africa-Australia mobility fund to fuel development of new research partnerships. Emphasise the advancement of early career researchers and women
- Introduce a two-way research capacity building & training program
- Promote & engage in the Australia Awards Africa scholarship programs
- Provide support for African graduates / Awardees returning from international training or research programs
- Produce a series of policy position papers on our five key areas of engagement
- Engage with industry, government & civil society through joint projects, conferences / events on joint Australia-Africa challenges

AAUN Partnerships & Research Development Fund (PRDF)

- ❑ The PRDF annual competitive catalytic grants of \$AUD 10,000 to foster partnerships across the network, including new members, and support planning workshops and research collaborations that address distinct mutual challenges.
- ❑ The PRDF provides one year of catalytic seed funding with the firm expectation that funded projects will be excellent, build specialist teams, achieve impact and be sustainable through the early identification of additional external funding.

Knowledge Partners and Sponsors

ACIAR

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research



**National
Research
Foundation**



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



**The Association
of Commonwealth
Universities**

Australian Members

- Australian National University
- Curtin University
- Murdoch University
- University of Newcastle
- University of New South Wales
- University of Queensland
- University of Western Australia
- Western Sydney University

African Members

- Makerere University, Uganda
- Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa
- University of Botswana, Botswana
- University of Cape Town, South Africa
- University of Ghana, Ghana
- University of Mauritius, Mauritius
- University of Nairobi, Kenya
- University of Pretoria, South Africa
- Nelson Mandela University, South Africa
- University of Mpumalanga, South Africa
- University of Rwanda, Rwanda

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