

PROGRAMME

Evidence Leaders in Africa Virtual Conference

November 3-4, 2020

Conference Theme: Strengthening the think-tank role of researchers in supporting government decision-making for better development outcomes

The African Academy of Sciences (AAS) and the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) will convene an Evidence Leaders in Africa Virtual Conference on 3rd and 4th November 2020. The two-day conference is part of the Evidence Leaders in Africa (ELA) Initiative, which seeks to inspire and empower scholars to proactively engage governments to use science and innovation, as well as champion Evidence-Informed Decision-Making (EIDM). The initiative is funded by the Hewlett Foundation.

The purpose of the conference is to facilitate sharing of lessons among Africa researchers mainly within the AAS networks, policymakers and practitioners in Africa on researchers' roles and experiences in strengthening evidence use in government decision-making.

The conference will cover various themes in EIDM including, but not limited to:

- **Development and use of guidelines** for evidence or research use within government agencies
- **Research/Knowledge translation** i.e. synthesis, packaging including the use of policy briefs and other non-scientific evidence products
- **Participation of scientists in policymaking spaces**
- **Use of platforms for improving interaction and research translation to** facilitate interaction between policymakers and researchers
- **Building relationships** including working with research evidence champions
- **Evidence use in times of COVID-19** - Experiences and lessons from Africa

The conference format will include a keynote speech, panel discussions, oral presentations by AAS fellows, affiliates, grantees on their initiatives in enabling EIDM, and skills-building, networking and lesson-sharing session. and researchers undertaking research.

Day 1: Tuesday 3rd November, 2020

Time (EAT)	Session
10:30 – 11:25	<p>Welcome Note and Session Moderator: Dr. Isayvani Naicker, Director of Strategy and Partnerships, AAS</p> <p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prof. Tom Kariuki, Director of Programmes, AAS ● Dr. Eliya Zulu, Executive Director, AFIDEP ● Ms. Sarah Lucas, Program Officer, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation <p>Keynote Speaker Prof. Paul Tiyambe Zeleza, Vice Chancellor, United States International University-Africa</p>
11.25 – 11.30	5 mins transition to next session
11:30 – 12:30	Session 1: Panel Discussion
	Session Topic: Strengthening the Role of Research and other Types of Policy Influencing Evidence in Improving the Delivery of Effective Development in Africa

	<p>Speaker and Moderator: Dr. JPR Ochieng'-Odero, Project Team Leader, East African Research Fund (EARF)</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Nicholas Ozor, Executive Director, African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS), Kenya • Dr. Kwabena Tandoh, Deputy Director General, Ghana Education Service, Ghana • Dr. Peter C. Ekweozoh, Director Department of Environmental Sciences and Technology Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, Nigeria • Prof. Walter Odhiambo Oyawa, Director General of the Kenya National Commission for Science, Technology & Innovation (NACOSTI), Kenya <p>Discussion</p>
12:30 – 13:30	Mid-day Break & Networking
12:45 – 13:25	Side Session
	<p>Session Topic: Strengthening Institutional Capacities for Increased Use of Evidence in Decision-making in Government Agencies: Experiences from Nigeria and Tanzania</p> <p>Speaker and Moderator: Dr. Rose Oronje, Director, Public Policy & Communications, AFIDEP</p> <p>Presentation 1: Evidence Use in Environmental Policymaking in Nigeria Project, [Dr. Temitope Sogbanmu, ELA seed grantee, University of Lagos, Nigeria]</p> <p>Presentation 2: Capacity Building and Promotion of EIDM among Researchers and Policymakers for Enhanced Evidence Use in Tanzania. [Dr. Faith Mabiki, ELA seed grantee, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania]</p> <p>Question and Answer</p>
13:25 – 13:30	5 mins transition to next session
13:30 – 15:00	Breakout Session 1
	Breakout room 1a
	<p>Session Topic: Use of Guidelines and Other Tools to Promote Evidence Use within Government Agencies</p> <p>Speaker and Moderator: Prof. Mugabe Ouma John, Professor of Science and Innovation Policy, University of Pretoria</p> <p>Topics (10 minutes for each presenter)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application of an Online Research Platform to Support Health Sector Decision-making at County Level in Kenya [Dr. James Kariuki Ngumo, Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), Kenya] 2. Using Evidence Portals to Promote Uptake of Evidence Policies in Basic Services Introduction in Cameroon, Political Processes and Public Policies Occur at Central and Decentralized Level [Dr. Okwen Patrick, Effective Basic Services (eBASE) Africa, Cameroon] 3. Developing and Institutionalizing the Use of Guidelines for Evidence or Research at the Municipal Level: Lessons from Senegal [Dr. Seydina Ousmane Sene, Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale (IPAR), Dakar-Senegal] 4. The Evidence Barometer: Increasing Effectiveness of Basic Service in Cameroon [Dr. Kanga Emmanuel Berinyuy, Effective Basic Services (eBASE) Africa, Cameroon] <p>Discussion</p>

14:40 – 15:00	<p>Breakout room 1b</p> <p>Session Topic: Experiences and Lessons on Interactions Between Policymakers and Researchers</p> <p>Speaker and Moderator: Dr. Isayvani Naicker, Director of Strategy and Partnerships, AAS</p> <p>Topics (10 minutes for each presenter)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State of Evidence-informed Decision-making in Materials Science and Engineering discipline in Nigeria [Dr. Michael Oluwatosin Bodunrin, Federal University of Technology Akure, Nigeria] 2. The Hidden Potential of Green Resources Products Trade Contributions to Industrialization in Tanzania [Dr. Faith Philemon Mabiki, AESA-RISE Postdoctoral grantee, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania] 3. Ponya Mtoto Project, The Ponya Mtoto Project being Implemented in 4 Counties in Kenya - Bungoma, Turkana, Kilifi and Mombasa. [Dr. Jesse Gitaka, Mount Kenya University, Kenya] 4. A Discovery, which led to Advocacy for Water Renewed Policy for the People of Osun state, Nigeria [Dr. Adewale Adewuyi, Redeemer’s University, Nigeria] <p>Discussion</p>
15:00 – 15:30	<p>Afternoon Break and Networking</p>
15:30 – 16:45	<p>Breakout Session 2</p>
	<p>Breakout room 2a</p> <p>Session Topic: Use of Platforms for Improving Interaction and Research Translation</p> <p>Speaker and Moderator: Dr. James Kariuki Ngumo, Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), Kenya</p> <p>Topics (10 minutes for each presenter)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promoting the Utilisation of Scientific Evidence for Environmental Policymaking in Nigeria [Dr. Temitope Olawunmi Sogbanmu, AAS Affiliate, University of Lagos, Nigeria] 2. Establishing and Using Institutional Platforms for Facilitating Interaction between Policymakers and Researchers in Uganda [Dr. Joseph Obua, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Makerere University, Uganda] 3. Medicinal plant remedies: Prospective challenges of increasing future demand [Dr. Olayinka A. Oridupa, Department of Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Ibadan, Nigeria] 4. Does Climate Change Mainstreaming through Entrepreneurship in Adaptation could Foster Demographic Dividend in ECOWAS countries? [Dr. Labintan Adeniyi Constant, Laboratory of Sustainability and Population Dynamica (LADYPOD)/Beninese Centre for Scientific and Innovative Research (CBRSI), Benin] <p>Question and Answer</p>
15:30 – 16:45	<p>Breakout room 2b</p>
	<p>Session Topic: Experiences in Engaging Various Policy Actors (including the public) in Promoting Evidence Use</p> <p>Speaker and Moderator: Prof. Mahouton Norbert Hounkonnou, International Chair in Mathematical Physics and Applications (ICMPA-UNESCO Chair), University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin.</p> <p>Topics (10 minutes for each presenter)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seeking Policy Relevance for Climate Adaptation in Informal Settlements in Nigeria [Dr. Olumuyiwa Adegun, AAS Fellow; AAS Grantee, Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria] 2. Supporting Families to Cope with Children with Disability through Discourse, Innovation, and Best Practices in Cameroon. [Dr. Yuh Mirabel Nain, Effective Basic Services (eBASE) Africa, Cameroon]

	<p>3. Facilitating Evidence Informed Decision Making to Non-Literate Consumers in Cameroon Background in Cameroun [Ms. Aweh Annih Akofu, Effective Basic Services (eBASE) Africa, Cameroon]</p> <p>4. Investigation of the Extend of Wetlands Lost in Two Ugandan Cities, Wakiso and Kampala, in the last 30 years [Dr. Stella Kabiri-Marial, Mukono Zonal Agricultural Research Institute (MUZARDI) of the National Agricultural research Organization, Kampala, Uganda]</p> <p>Question and Answer</p>
16:45 – 16:50	5 mins transition to next session
16:50 – 17:45	<p>Side Sessions These sessions will be running concurrently, participants will have to select which session to join.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Carol Mukiira, Research and Policy Associate, AFIDEP</p> <hr/> <p>Session 1: Building Capacity of Researchers in the Area of Policy and Experience Sharing - Mawazo Institute. This will be a moderated panel session on experiences and insights on strengthening research capacity in Africa.</p> <p>Panelists: Dr. Evelyn Gitau - Director, Research Capacity Strengthening, African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC) Dr. Rose Oronje - Director, Public Policy and Communications, African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) Dr. Rose M. Mutiso - Co-Founder and CEO, Mawazo Institute</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Grace Mwaura, AAS</p> <hr/> <p>Session 2 (Skills Building): Online Branding for Scientists - AAS This session will focus on developing and maintaining a strong online personal brand for scientist/researchers</p> <p>Facilitator: Mr. Emmanuel Dabo, Afrique One Aspire</p> <hr/> <p>Session 3 (Skills Building): Writing Blogs - AFIDEP This session will focus on how to leverage blogs to communicate research and policy messages</p> <p>Facilitator: Ms. Elizabeth Kahurani, AFIDEP</p>
17:45 – 17:50	Wrap Up and Closing , Dr. Isayvani Naicker, Director of Strategy and Partnerships, AAS

Day 2: Wednesday 4th November, 2020

10:30 – 11:30	<p>Plenary Panel Discussion</p> <p>Session Topic: Evidence Use in COVID-19 Responses: Experiences and Lessons from Africa</p> <p>Speaker and Moderator: Dr. Eliya Zulu, Executive Director, AFIDEP</p> <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Glenda Gray, President & CEO, South African Medical Research Council, South Africa • Ms. Fatuma Guleid, Knowledge Translation Expert, KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme, Kenya • Prof. Amadou T. Gaye, Physician on Ocean Atmospheric Research, Director General of STI, Senegal • Prof. Joseph Chukwudi Okeibunor, Regional Social Scientist, World Health Organization, Congo
11:30 – 11:35	5 minutes transition to the next session
11:35 – 12:30	<p>Groups Sessions [4 groups]</p> <p>Discussion Question: How can Researchers Position themselves to Better Support Governments with Evidence and Other Expertise in Future Pandemic Responses?</p> <p>Speaker and Facilitator: Dr. Isayvani Naicker, Director of Strategy and Partnerships, AAS</p> <p>Small group discussions [20 minutes discussion per group]</p> <p>Group 1: Prof. Joseph Chukwudi Okeibunor, Regional Social Scientist, World Health Organization, Congo</p> <p>Group 2: Ms. Fatuma Guleid, Knowledge Translation Expert, KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme, Nairobi, Kenya</p> <p>Group 3: Dr. Glenda Gray, President & CEO of the South African Medical Research Council, South Africa</p> <p>Group 4: Prof. Amadou T. Gaye, Physician on Ocean Atmospheric Research, Director General of STI, Senegal</p> <p>Group feedback and discussion</p>
12:30 – 13:30	Midday break and networking
12:45 – 13:25	<p>Side Session during Lunch Hour</p> <p>Session Topic: Strengthening Institutional Capacities for Increased Use of Evidence in Decision-making in Government Agencies: Experiences from Nigeria and Tanzania</p> <p>Speaker and Moderator: Dr. Rose Oranje, Director, Public Policy & Communications, AFIDEP</p> <p>Presentation 1: Developing Guidelines for Evidence Use in Nigeria Natural Medicine Development Agency (NNMDA), [Dr. Eucharia Nwaichi, University of Port Harcourt Rivers State, Nigeria]</p> <p>Presentation 2: Transmission Pathways for Evidence Informed Decision-making in Uganda, [Prof. Justin Bakibinga, Uganda National Academy of Sciences, Uganda]</p>
13:25 – 13:30	5 minutes transition to the next session
13:30 – 15:00	<p>Breakout Session 3</p> <p>Breakout Room 3a</p> <p>Session Topic: Research/Knowledge Translation i.e. Synthesis, Packaging including the Use of Policy Briefs and Other Non-scientific Evidence Products</p> <p>Speaker and Moderator: Prof. Catherine Odora Hoppers, Alumni-University of South Africa, South Africa</p>

	<p>Topics (10 minutes for each presenter)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advancing Innovative, Evidence-Informed, Demand-Driven and Policy-Relevant Research for Strengthening Health Systems and Improving Patient Outcomes in Africa through Capacity Building in Evidence Synthesis and Evidence-based Medicine in Ghana. [Dr. Anthony Danso-Appiah, University of Ghana Centre for Evidence Synthesis and Policy, School of Public Health, University of Ghana] 2. Developing Nurse-led Models of Stroke Care: Insight on Outcomes and Barriers to Evidence Based Practice (EBP) in Nigeria. [Ms. Rita Melifonwu MSc, MA, BSc (Hons), RN, Ashoka Fellow, Nurse Consultant in Stroke Rehabilitation, Stroke Action, Nigeria] 3. Elaborate Practical Manual of Production and Plantation of Mangrove Species in Benin and Train Local Populations, Nurserymen, NGOs and Forest Officers on the Techniques of Production and Planting of Mangrove Species in Benin [Dr. Elie Antoine PADONOU, AAS Affiliate, School of Tropical Forestry, National University of Agriculture, Benin] 4. Nexus between Gender Inequalities and Conservation of Wildlife Protected Areas in Tanzania in the Face of Climate Change [Dr. Asanterabi Lowassa, Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute and Nelson Mandela Institute of Science and Technology, Tanzania] <p>Question and Answer</p>
13:30 – 15:00	<p>Breakout room 3b</p>
	<p>Session Topic: Experiences of Researchers in Promoting Evidence Use</p> <p>Speaker and Moderator: Dr. Promise Nduku, Africa Centre for Evidence, University of Johannesburg, South Africa.</p> <p>Topics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An Ongoing Project of an Innovative Water-saving Irrigation System by Kasemiire Credo, a Female Engineer Specializing in Water and Environment, is focusing on addressing Food Security Gaps and Climate Change Resilience for the People of Uganda [Dr. Credo Kasemiire, AAS Affiliate, Earthcare Innovations Limited, Uganda] 2. Addressing Disputes of Everyday Environmental Abuse in the Course of Chemistry Research, Patronage, Abuse and Policies, a Professional Chemistry Society Championed Establishment of Code of Ethics for Relevant Researchers, Industries, Government and Others [Dr. Eucharia Oluchi Nwaichi, AAS Affiliate, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria] 3. Assessment of Level of Knowledge of Pre-eclampsia and Evaluation of the Factors Associated with Knowledge Adequacy among Pregnant Women Receiving Antenatal Care in Ghana [Dr. Linda Ahenkorah Fondjo, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana] 4. Gender and Indigent Students-based Training and Mentoring through Statistical Computing in North Central Nigeria. [Dr. Adenomon Monday Osagie, Nasarawa State University, Keffi, Nigeria] <p>Question and Answer</p>
15:00 – 15:30	<p>Afternoon break and networking</p>
15:30 – 16:25	<p>Panel Discussion</p>
	<p>Session Topic: Opportunities for Researchers to play a more central role in decision-making processes in Africa</p> <p>Speaker and Moderator: Dr. Bernard Onyango, Research and Policy Analyst, AFIDEP</p>

	<p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. JPR Ochieng'- Odera [Funder Perspective] – Project Team Leader, East African Research Fund (EARF) • Dr. Okwen Patrick, [Evidence Producers Perspective] – Strand Leader, Effective Basic Services (eBASE) • Dr. Rose Oronje, [Evidence Broker Perspective] – Director, Public Policy & Communications, AFIDEP • Dr. Isayvani Naicker [Networks] – Director of Strategy and Partnerships, African Academy of Sciences
16:25 – 16:30	5 minutes transition to the next session
16:30 – 17:00	<p>EIDM Leadership Award Ceremony</p> <p>During this session, three scientists whose work has contributed to promoting and enabling use of evidence in decision-making within government agencies will be recognised.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Carol Mukiira, Research and Policy Associate, AFIDEP</p> <p>Speaker: Dr. Rose Oronje, Director, Public Policy & Communications, AFIDEP</p> <p>Award session.</p>
17:00 – 17:30	Closing Session
	<p>Reflections, Evaluation and Closing Remarks</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Lydia Manoti, Programme Manager, Coalition for African Research, and Innovation (CARI), AAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Rose Oronje, Director, Public Policy & Communications, AFIDEP • Dr. Isayvani Naicker, Director of Strategy and Partnerships, AAS <p>Vote of thanks</p>
17.30	Conference Ends