ATPS ENVIRONMENTAL

POLICY

2018

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African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS)

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Introduction and Rationale

The African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) is a trans-disciplinary network of researchers, policymakers, private sector actors, and civil society dedicated to promoting the generation, dissemination, and application of science, technology, and innovation (STI) for African development, environmental sustainability, and global inclusion. ATPS collaborates with like-minded institutions to provide platforms for innovative policy research, supporting African governments and STI institutions in building the necessary knowledge conditions, infrastructures, policies, and incentives for the effective valorization and commercialization of scientific and indigenous knowledge into new technologies and innovations for sustainable development.

Given the increasing environmental challenges faced by the African continent, including climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource depletion, it is imperative for ATPS to adopt a comprehensive Environmental Policy. This policy underscores ATPS's commitment to integrating environmental sustainability into all aspects of its activities, ensuring that STI initiatives contribute positively to ecological preservation and climate resilience. By embedding environmental considerations into its operations and collaborations, ATPS aims to support sustainable development goals and foster a greener, more resilient Africa.

Key Terms

- **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):** A process used to evaluate the environmental effects of a proposed project or development, considering both the positive and negative impacts, and proposing measures to mitigate adverse effects.

- **Sustainable Practices:** Actions and approaches that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, focusing on resource efficiency, waste reduction, and environmental conservation.

- **Green Technologies:** Innovations and technologies that have a reduced environmental impact, contributing to sustainability by minimizing pollution, reducing waste, and conserving natural resources.

- **Mitigation Strategies:** Measures implemented to reduce, minimize, or eliminate the adverse environmental impacts of a project or activity.

- **Stakeholders:** Individuals or groups with an interest or concern in the activities and outcomes of ATPS, including researchers, policymakers, private sector actors, civil society, and local communities.

- **Baseline Studies:** Initial assessments conducted to gather data on the current state of the environment, serving as a reference point for evaluating the impacts of proposed activities.

Goals and Objectives

Goals

1. **Integrate Environmental Sustainability into STI:** Ensure that all science, technology, and innovation activities within ATPS and its partners prioritize environmental sustainability.

2. **Foster Green Innovation:** Promote the development and commercialization of environmentally sustainable technologies and innovations.

3. **Enhance Stakeholder Capacity:** Build the capacity of stakeholders to address environmental challenges through education, training, and knowledge sharing.

4. **Support Sustainable Policy Development:** Provide evidence-based policy recommendations to integrate sustainable practices into STI policies and strategies.

5. **Facilitate Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration:** Strengthen partnerships among diverse stakeholders to collectively address environmental challenges.

6. **Raise Environmental Awareness:** Increase awareness and understanding of environmental sustainability within the STI community and beyond.

Objectives

1. **Conduct Environmental Impact Assessments:** Implement comprehensive EIAs for all projects to identify and mitigate potential negative environmental impacts.

2. **Implement Sustainable Practices:** Promote and adopt sustainable practices in all research, development, and innovation activities.

3. **Develop Training Programs:** Create and deliver training programs focused on environmental sustainability for researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders.

4. **Organize Knowledge-Sharing Events:** Host workshops, seminars, and conferences to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices on environmental sustainability.

5. **Provide Policy Recommendations:** Generate and disseminate actionable policy recommendations to support the formulation and implementation of environmentally sustainable policies.

6. **Support Green Technologies:** Advocate for and provide support for the development and commercialization of green technologies, including securing funding and technical assistance.

7. **Engage Stakeholders:** Actively involve stakeholders in environmental sustainability efforts, ensuring their input and concerns are considered.

8. **Monitor and Evaluate Environmental Impact:** Develop performance indicators and conduct regular audits to measure the environmental impact of STI activities, ensuring compliance with sustainability goals.

Policy Framework

Environmental Integration in STI Activities

- **Environmental Impact Assessments:**

    - **Pre-Project Assessments:** Conduct thorough EIAs before the initiation of any project to identify potential negative environmental impacts.

    - **Scoping:** Define the scope and key environmental issues to be assessed, including air quality, water resources, soil integrity, biodiversity, and human health.

    - **Baseline Studies:** Perform baseline environmental studies to gather data on the current state of the environment.

    - **Impact Analysis:** Analyze the potential environmental impacts of proposed activities, including both direct and indirect effects.

    - **Mitigation Strategies:** Develop strategies to mitigate identified negative impacts, ensuring that any adverse effects are minimized or eliminated.

    - **Public Participation:** Engage local communities and stakeholders in the EIA process to incorporate their input and concerns.

    - **Reporting:** Prepare comprehensive EIA reports detailing findings, mitigation measures, and monitoring plans.

    - **Review and Approval:** Submit EIA reports to relevant regulatory bodies for review and approval before project commencement.

    - **Monitoring and Compliance:** Implement continuous environmental monitoring programs to ensure compliance with EIA recommendations and regulatory requirements.

    - **Post-Project Audits:** Conduct post-project environmental audits to assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures and overall environmental performance.

- **Sustainable Practices:** Implement and promote sustainable practices in research, development, and innovation activities, including waste reduction, energy efficiency, and resource conservation.

- **Green Procurement:** Prioritize the procurement of environmentally friendly products and services.

Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing

- **Training Programs:** Develop and offer training programs on environmental sustainability for researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders.

- **Workshops and Conferences:** Organize and participate in workshops, seminars, and conferences to share knowledge and best practices on sustainability.

- **Publications and Resources:** Create and disseminate educational materials, research findings, and case studies on environmental issues and sustainable practices.

Policy Development and Advocacy

- **Research and Data Collection:** Conduct research to generate data and evidence that support sustainable policy development.

- **Policy Recommendations:** Provide actionable policy recommendations to governments and institutions to promote environmentally sustainable practices.

- **Advocacy Campaigns:** Lead and support advocacy campaigns to raise awareness and promote environmental sustainability in STI.

Innovation and Commercialization

- **Support for Green Technologies:** Offer support, including funding and technical assistance, for the development and commercialization of green technologies.

- **Incentives for Sustainability:** Advocate for incentives and funding opportunities for projects and startups focused on environmental sustainability.

- **Intellectual Property Support:** Assist innovators in securing intellectual property rights for environmentally sustainable technologies.

Collaboration and Partnerships

- **Network Building:** Facilitate the creation of networks and partnerships among stakeholders to address environmental challenges.

- **Collaborative Projects:** Support and participate in collaborative projects that promote environmental sustainability.

- **Global Engagement:** Engage with international organizations and networks to share knowledge, resources, and best practices.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Performance Indicators:** Develop and implement indicators to measure the environmental impact of STI activities.

- **Regular Audits:** Conduct regular environmental audits of projects and initiatives to ensure compliance with sustainability goals.

- **Annual Reporting:** Publish annual reports on the progress and impact of ATPS's environmental sustainability efforts.

Implementation Strategy

- **Leadership and Governance:** Establish a dedicated Environmental Sustainability Committee within ATPS to oversee the implementation and continuous improvement of this policy.

- **Resource Allocation:** Secure funding and allocate necessary resources to support environmental sustainability initiatives.

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Actively engage stakeholders at all levels to ensure broad-based support and participation in sustainability efforts.

- **Continuous Improvement:** Regularly review and update the policy to reflect new knowledge, technologies, and best practices in environmental sustainability.

Conclusion

The ATPS Environmental Policy represents our commitment to integrating environmental sustainability into all aspects of our work. By fostering collaboration, enhancing knowledge, supporting policy development, and promoting innovative solutions, ATPS will play a pivotal role in addressing environmental challenges and advancing sustainable development across Africa.

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SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT