

Eastern Africa Regional Government Science Advice Workshop

Kigali, Rwanda
22 to 24 August 2018

Workshop report and evaluation

Supported by:



1. Summary

This report reviews the design, planning, delivery and outcomes of the International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA) Africa Regional Science Advice Workshop and Forum. In partnership with the Republic of Rwanda's Ministry for Education and supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the workshop and forum took place from the 22nd to 24th of August 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda. The report has been written by Lara Cowen, Senior Programme Officer of INGSA, Richard Glover, Regional Programme Officer for INGSA Africa, who was one of the workshop's facilitators, and XX.

INGSA would like to express our gratitude to the Rwanda Ministry for Education and IDRC for their support.

2. Preparations for the workshop

Initial planning began in November 2017, when the Republic of Rwanda's Ministry for Education accepted INGSA's invitation to work together to co-host the event.

An organising committee was set up, comprising:

Peter Gluckman Chair of INGSA; **Mike Hughes** Advisor Science, Technology & Innovation at Government of Rwanda; **Remy Twiringiyimana** Advisor to the Minister of Education of Rwanda; **Emmanuel Muvunyi** executive director of Higher Education Council, **Rose Baguma** Director General of Education, Policy and Planning at the Ministry of Education Rwanda, **Ignace Gatare** Principal of College of Science and Technology, University of Rwanda; **Lara Cowen** Senior Programme Officer of INGSA

The following objectives for the workshop were agreed:

- To enhance the capacities of East African scientists and policy practitioners to embed scientific advice in public policy making across multiple sectors;
- To expand the INGSA Africa network of science advice practitioners which serves as a platform for sharing best practices, and deliberating on challenges and solutions of the African science advisory context;

We took guidance from the Ministry of Education to issue targeting invitations, rather than an open call, to each country (Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan and Ethiopia) to provide a representative from their respective Ministry dealing directly with policy as it relates to science, technology and research; their National Commission or Council for STR; their Science Academy if one existed; and a representative from each of a public and private university from their science faculty.

The workshop venue booked was the Lemigo Hotel which is a mid-budget hotel and the one that Ministry of Education uses regularly for meetings, especially since the Ministry building was being refurbished.



3. Participants

In total, there were 112 attendees at the workshop:

- 104 participants, drawn from 6 African countries: Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Tanzania
- The remaining 8 attendees were facilitators or observers, from INGSA-Africa Chapter Steering Committee, New Zealand, IDRC (Quebec, Canada), TWAS (Italy) and AUC-AOSTI (Equatorial Guinea)



Group photo

Participants brought a diverse mix of disciplinary and professional backgrounds, with examples including: Academicians and researchers, Academies of Science, Government Officials, Educationists, Media practitioners, Funding agencies, UN agencies and students.

In terms of gender diversity, of the 112 participants, 79 (70.5%) were male and 33 (29.5%) were female.

4. Agenda and approach

At the planning stage, it was agreed that the workshop would be facilitated by expert science advisors that would act as mentors and lead case studies and general discussion. The workshop would be a mix of plenaries and interactive fictional case studies developed through consultations with local members of the organizing committee, and that every effort would be made to encourage interaction and learning through facilitated group discussion.



INGSA asked the Ministry of Education for ideas of possible case studies that reflected pertinent issues / challenges facing Rwanda and the region. They suggested the following:

- Air Quality / air pollution
- Trauma effects (the genocide and it's recent memorial period)
- Nutrition and Food security
- Cyber Security (related to financial transactions and mobile money)

The INGSAs team reviewed these suggestions and selected air quality and trauma as central case study ideas, and nutrition and food security as the basis for a learning simulation.

The case studies, which are developed in-house by INGSAs, are semi-fictionalized accounts of realistic policy dilemmas, designed to highlight important questions, tensions and opportunities for scientific advice in different settings and situations. The two cases were;

1. [Alterra](#) – Air Quality and Energy
2. [Rawhitia](#) – Healing Psychological Trauma After Civil War

INGSA also developed a learning simulation where participants assumed the roles of Ministers in a cabinet meeting analyzing various economic and political aspects to make policy decisions on food security, safety and malnutrition. This proved incredibly powerful as a learning tool.

The agenda (shown below) included two full and intensive workshop days on the 22nd and 23rd of August, with a formal dinner hosted by the Ministry of Education on the evening of the 22nd. The organizing parties agreed that the workshop and the availability of expert mentors offered a very good opportunity to convene an Open Forum on the morning on the 24th to discuss the role of science advice in policy making with a broader audience including local Rwandan Government Officials, 300 final year or very early career science graduates and the workshop participants.

DAY ONE: WEDNESDAY 22 AUGUST 2018	
09:00 – 09:15	Registration
09:15 – 09:30	Welcoming Remarks <i>Minister of Education Rwanda Hon Dr Eugene Mutimura</i>
09:30 – 10:30	Principles & Structures of Science Advice <i>Peter Gluckman, Chair of INGSAs, President Elect of the International Science Council & former Chief Science Advisor to the New Zealand Prime Minister</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Why Science Advice for Africa? <i>Doyin Odubanjo, Chair of INGSAs Africa & Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Academy of Science</i>
	Group Photograph
11:00 – 11:20	MORNING BREAK
11:20 – 11:50	Taking Stock: Roundtable Group Discussion What's happening in the region? How is evidence gathered in the region? <i>Jackie Olang, Executive Director of the Network of African Science Academies</i>
11:50 – 12:30	Science Advice Across Borders



	<i>Rémi Quirion, Chief Scientist of Quebec</i>
12:30 – 13:00	LUNCH
13:00 – 14:40	Case study I: Air Quality <i>Peter Gluckman</i>
14:40 – 15:00	AFTERNOON BREAK
15:00 – 16:40	Case study II: Trauma <i>Discussion moderated by Rémi Quirion</i>
16:40– 17:00	Conclusions of day one <i>Emmanuel Muvunyi, Executive Director Rwanda Higher Education Council</i>
19:00	DINNER
DAY TWO: THURSDAY 23 AUGUST 2018	
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome back <i>Rose Baguma, Director General Education Planning, Rwanda Ministry of Education</i>
09:10 – 09:30	Science and Policy Nexus from Kenya/Africa: A View from the Trenches <i>Crispus Kiamba, University of Nairobi and former Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Government of Kenya</i>
09:30 – 09:50	Rwanda Climate Observatory: Advising Global, Regional and National Policy in Climate and Air Pollution Through Field Observations and Modelling <i>Jimmy Gasore, Station Chief Scientist for the Global Climate Observatory</i>
09:50 - 10:00	Introducing the Simulation & Learning Modules <i>Peter Gluckman</i>
10:00 – 11:00	Simulation on Nutrition and Food Security <i>Group work with facilitators</i>
11:00 – 11:20	MORNING BREAK
11:20 – 13:00	Simulation and modules continue
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH
14:00 – 15:00	Simulation and modules continue
15:00 – 16:00	Next Steps in the Region: Roundtable group discussion What structures would help the region incorporate evidence informed policy making? <i>Moderated by Mike Hughes, Advisor Science, Technology & Innovation at Government of Rwanda</i>
16:00 – 16:45	Summary, Lessons, INGSA-Africa & Certificate Presentation <i>Peter Gluckman & Doyin Odubanjo</i>
16:45 – 17:00	Closing Remarks <i>Dr Ignace Gatare, Principal, University of Rwanda College of Science and Technology</i>
DAY THREE: FRIDAY 24 AUGUST 2018	
08:00 – 09:00	Registration and coffee
09:00 – 09:10	Welcoming Remarks <i>Minister of Education Rwanda Hon Dr Eugene Mutimura</i>
09:10-09:20	Need for Quality Science Advice in Africa <i>Philippe K Mawoko, Executive Secretary AUC-AOSTI</i>
09:20 – 09:40	Keynote Address: The Changing Need for Science Advice <i>Peter Gluckman, Chair of INGSA, President Elect of the International Science Council & former Chief Science Advisor to the New Zealand Prime Minister</i>
09:40 – 10:40	Round Table Discussion Moderated by Crispus Kiamba, Kenya. Discussants Science and Diplomacy: Rémi Quirion, Chief Scientist of Quebec Science and Policy in East Africa: Romain Murenzi, Executive Director of The



	<i>World Academy of Sciences</i> The Future of Science Advice in Africa: Doyin Odubanjo, Chair of INGSA Africa & Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Academy of Science
10:40 – 11:40	Plenary Discussion / Q&A
11:40 – 12:00	Closing Remarks: <i>Rémi Quirion INGSA Executive Board</i> <i>Rwanda Ministry Representative</i>



Case study 1: Air Quality - Participants perceived it as real and provided practical ideas towards resolving the problem.

Case Study 2: Trauma - Participants generally associated it to the reality as it unfolded in Rwanda. Points of interest generally was how to promote healing. It was advocated across all groups that school curricula should be restructured across the country to inculcate the spirit of forgiveness and living together among school pupils from

the elementary stages. The idea to use cultural events and festivals to reintegrate the society was also strongly recommended.

The learning simulation proved very innovative and interesting with individual assigned ministerial positions bring out rare qualities of critical thinking during the cabinet meetings and thus providing concrete evidence to enable the Prime Ministers make suitable decisions.



5. Feedback from participants



Reflections from two participants:

“The workshop has been instructive and well organized. I liked the fact that the presenters are people with high qualification and from different fields. The fact that everyone can participate is also a good way to learn from each other. To me, it’s the best way to build a network. The topics chosen for the case studies and learning simulation are relevant”. (**Dr Ing. Umuhiza Karemera Noella Josiane (University of Rwanda/College of Agriculture, Animal Sciences and Veterinary Medicine)**)

“Well-structured workshop, engaging and participatory. Equipped one with principles and structures of Science Advice. Provided a platform to share



experiences and best practices in Science Advice. Plenary presentations (including presentation by the Honourable Minister of Education of Rwanda) as well as Group discussions were very educative. The case studies and learning simulations were practical training in formulating evidence-based science advice for policy making. Participants were equipped with knowledge and skills in Science Advice.” (Prof Tsige Gebre-Mariam, President, Ethiopian Academy of Sciences)

There was intensive media coverage of the workshop since the Ministers for Education and Information were at the opening session and open forum on the last day. Media houses like RBA/RTV, Radio 10, Radio TV10, Flash TV/Radio and Royal FM were in attendance to give coverage.

6. Follow-up activities

Immediately after the workshop, an **email list** was set up, and participants received copies of workshop presentations and the case studies with mentor notes that they could use as teaching tools (all cases are available on INGSA’s website [here](#)). All participants were also added to the **INGSA membership database** used by the INGSA Secretariat and INGSA Africa, to receive updates on INGSA activities and news that may be of interest.

