



EN

**THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**ANNEX 21**

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Sub-Saharan Africa for 2022-2026 Part 2

**Action Document for “Scientific and Technological Support to Regional Centres of Excellence related to Green Transition”**

**MULTIANNUAL PLAN**

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

## 1 SYNOPSIS

### 1.1 Action Summary Table

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>1. Title</b><br><b>CRIS/OPSYS</b><br><b>business reference</b><br><b>Basic Act</b> | Scientific and Technological Support to Regional Centres of Excellence related to Green Transition<br>OPSYS number: ACT-61214<br>Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe).   |
| <b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>  | No   |
| <b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>   | The Action shall be carried out in Sub-Saharan Africa region.  |
| <b>4. Programming document</b>  | Multi-annual Indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa 2021-2027 (Regional MIP).   |
| <b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results</b>                     | The Action contributes to the <u>Priority 4 on Digital and Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)</u> of the Regional MIP by boosting Africa’s STI capacity for risk-informed, evidence-based and inclusive development in the green transition sectors/areas.<br><br><u>Specific Objective 2</u> : Enhance the effective use of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for sustainable development in Africa.<br><br><u>Result 2.1</u> : A scientific knowledge-based and innovation-led society is enhanced in Africa.<br><br><u>Result 2.2</u> : Africa cross-sectoral development is improved by making effective use of STI and data driven services. |
| <b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>  |  |
| <b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>   | <u>Sub-Saharan Africa Regional MIP</u> :<br>Priority area 4 - Digital and Science, Technology and Innovation<br><br><u>DAC Sectors</u> :<br>220 - Communications<br>430 - Other Multisector  |

|  |  |                                     |                                     |                                     |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b> | Main SDG (1 only): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure)</li> </ul> Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SDG 2 (End Hunger)</li> <li>SDG 5 (Gender Equality)</li> <li>SDG 6 (Water and Sanitation)</li> <li>SD 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy)</li> <li>SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)</li> <li>SDG 12 (Sustainable Production and Consumption)</li> <li>SDG 13 (Climate Action)</li> <li>SDG 14 (Life below water)</li> <li>SDG 15 (Life on Land)</li> <li>SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals)</li> </ul> |                                     |                                     |                                     |
| <b>8 a) DAC codes</b>                          | 22040 - Information and communication technology (ICT) - 30%<br><br>43082 - Research/scientific institutions - 70%   |                                     |                                     |                                     |
| <b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel</b>              | European Commission - Development Share of Budget - 42001  |                                     |                                     |                                     |
| <b>9. Targets</b>                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Migration<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate<br><input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity<br><input type="checkbox"/> Education<br><input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance  |                                     |                                     |                                     |
| <b>10. Markers (from DAC form)</b>             | <b>General policy objective @</b>  | <b>Not targeted</b>                 | <b>Significant objective</b>        | <b>Principal objective</b>          |
|  | Participation development/good governance  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|  | Aid to environment @   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|  | Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|  | Trade development  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|  | Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|  | Disaster Risk Reduction @  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|  | Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|  | Nutrition @  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|  | <b>RIO Convention markers</b>  | <b>Not targeted</b>                 | <b>Significant objective</b>        | <b>Principal objective</b>          |
|  | Biological diversity @   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|  | Combat desertification @   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|  | Climate change mitigation @  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

|                                       |   |  |   |                                     |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
|                                       | Climate change adaptation @   | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>11. Internal markers and Tags:</b> | <b>Policy objectives</b>  | <b>Not targeted</b>  | <b>Significant objective</b>  | <b>Principal objective</b>          |
|                                       | Digitalisation @  | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|                                       | digital connectivity<br>digital governance<br>digital entrepreneurship<br>digital skills/literacy<br>digital services   | YES<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br><input type="checkbox"/><br><input type="checkbox"/><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NO<br><input type="checkbox"/><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br><input type="checkbox"/><br><input type="checkbox"/>            |                                     |
|                                       | Connectivity @  | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                                       | digital connectivity<br>energy<br>transport<br>health<br>education and research   | YES<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br><input type="checkbox"/><br><input type="checkbox"/><br><input type="checkbox"/><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>            | NO<br><input type="checkbox"/><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br><input type="checkbox"/> |                                     |
|                                       | Migration @<br>(methodology for tagging under development)  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|                                       | Reduction of Inequalities @<br>(methodology for marker and tagging under development)   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|                                       | Covid-19  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| <b>BUDGET INFORMATION</b>             |   |  |   |                                     |
| <b>12. Amounts concerned</b>          | <p>Budget lines (article, item):</p> <p>14.020120 : EUR 28 250 000 (West Africa)</p> <p>14.020121 : EUR 28 250 000 (East &amp; Central Africa)</p> <p>14.020122 : EUR 23 500 000 (Southern Africa)</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 80 000 000.</p> <p>The contribution is for an amount of:</p> <p>EUR 35 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2022 from budget lines: 14.020120 : EUR 12 500 000 (West Africa); 14.020121 : EUR 12 500 000 (East &amp; Central Africa); 14.020122 : EUR 10 000 000 (Southern Africa)</p> <p>EUR 25 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2023 from budget lines 14.020120 : EUR 8 750 000 (West Africa); 14.020121 : EUR 8 750 000 (East &amp; Central Africa); 14.020122 : EUR 7 500 000 (Southern Africa)</p> <p>EUR 20 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2024 from budget lines 14.020120 : EUR 7 000 000 (West Africa); 14.020121 : EUR 7 000 000 (East &amp; Central Africa); 14.020122 : EUR 6 000 000 (Southern Africa)</p> <p>subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the</p> |  |   |                                     |

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
|                                      | system of provisional twelfths.   |
| <b>MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION</b> |   |
| <b>13. Type of financing</b>         | <p><b>Direct management</b> through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grants</li> <li>- Procurement</li> </ul> <p><b>Indirect management</b> with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.3</p> |

## 1.2 Summary of the Action

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is being transformed by megatrends such as climate change, environmental degradation, demographic growth, technological development and the diversification of security threats. This transformation poses significant long-term challenges for SSA and demands in particular to accelerate green transitions.

Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) are powerful drivers of sustainable and inclusive development. Using STI's transformative potential is key to progress towards SSA's green transition and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure).

The Action will contribute to green transition in Africa, thereby promoting sustainable development. It will aim at improving cross-sectoral and cross-regional coordination and strategic steering of Regional Centres of Excellence (RCoEs) to address STI green transition challenges and at increasing STI capacities of RCoEs in thematic areas related to the green transition. It will improve the RCoEs' contributions to policy and decision-making processes, innovation ecosystems, business development as well as provide support to their relevant stakeholders through tailored services.

The targeted RCoEs should be known for being competence and capacity development centres, for providing leadership in scientific processes and knowledge creation, should be Africa-based and Africa-led and should focus on thematic areas such as biodiversity and forest; water; oceans; agro-ecological and sustainable agri-food systems; climate and disaster resilience; and energy.

Based on a lasting relationship of collaboration between the continents, the Action will strengthen the Africa-EU partnership on STI with a focus on enhancing scientific capacities in terms of human development and upgrading facilities: strong and maintained research infrastructures are necessary and included as such as one of the objectives of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda that the Action will contribute to implementing; knowledge generation and management related to data and information production, collection, access and sharing; and support to practitioners, scientists and policy makers (in particular the science-policy interface).

The Action will build on knowledge and capacity development support provided to the RCoEs through different sectoral approaches and existing programmes with the objective to rationalise, align and deepen the EU support for STI in Africa under one strategic and coherent intervention.

The Action contributes to the Priority 4 on Digital and STI of the Multi-annual Indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa 2021-2027 (Regional MIP) by boosting Africa's STI capacity for risk-informed, evidence-based and inclusive development in the green transition sectors/areas, in particular with regard to Specific Objective 2: Enhance the effective use of STI for sustainable development in Africa.

## 2 RATIONALE

### 2.1 Context

Demographic growth, urbanisation, climate change, environmental degradation, diversification of security threats and technological development are transforming the African continent while posing significant long-term challenges. The economic and health crisis following COVID-19 demands a recovery that is sustainable, inclusive and resilience-oriented. African livelihoods and food systems critically depend on healthy ecosystems, biodiversity,

water security and marine resources. Hence, the challenges linked to climate change and to the unsustainable management of natural resources increase the pressure on a vulnerable environment, affecting human rights and economic and social stability.

The challenges posed to African agricultural, marine and food systems (food and nutrition insecurity, climate change, loss of biodiversity, high-pressure on resources, etc.) demand green transitions<sup>1</sup>. Namely, the mainstreaming of agroecological approaches and sustainable resource management depend on the development of knowledge, capacities and policies based on scientific evidence and local knowledge. These challenges also co-exist with the need to increase energy access, to mitigate the effects of growing woodfuel consumption and to provide alternative energy sources.

While there are large disparities between and within African countries, between the rural and the urban, challenges of sustainability, inclusion and gender equality are cross-cutting. The African continent has 124 researchers per one million inhabitants<sup>2</sup>. Shortage of skills and low investment in research and development have been a major constraint to Africa's progress in STI. Lack of women, notably at the managerial level, in sectors like water is hampering capacities to appropriately take into account inclusivity issues, notably for women and girls, and persons with disabilities.

The aforementioned challenges transcend national borders and require international scientific and technical cooperation. Furthermore, the underrepresentation of women in STI needs to be addressed and the linkages between science, policy and decision-making need to be reinforced to allow for the development of robust policies informed by evidence and risk information.

Through the proposed Action, the EU intends to provide scientific and technical support to RCoEs related to the green transition in SSA building on a lasting relationship of trust between the continents. The Action will strengthen the Africa-EU partnerships on STI with a focus on science-policy interface, coordination, data collection, access and processing capacity, knowledge generation and management, and support to practitioners, scientists and policy makers.

Providing such support is consistent with joint ambitions that the EU and the African Union (AU) have related to sustainability, scientific progress and innovation. The 6th EU-AU Summit declaration announced a Joint Vision for 2030 that includes the preservation of the climate, environment and biodiversity, the support to scientific cooperation and the sharing of technology and expertise. It furthermore acknowledged the Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package, which includes an Africa-EU STI Initiative, as well as the forthcoming joint AU-EU Innovation Agenda. Within the AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue on STI, the joint priorities are Public Health, Green Transition, Innovation and Technology, and Capacities for Science. The Action particularly responds to the latter three. As far as the Innovation part is concerned, the enhancement of the African Regional Centres of excellence being a long-term action foreseen by the AU-EU Innovation Agenda, the Action will support the implementation of this objective of the Innovation Agenda.

The Action responds to EU priorities by aligning with the EU's 'Global Approach to Research and Innovation Cooperation' aiming to deepen the partnership with Africa. Besides, the 'Joint Communication Towards a comprehensive Strategy with Africa'<sup>3</sup> underlined that innovation is a key driver of green transitions and, therefore, that investment should strengthen scientific and innovation capacities in Africa. It also proposed the scaling up of EU-Africa scientific cooperation, with a view to creating a knowledge society and economy.

In line with the European Consensus for Development, the Action will contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure). It will also contribute to SDG 2 (End Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Sustainable Production and Consumption), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life below water), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals).

The Action is at the confluence of two main priorities of the European Commission: the Digital transition and the European Green Deal. In line with the Paris Agreement, the European Green Deal sets out the EU's global ambition

---

<sup>1</sup> In particular Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) and Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (CCSE)

<sup>2</sup> UNESCO Science report 2021.

<sup>3</sup> JOIN(2020) 4 final of 9.3.2020

for an economic and societal green transformation. The EU's digital strategy aims to achieve technologies that work for people, a fair and competitive digital economy and an open, democratic and sustainable society. It confirms that the EU, as a global player, should support partners around the world, including in Africa, in going digital.

The Action is moreover consistent with several AU policies and strategies, all contributing to the AU Agenda 2063. The Agenda 2063 aims for Africa becoming *‘a prosperous continent, with the means and resources to drive its own development, with sustainable and long-term stewardship of its resources’* moving towards climate resilient economies and communities. An Africa where *‘well educated and skilled citizens, underpinned by science, technology and innovation for a knowledge society is the norm’*.

Providing scientific and technical support to RCoEs aligns with the STI Strategy for Africa 2024 (STISA-2024), which has the mission to accelerate Africa's transition to an innovation-led knowledge based economy. The strategy responds to the demand for STI to impact across critical sectors such as agriculture, energy, environment, health, infrastructure development, mining, security and water. The prerequisite conditions for the success of the strategy include, among others, enhancing professional and technical competencies and building or upgrading research infrastructures. Finally, the Action aligns to the green priorities spotlighted in the AU Green Recovery Action Plan (AU GRAP): nature-based solutions, biodiversity, sustainable land management, forestry, oceans and ecotourism, renewable energy, energy efficiency, national Just Transition programmes, resilient agriculture, and green and resilient cities including a focus on water. Considering the wide scope of the Action, it similarly aligns with the AU Sustainable Forest Management Framework, the AU Wildlife Strategy, the Africa Blue Economy Strategy, the Africa Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy, the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and the Programme of Action (PoA) for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa, and the AU ‘Ecological Organic Agriculture’ strategic and action plans as part of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme.

## 2.2 Problem Analysis

### **Biodiversity & Forest**

African ecosystems provide essential services for human population (e.g. livelihood, timber, meat, water, and medicines) and play a key role in the planet system, in particular for biodiversity conservation and climate regulation. The sustainable management of ecosystems' resources requires knowledge based, concerted and coordinated biodiversity and forest policies at regional level.

Regional policy development depends on the provision of comprehensive, timely and accurate information to stakeholders to facilitate decision-making and to contribute to the transparency and accountability of those decisions. Namely, these data include information from Earth observation (e.g. tree cover, fires, droughts, and agricultural production), global and national databases (e.g. species, ecosystems, and laws), and in-situ data collected by projects and scientific literature (e.g. protected area, forest concession). Relevant data are produced at local, national and regional levels. Specific work on indicators should be carried out in initiatives such as NaturAfrica or the Great Green Wall (GGW).

However, the production and use of scientific information on African ecosystems still suffers from the following limitations: (i) research is still mainly carried out in the North, without any real capacity building of research centres in the South, (ii) the few existing African centres of excellence are fragile and need material and human investments for producing better information, and (iii) the knowledge produced is not sufficiently shared within the scientific community, practitioners and with policy makers.

### **Water**

Due to shortage of skills, job-skills mismatch and low investment in research and development, Africa ranks low in global competitiveness and productivity. African students tend to opt for economics, business, law and social sciences rather than science, engineering and technology which are essential for water, energy and food security, thus hampering the continent's competitiveness and growth.

There is a growing need for increased investment in STI in the water sector to achieve sustainable socio-economic growth, reduce poverty, achieve food security, fight key communicable and non-communicable diseases, and stem environmental degradation. The AU has responded to this need with the launch of regional networks such as the

AU Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) Water Centres of Excellence.

DG INTPA and JRC supported the identification, implementation and coordination of the Water Centres of Excellence since 2009 in collaboration with the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), the African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology (AMCOST) and AUDA-NEPAD through the ACEWATER programmes.

These Water RCoEs engage in science, research and development to address key challenges and needs of the African water sector. Namely, their work has a direct mandate from the AU (i.e. from the AMCOW) and is in line with the four pillars of the African Development Bank's (AfDB) Water Strategy for 2021-2025: (1) stronger integrated and sustainable water resources management, (2) inclusive, sustainable and climate resilient water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) for all, (3) water for food and (4) water for energy.

Moreover, progress in WASH is stalling in SSA. The number of people not having access to at least basic services for water access and sanitation has increased respectively by 40 million and 200 million between 2000 and 2020. Lack of progress is partially due to the lack of technical, managerial and innovation capacities, notably at the level of water operators, regulators and decision makers. There is also a significant gap in women trained in the sector. In reason of the aforementioned challenges, there is urgent need to re-enforce the capacities of African organisations to fill these gaps.

### **Agro-ecological & sustainable agri-food systems**

The transition towards agroecological food systems and the development of productive and resilient farming systems and value chains demand for new knowledge creation based on agroecological principles. This knowledge rest on the integration of scientific and local knowledge and will strengthen African capacities and promote policies based on scientific evidences. RCoEs are a mean to contribute to this objective, however, several challenges must be addressed.

First, the production of evidences regarding the potential contribution of agroecology at national and continental level is a demand of the partners to build more convincing policies that support farmers and value chains actors. Namely, data collection and processing for scientific use and capacities i.a. for modelling and forecasting for agroecology are relevant and could be improved.

Second, the production of innovative knowledge requires the mobilisation of different stakeholders. Part of the competencies are located in African universities given their ability to address innovation through agroecological solutions, but they are also located in research organisations focused on technical issues in agriculture (e.g. breeding and mechanisation). The interactions with the private sector, the farmers' organisation and the civil society is crucial to bring expertise and to orient research. The challenge is to build excellence in research and education when mobilizing different type of actors to break silos.

Third, the promotion of agroecology requires new competencies to address complex problems including interactions between ecological and social processes. Building these competencies is a key issue for developing new research agenda, promoting professors and technicians with new skills and for designing new curricula to train students. Networking between RCoEs, building partnerships with international organisations and European research organisations or universities, or promoting exchanges of researchers and professors are useful to address such issues.

Fourth, African research organisations and universities face problems to access the resources which are necessary to improve their infrastructures for data management, laboratory and field experiments, communication, and training.

### **Oceans**

A healthy, resilient ocean holds extraordinary potential to address climate change and improve overall human health and well-being. Recent reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) document the declining state of the ocean as a result of over-exploitative human activity, pollution and exacerbated by now increasing climate change impacts and acidification. The ocean cannot be overlooked in our efforts to tackle

climate change. Actions that will enhance our knowledge, technology, coordination and capabilities within this ocean-climate nexus are critical<sup>4</sup>. 38 of the 54 African States are coastal countries and about half of the African population lives within 100 km of the coast<sup>5</sup>, depending on the marine realm for their livelihoods.

Pollution, rapid population growth, overfishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU), coastward migration and the associated socio-economic development result in mutually reinforcing pressures on marine ecosystems while increasing the vulnerability of already at-risk populations, subject to climate change engendered disasters. While the science has been rapidly advancing on these topics in recent years, there are still important knowledge gaps that are hampering the development of viable climate mitigation and adaptation solutions with the ocean playing a central role.

For example, biological responses to changing environmental conditions including ocean acidification, warming temperatures and declining sea ice require ongoing and enhanced ecological monitoring. Improved and coordinated continental ocean observations are essential in improving the accuracy of climate models, weather forecasts and early warning systems and to better understand ocean stressors conditions. Continued efforts to enable resilient ecosystems are necessary for providing stable food sources for the planet and enabling a strong blue economy. Additional knowledge, including systematisation of indigenous and local knowledge, is needed to deliver equitable and just adaptation strategies for coastal communities facing threats from sea level rise and intensifying storms.

In line with the EU Green Deal Policies, the guiding principles of NDICI-Global Europe, the AU's Blue Economy Strategy, and under the framework of the SSA Regional MIP 2021-2027's, Priority 3 - Specific Objective 5 "Improve the sustainable use and management of oceans, coastal zones, river basins and lakes", three major axes have been identified as areas of intervention on oceans in Africa: (i) Sustainable Blue Economy, (ii) Ocean Governance, and (iii) Conservation and Restoration of Marine and Coastal Ecosystems.

Horizontally, the core pillars would sustain and be strengthened by networks of RCoEs, institutes and universities upholding and developing Blue Science. This entails the cooperation and coordination in ocean observation, monitoring, investment in innovation, data collection, archiving, processing, research and analysis. Launched in 2021, the United Nations (UN) Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development offers the perfect and urgent opportunity to fill the critical knowledge gaps. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC-UNESCO) and its Sub-Continental African branch IOC-AFRICA have been mandated to oversee the implementation of this Ocean Decade, globally and in Africa, respectively, and provide the framework to identify the required Ocean knowledge for sustainable development, generate comprehensive understanding of the Ocean and increase the use of ocean data. Published in 2022 and launched during the Cairo Conference of 10-12 May, the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development's "Africa Roadmap" draws important conclusions in providing a "coordinated framework for ocean science planning and uptake"; a roadmap this Action should fully endorse and synergistically reinforce.

### **Climate and disaster resilience**

Building and sustaining climate and disaster resilience requires adopting and mainstreaming climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures across all societal and economic activities together with biodiversity and ecosystems protection and restoration. Understanding of the dynamics of local ecosystems and climate impacts are enabler of low cost solutions such as Nature based solutions addressing together climate risks and ecosystem healthy functioning. These efforts do not only rely on governance frameworks, available funds and human resources, etc. but also on underlying science, research and development (R&D) as well as STI. Typically, these elements are often integral parts of public regional and national institutions, international organisations, NGOs, universities or private sector entities. In addition, networks among one or several types of entities often jointly work on STI issues and on the necessary coordination and knowledge management.

It is often difficult to draw a line between "regular" activities such as service provision, policy-making monitoring and control, coordination, marketing/sales, etc. and STI/R&D activities. This may be especially true in the climate and natural hazards domain, as it requires an in-depth understanding of very complex systems and inter-dependencies, a wealth of historical and real-time data, modelling and forecasting capabilities, and a science-policy

---

<sup>4</sup> UNESCO-IOC.2021. The Ocean Decade at COP26 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Paris, UNESCO. (The Ocean Decade Series, 31) (IOC/2021/ODS/31)

<sup>5</sup> file:///C:/Users/sattior/Downloads/science\_africa\_report.pdf



interface to translate the generated information into meaningful policy advice and decisions.

Academia and other semi-/non-public actors and especially the private sector are often the most innovative and driving change and can eventually influence policy and decision making at various levels. However, they often lack the capacities to acquire, sustain and exploit certain STI capacities; collaborate beyond national borders; and disseminate the results of their R&D activities to a broad audience.

### **Energy**

Despite substantial progress, sub-Saharan Africa remains the region with the largest access deficit: out of a total population of 1.3 billion, about 570 million are lacking access to electricity and about 850 million do not have access to clean cooking facilities. Due to its fast urbanisation and economic development, energy demand in Africa grows twice as fast as the global average[1]. Africa's renewable energy sources including wind, solar, geothermal and hydropower are abundant, whilst the cost of sustainable energy technologies, at utility scale or through decentralised solutions, are continuously decreasing. Nevertheless, African households largely rely on woodfuel consumption for various activities.

Improving the environmental performance of the energy sector requires continued innovation. Basic and applied scientific research, the improvement and development of new clean energy technologies and scientific innovation are at the cornerstone of economic prosperity and the green transition.

However, despite the prevailing consensus on the economic and environmental benefits of developing and using new energy technologies, African knowledge on how to foster innovation remains insufficient. For African countries it will be critical in the coming decades to increase the scientific capacity for energy technology innovation, through collaboration and cooperation between industry, academia and governments to create a vibrant scientific ecosystem. The role of RCoEs with reinforced capacities will be key in this context. For sub-Sahara Africa, the clean energy transition presents an opportunity to leapfrogging straight to low-carbon development path, while creating sustainable jobs and economic growth.

### **Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:**

The Action will variably involve institutions and organisations from the following stakeholder list:

- (i) the relevant bodies of the AU (e.g. AU Commission (AUC), AUDA-NEPAD) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in coordination roles, when relevant and according to their sectoral experience and capacity;
- (ii) the RCoEs as primary beneficiaries of the Action as per the definition provided in Section 4.4.1, in the STI thematic sectors targeted by the Action (e.g. research centres, observatories, networks, universities);
- (iii) providers of data, information and knowledge;
- (iv) NGOs and formal and informal private sector entities (e.g. networks, think tanks, providers of sectoral scientific observation / measurement equipment, providers of GIS software and services, etc.);
- (v) central, deconcentrated and decentralised authorities and local institutions (including traditional leaders);
- (vi) relevant international organisations (e.g. a policy, technology, training or data centres linked to a UN institution) and European partners;
- (vii) civil society, including women representatives, and indigenous people organisations.

### 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

#### 3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **Overall Objective** (Impact) of this Action is to contribute to a green transition in Sub-Saharan Africa while promoting sustainable development

The **Specific Objectives** (Outcomes) of this Action are:

1. Improved cross-sectoral and cross-regional coordination and strategic steering of RCoEs to address STI green transition challenges
2. Increased STI capacities of RCoEs in thematic areas related to the green transition

The **Outputs** to be delivered by this Action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (Outcomes) are :

Contributing to Specific Objective (or Outcome) 1:

- 1.1 Improved an STI – green transition framework for collaboration
- 1.2 Enhanced the knowledge management system across green transition areas

Contributing to Specific Objective (or Outcome) 2:

- 2.1 Strengthened scientific and technological capacities of RCoEs to produce, collect, access, process, share data / information and carry out research activities using a gender-sensitive approach
- 2.2 Increased RCoEs contributions to a transformative quality research and scientific knowledge generation
- 2.3 Enhanced RCoEs gender-sensitive support to practitioners, scientists and policy-makers

#### 3.2 Indicative Activities

Related to Output 1.1:

- Establish and use a programme coordination mechanism
- Advocate for science and engage at policy level by making available information and tools and by enhancing the science – policy interface on green transition

Related to Output 1.2:

- Management and exchange of knowledge, information, best practices and lessons learnt between sectors to improve cross-fertilisation
- Create links with other STI – green transition initiatives to enhance synergies and complementarities
- Create and consolidate inter-sectoral opportunities for networking and partnership (i.e. intra-African and African-European research collaboration)

Related to Output 2.1:

- Carry out scientific and technical training activities and provide technical assistance to the RCoEs using a gender-sensitive approach
- Develop / upgrade / use tools with a specific attention for open science and open technology
- Upgrade and provide research infrastructures such as laboratories and computing facilities in the RCoEs

Related to Output 2.2:

- Produce and consolidate knowledge and carry out quality research (i.e. reports, papers, articles, policy briefs, good practices, databases, scientific reports, contributions to higher education curricula.etc)
- Consolidate thematic knowledge management systems of the RCoEs (per sector / per region)
- Create and consolidate thematic networking and partnership opportunities (e.g. to reinforce participation in STI international calls for proposals), organise staff exchange, data and information exchange using open standards for data and using open access resources to strengthen scientific and

research regional collaboration

Related to Output 2.3:

- Support RCoEs in providing knowledge support and services to practitioners, scientists, policy makers using a gender-sensitive approach
- Support RCoEs in developing decision-support information systems (serving science-policy interfaces at sector level)
- Support RCoEs in carrying out high level capacity development activities to enhance support to innovation ecosystems and business development, including support to civil society organisations (CSOs), systematisation and sharing of local and indigenous knowledge to foster grassroots and frugal innovations
- Support RCoEs in carrying out outreach, organise events / workshops for awareness raising, uptake and dissemination in particular through a gender-sensitive approach.

### 3.3 Mainstreaming

#### **Environmental Protection & Climate Change**

This Action will contribute to SSA's green transition, thereby promoting sustainable development. In that sense, the Action fully considers environmental protection and climate change challenges in its activities, in particular it contributes to a more sustainable management of natural resources.

#### **Outcomes of the SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) screening**

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that no further action was required.

#### **Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening**

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the Action Category C (no need for further assessment).

#### **Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening**

The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this Action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment is required).

#### **Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls**

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this Action is labelled as G1. This implies that gender targets will be mainstreamed in the implementation of this Action. The Action will contribute specifically to the objective of promoting girls' and women's participation and leadership in STI in order to ensure gender-responsive strategies to climate mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and the inclusive and sustainable management of natural resources.

---

#### **Human Rights**

The scientific and technical support directed to RCoEs targets the protection of maritime and terrestrial ecosystems. Hence, it provides evidences to strengthen the rights of the vulnerable people whose livelihoods are most dependent on ecosystem functioning, interlinked food systems and other environmental dynamics. Addressing green transition challenges, by improving the policy decision making processes using evidence-based information systems involving concerned stakeholders, promoting partnerships and inclusiveness are guiding principles that will allow a better management of natural resources contributing to people's security and rights.

---

#### **Disability**

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this Action is labelled as D0. While disability has not been identified as a significant objective, the Action will promote an inclusive approach towards people with disabilities in its communication and participatory activities.

---

#### **Democracy**

The Action support the development of evidence-based knowledge for decision making in SSA. It further addresses the inclusion of girls and women in STI and it promotes the participation of society in the sustainable management

of natural resources.

#### **Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience**

The Action builds on the experience of African RCoEs and it strengthens their capacity to address climate change and the sustainable management of natural resources.

#### **Disaster Risk Reduction**

The Action strengthens access to data and information that can be employed in DRR measures, including early warning, DRR research and policy information for climate change adaptation and mitigation. It provides support to practitioners, scientists and policy makers in the area of disaster resilience and sustainable natural resources management.

#### **Other considerations if relevant**

N/A

### 3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

| <b>Category</b>                                 | <b>Risks</b>   | <b>Likelihood<br/>(High/<br/>Medium/<br/>Low)</b> | <b>Impact<br/>(High/<br/>Medium/<br/>Low)</b> | <b>Mitigating measures</b>   |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| Policy and legal                                | Absence of political will for using evidence in the policy decision-making process                                 | Medium  | Medium  | Continuous advocacy and policy dialogue in order to highlight the benefits of the evidence-based decisions                         |
| Governance (people and organisation)            | Lack of capacities, in particular human resources, to run adequately the RCoEs and sustain the networks            | Low   | Medium  | Linking the RCoEs with other research and capacity-development programmes  |
| Institutional (planning, processes and systems) | Limited institutional commitment at regional and continental levels to develop scientific decision-support systems | Medium  | Medium  | Engage with relevant organisations / processes at continental level. Strengthen engagement with regional and national institutions |

#### **Lessons Learnt:**

The Action will build on the lessons learnt from initiatives on green transition sectors making use of STI at continental, multi-country and regional levels with the objective to rationalise the EU support to RCoEs. Specific attention will be paid to lessons learnt from projects financed under Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe ensuring the sustainability of EU supported scientific projects in the region.

Programmes such as Global Monitoring for Environment and Security and Africa (GMES and Africa), the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) programme, Forest Partnerships, the Great Green wall (GGW), Networks of Water Centres of Excellence have proven the relevance of data, information and capacity building for environmental monitoring, innovation in transition strategies, policy information and support to decision making.

Ecosystems are at the heart of the EU's international partnerships. The economic, social, health and ecological

benefits of healthy ecosystems are shown to directly impact on the livelihoods of most vulnerable people. Namely, as reported in a number of EU initiatives in SSA, a wide variety of ecosystem services depends on the promotion of biodiversity (NaturAfrica), the protection of forests (Forest Partnerships), the contrast to land erosion and desertification (GGW), and the resilience of various other environmental dynamics on land and under water. Thus, the Action will address the expansion of data, information and knowledge in these domains in order to provide evidences for policy information on green transitions.

Moreover, the experience developed within GMES and Africa has shown the extent to which promoting cross-fertilisation among sectors / partners and enhancing complementarities between initiatives requires a strong network coordination and knowledge management system. The Action will therefore dedicate sufficient resources to this aspect through the implementation of cross-cutting actions. Furthermore, the long-term sustainability of technological transfers has shown to be tightly dependent on the maintenance capacity of the tools employed for data collection (e.g. in situ, software). Hence, the support to RCoEs will address the recipients' ownership of the scientific and technological transfer in order to generate future-proof knowledge generation beyond the end of the Action.

Past interventions in specific research sectors such as agricultural research showed the importance of continental and regional coordination fora (e.g. FARA and regional fora such as CORAF, ASARECA and CCARDESA) to support the AU Commission and RECs in their respective regions and to strengthen and share research capacities to respond to common regional challenges.

The existing initiatives of EU-AU and intra-Africa networks of RCoEs such as the Pan-African Network for economic Analysis of Policies (PANAP) could also represent an effective instrument to share good practices and capacity building between the two continents on evidence-based policies definition.

Finally, the experience of the EU - Africa partnership for connectivity and open science (e.g. AfricaConnect) has shown the relevance of knowledge sharing for spill over effects in the domain of STI. Therefore, the Action will also benefit from the experience to provide scientific and technological output to a network of actors that in turn will benefit of it, hence to the accessibility of such knowledge.

### 3.5 The Intervention Logic

The Action will aim at addressing targeted green transition challenges in SSA through STI focusing on support to RCoEs in the following areas: biodiversity and forest, agro-ecological & sustainable agri-food systems, water, oceans, climate and disaster resilience, and energy.

At continental level (Specific Objective 1), if a strategic steering and knowledge management system for the green transition is in place in SSA, then African organisations, scientists, practitioners and policy makers will be able to make more efficient use of STI to address green transition challenges. The Action will allow to enhance the green transition science-policy interface and to improve a framework for collaboration through a consistent and coordinated EU support to the RCoEs. This will be possible in particular through DG JRC longstanding cooperation with the African partners and possibly from other European and international research networks and organisations. Contribution of African continental and regional organisations is expected to support the policy dimension.

At thematic level (Specific Objective 2), the support provided to the RCoEs will improve their capacities in terms of human development using a gender-sensitive approach, facilities and tools to facilitate the production and uptake of scientific data and their integration in the RCoEs' workflows. With the assumption that the RCoEs have at least the necessary human capacities to implement the Action within their organisations and to sustain the networks, the increased capacities will allow to generate more qualitative and quantitative knowledge to support practitioners, scientists and policy makers.

Provided that there are sufficient political will and institutional capacity for using data on risks and other evidence to inform policies and decisions and for involving the public sector, academia and private sector, the Action will

contribute to improve policy and decision making processes as well as increase business development and strengthen innovation ecosystems. The Action will build on strategic knowledge support and capacity development provided to the RCoEs through different existing sectoral programmes with the objective to rationalise the EU support under a strategic and coherent intervention.

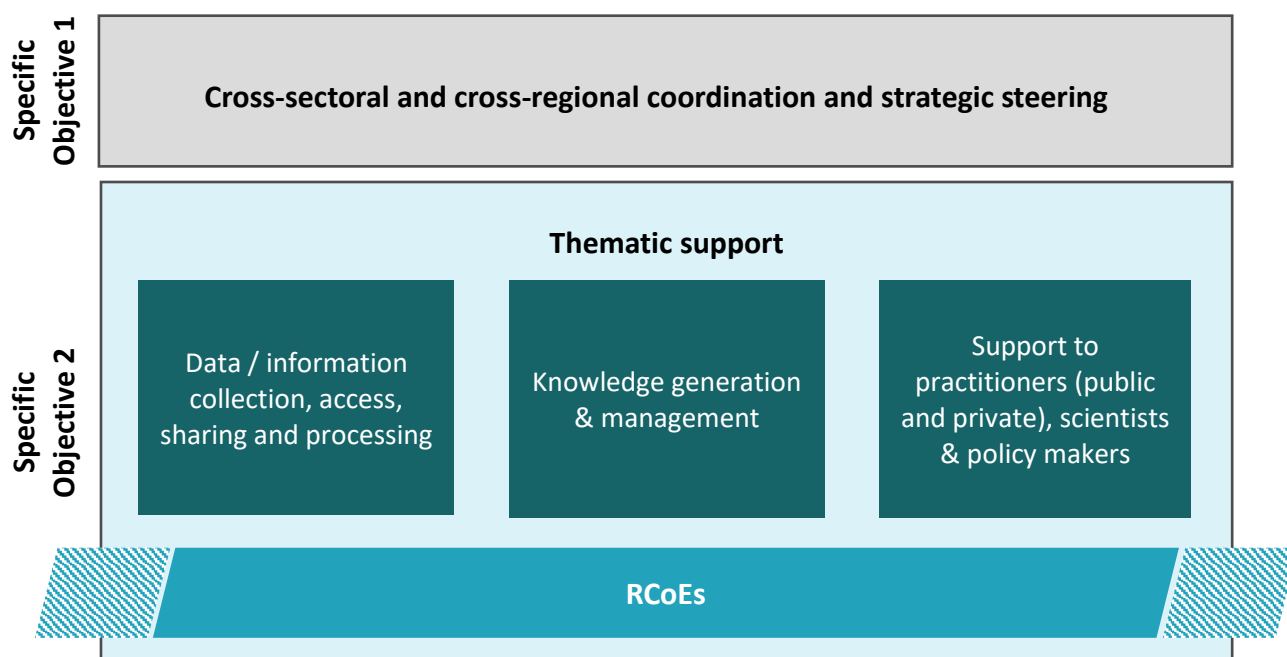
The Action is in line with the AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue on STI and specific attention will be put on policy engagement with African institutions at regional and continental level both at sectoral level and cross-sectoral level. Non-governmental stakeholders will be involved in this process.

Synergies will be also promoted with the EU funded programmes supported at national and regional level in the area of higher education and innovation. In particular, the action will benefit from the capacity building projects for Higher Education Institutions funded by Erasmus+ (2021-2027) and the Intra-Africa and North-South learning mobility of learners and staff, supported by both Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme (2022-2027) and Erasmus+. With a focus on learning mobility on climate change, Intra-Africa Academic Mobility scheme will contribute to develop high-level skills and institutional partnerships across the continent in this sector.

The Action is also in full complementarity with the EU-funded AfricaConnect project, which not only supports the establishment of high-speed digital connectivity networks to interconnect higher education institutions and research centers across Africa, but also the deployment of a wide range of services that R&E communities can use to seamlessly access a wealth of invaluable education and research resources, all ultimately allowing for further cooperation opportunities for researchers, within Africa and between Africa and Europe.

Activities will also complement and be fully aligned with other regional initiatives under the SSA Regional MIP in order provide comprehensive, effective and efficient support to climate and disaster resilience in Africa, from observations to services and policies. These include in particular the initiatives on climate change adaptation and resilience, on energy including on clean cooking, on Earth observation (space-based and in situ) and related services, and on water management and ocean governance.

By contributing to strengthening cooperation on research and innovation with Africa, the Action will contribute to the Global Gateway key areas of partnership. The EU has a strong history of developing RCoEs, networks and associations of organisations contributing to the green transition. The action will support activities linking European and African RCoEs through exchanges, twinings and peer to peer collaborations, to build mutual knowledge and contribute to public diplomacy efforts.



### 3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention. On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action. The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results / indicators / Source of Data / Assumptions - no activities)

| Results          | Results chain (a):<br>Main expected results<br>(maximum 10)   | Indicators (a):<br>(at least one indicator per expected result)   | Baselines<br>(values and years) | Targets<br>(values and years) | Sources of data   | Assumptions   |
|------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Impact</b>    | To contribute to a green transition in Sub-Saharan Africa while promoting sustainable development                                     | Progress towards achieving SDG 9 and where appropriate, SDGs and targets: SDG 2, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 17  | tbd                             | tbd                           | <a href="https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/profiles">https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/profiles</a> | <i>Not applicable</i>   |
| <b>Outcome 1</b> | 1. Improved cross-sectoral and cross-regional coordination and strategic steering of RCoEs to address STI green transition challenges | 1.1 # of RCoEs participating in programme governance and coordination mechanism<br>1.2 # of cross-sectoral events (meetings, exchange visits, workshops, training events) held annually | tbd                             | tbd                           | Progress reports, programme M&E system  | RCoEs maintain their interest and willingness for a collaborative approach          |
| <b>Outcome 2</b> | 2. Increased STI capacities of RCoEs in thematic areas related to green transition  | 2.1 # of STI thematic activities (training, tools, facilities) benefiting the RCoEs   | tbd                             | tbd                           | Progress reports, programme M&E system  | RCoEs face no institutional and political resistance when expanding their workflows |

|   |   |  |            |            |  |  |
|---|---|--|------------|------------|--|--|
| <b>Output 1<br/>relating to Outcome 1</b> | 1.1 Improved STI green transition framework for collaboration   | 1.1.1 # of STI- green transition related organizations, platforms and networks benefiting from the Action * ( <i>Regional MIP indicator, PA4, R2.1</i> )<br>1.1.2 # of joint/collaborative STI activity conducted with the support of the EU by more than one RCoEs (by countries involved)  | tbd        | tbd        | Progress reports, programme M&E system | RCoEs are committed to collaborate   |
| <b>Output 2<br/>relating to Outcome 1</b> | 1.2 Enhanced knowledge management system across green transition thematic areas   | 1.2.1 # of RCoEs participating in knowledge exchange<br>1.2.2 # of related initiatives associated to the Action for complementarities and synergies  | tbd        | tbd        | Progress reports, programme M&E system | Willingness of stakeholders to share data / information  |
| <b>Output 1<br/>relating to Outcome 2</b> | 2.1 Strengthened scientific and technological capacities of RCoEs to produce, collect, access, process and share data / information using a gender-sensitive approach | 2.1.1 # of people trained (disaggregated by sector and gender when relevant) in RCoEs to produce, collect, access, process and share data<br>2.1.2 # of tools for data and information access upgraded and developed (disaggregated by sector when relevant) in the RCoEs<br>2.1.3 # of RCoEs with upgraded facilities for data access and information and laboratory equipments | tbd        | tbd        | Progress reports, programme M&E system | Internet access facilities and bandwidth are improving in most African countries   |
| <b>Output 2<br/>relating to Outcome 2</b> | 2.2 Increased RCoEs contributions to a transformative quality research and scientific knowledge generation  | 2.2.1 # of people trained (disaggregated by sector and gender when relevant) in RCoEs to produce scientific knowledge (data analysis, policy briefs, monitoring reports, scientific publication...)<br>2.2.2 # of tools for data and information management and analysis provided in the RCoEs   | tbd<br>tbd | tbd<br>tbd | Progress reports, programme M&E system | Trained staff remain in their RCoEs after activities are finished<br>Willingness of stakeholders to share data / information |



|   |  |  |     |     |  |  |
|---|--|--|-----|-----|--|--|
| <b>Output 3<br/>relating to Outcome 2</b> | 2.3 Enhanced RCoEs gender-sensitive support to practitioners, scientists and policy-makers | 2.3.1 # of STI and data driven services provided to practitioners, scientists and policy makers aiming at meeting green transition challenges * ( <i>Regional MIP indicator, PA4, R2.2</i> )<br>2.3.2 # of practitioners, scientists, policy makers with improved capacities, skills or tools for green innovation and inclusive green business development with the support of the EU (disaggregated by sex, age and disability status when relevant) | tbd | tbd | Progress reports, programme M&E system | Stakeholders remain committed to use data driven services for policy and decision making processes |
|---|--|--|-----|-----|--|--|

## 4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this Action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country/territory.

### 4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this Action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 96 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

### 4.3 Implementation of the Budget Support Component [For Budget Support only]

N/A

### 4.4 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the Action with EU restrictive measures<sup>6</sup>.

#### 4.4.1 Direct Management (Grants)

##### **Grants: (direct management)**

##### **(a) Purpose of the grant(s)**

The grants will contribute to achieving the specific objective 2 of the Action "STI capacities of RCoEs in thematic areas related to green transition are increased".

The grants will contribute to increase the capacities of the RCoEs in the relevant thematic areas through the following outputs:

- Scientific and technological capacities of RCoEs to produce, collect, access, process, share data / information and to carry out research activities are strengthened using a gender-sensitive approach;
- RCoEs contributions to a transformative quality research and a more resilient knowledge management system are increased;
- RCoEs gender-sensitive support to practitioners, scientists and policy-makers is enhanced.

##### **(b) Type of applicants targeted**

The targeted applicants are RCoEs related to the green transition sectors.

In the context of this Action, a RCoE is an entity that comply with the following criteria:

- be a scientific, technical and/or research observatory, institute, university, association, public authority, inter-governmental organisation, NGO, or network of one or several types of the aforementioned actors,
- have a regional and/or multi-country anchor and coverage in SSA, is Africa-based and Africa-led,
- be known for being a competence and capacity development centre, have the capacity for providing

<sup>6</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu). Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

leadership in scientific processes (including science-policy-practice interface) and knowledge creation (i.e. carrying out activities of high quality, pushing for science and technology community building, providing technological and scientific outputs to a network of actors that in turn will benefit of it, being involved in new developments in a specific sector or topic, etc.).

#### 4.4.2 Direct Management (Procurement)

Procurement will contribute to achieving the specific objective 1 of the Action “Cross-sectoral and cross-regional coordination and strategic steering of RCoEs to address STI green transition challenges are improved”.

Technical assistance will be recruited in order to contribute to implement the related outputs of specific objective 1: improve the STI – green transition framework for collaboration and overall knowledge management system of RCoEs. Technical assistance will support i.e. the creation and use of a programme coordination mechanism, the exchange of knowledge and information, networking, etc. at Sub-Saharan Africa level and between regions.

#### 4.4.3 Indirect Management with a pillar assessed entity

A part of this Action may be implemented in indirect management with entities, which will be selected by the Commission’s services using the following criteria:

- Have thematic / regional expertise in the green transition area, including in science-policy interface and knowledge management
- Have an African anchorage
- Have experience in managing EU funds

The implementation by this(ese) entity(ies) will contribute to achieving both specific objectives 1 and 2. In particular the entities may carry out activities related to: science advocacy, policy engagement and science – policy interface as well as providing thematic support to RCoEs.

#### 4.4.4 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

Should the implementation through direct management (grants) reveal not be possible due to circumstances outside of the Commission’s control, the Commission will revert to indirect management with pillar-assessed entities, which will be selected by the Commission’s service using the following criteria:

- Have thematic / regional expertise in the green transition area, including in science-policy interface and knowledge management
- Have an African anchorage
- Have experience in managing EU funds

The implementation by the entities entails the contribution to the specific objective 2 of the Action “STI capacities of RCoEs in thematic areas related to green transition are increased”

#### 4.4.5 Other actions or expenditure

Part of this Action may be implemented through a Service Level Agreement with DG JRC in order to mobilise its expertise in the achievement of the two specific objectives of the Action given its specific expertise and longstanding cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa in thematic issues related to green transition, as well as through specific tools to enhance science-policy interface, knowledge management systems, etc.

The Service Level Agreement with DG JRC will contribute to improve the framework of collaboration for the RCoEs and the overall knowledge management system to address STI – green transition challenges. It will also contribute to providing thematic support in data and information access, knowledge generation and scientific support to practitioners. JRC’s role will also be related to the identification, coordination and development of research activities together with partners

#### 4.5. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply, subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this Action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

#### 4.5 Indicative Budget

| Indicative Budget components  | EU contribution<br>(amount in EUR) | 2022              | 2023              | 2024              |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Implementation modalities</b> – cf. section 4.4  |                                    |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>Specific Objective 1: Improved cross-sectoral and cross-regional coordination and strategic steering of RCoEs to address STI green transition challenges</b> composed of | <b>10 000 000</b>                  | <b>5 000 000</b>  | <b>3 000 000</b>  | <b>2 000 000</b>  |
| Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.2   | (3 000 000)                        | (3 000 000)       |                   |                   |
| Indirect management with pillar-assessed entity – cf section 4.4.3  | (5 000 000)                        |                   | (3 000 000)       | (2 000 000)       |
| Implementation through Service Level Agreement with DG JRC – cf section 4.4.5   | (2 000 000)                        | (2 000 000)       |                   |                   |
|   |                                    |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>Specific Objective 2: Increased STI capacities of RCoEs in thematic areas related to green transition</b> composed of  | <b>70 000 000</b>                  | <b>30 000 000</b> | <b>22 000 000</b> | <b>18 000 000</b> |
| Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.1  | (22 000 000)                       | (3 000 000)       | (11 000 000)      | (8 000 000)       |
| Indirect management with pillar-assessed organisation- cf. section 4.4.3  | (40 000 000)                       | (24 000 000)      | (8 000 000)       | (8 000 000)       |
| Implementation through Service Level Agreement with DG JRC – cf section 4.4.5   | (8 000 000)                        | (3 000 000)       | (3 000 000)       | (2 000 000)       |
|   |                                    |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>Grants</b> – total envelope under section 4.4.1  | (22 000 000)                       |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>Procurement</b> – total envelope under section 4.4.2   | (3 000 000)                        |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>Evaluation</b> – cf. section 5.2<br><b>Audit</b> – cf. section 5.3   | N.A.                               |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>Totals</b>   | <b>80 000 000</b>                  | <b>35 000 000</b> | <b>25 000 000</b> | <b>20 000 000</b> |

## 4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The action is foreseen be managed by DG INTPA HQ, relevant EU Delegations and DG JRC through Service Level Agreement.

The detailed Programme governance will include provisionally the following bodies: (i) Programme Steering Committee (PSC) and (ii) Thematic Coordination Committees (TCC).

### (i) Programme Steering Committee (PSC)

The PSC will provide policy and strategic orientations to the Programme. The PSC is the key policy driver and will ensure coordination among the various key stakeholders in order to facilitate the delivery of the expected results of the programme.

The PSC will be co-chaired by the AUC and the European Commission. The PSC will be composed of representatives of the African Regional Economic Communities (RECs), representatives from AUC relevant Departments (ESTI, ARBE), AUDA-NEPAD as relevant, representatives of the TCC (one per sector) and representatives of relevant European Commission DGs (in particular DG JRC) and EU Delegations involved. Other organisations (to be jointly defined at a later stage) such as international organisations, associations, will participate in the PSC on a need basis. The rules of procedure of the PSC will be adopted by the first PSC meeting. The main tasks of the PSC may be supported by a Technical Assistance.

### (ii) Thematic Coordination Committees (TCC)

For each sector, the TCCs will provide operational, technical and scientific advice to the respective sector activities. The TCC will discuss the programme implementation challenges and issues and will report to the PSC. The TCCs will be composed of representatives of the implementing partners (RCoEs, entrusted entities, DG JRC, etc.), research coordination fora, university networks, AUC representatives and AUDA-NEPAD as relevant. Other organisations (to be jointly defined at a later stage) such as international organisations, youth or women organisations, private sector, will participate in the TCC as observers on a need basis. The implementing partners will also report on their respective work contributing to the implementation of the Action.

Additional aspects of Programme governance will be defined at a later stage: level of representation; formal channels of communication; and additional criteria for selection of ad-hoc observers (e.g. youth, women, UN, private sector, other initiatives, etc.).

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the Action.

## 5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

### 5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this Action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partners shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the Action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the Action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

With regard to the nature of the Action, data collection, performance monitoring and reporting will be carried out for each thematic sector individually. Specific modalities for each of them (indicators, targets and assumptions) will be defined in the respective contracts/agreements and during the inception phases, in a way that will provide inputs for the performance monitoring of the Action globally.

## 5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the Action, evaluations will be carried out as appropriate for this Action or its components. The evaluation modalities will be adapted to the particular situation of each sub-regional component and will be defined in individual contracts.

In case a mid-term evaluation is envisaged: it will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to share lessons learnt with other components of the Action and to assess the needs to launch a second phase of the Action.

In case a final or ex-post evaluation is envisaged: It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision). In case an evaluation is not foreseen, the Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

Where an evaluation is planned and is to be contracted by the Commission, the Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least two months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

## 5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this Action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

# 6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

e

This action will contribute to public diplomacy efforts between the European and African continents, through exchanges, twinning or peer-to-peer learning between RCoEs and other organisations,

It will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a

provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.



## Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention (also generally called project/programme) is the operational entity associated to a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Interventions are the most effective (hence optimal) entities for the operational follow-up by the Commission of its external development operations. As such, Interventions constitute the base unit for managing operational implementations, assessing performance, monitoring, evaluation, internal and external communication, reporting and aggregation.

Primary Interventions are those contracts or groups of contracts bearing reportable results and respecting the following business rule: ‘a given contract can only contribute to one primary intervention and not more than one’. An individual contract that does not produce direct reportable results and cannot be logically grouped with other result reportable contracts is considered a ‘support entities’. The addition of all primary interventions and support entities is equivalent to the full development portfolio of the Institution.

The present Action identifies as:

| <b>Contract level</b>               |                   |                 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Single Contract 1 | See section 4.5 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Single Contract 2 | See section 4.5 |