



Open Science

Statement

As advocates for scientific advancement and innovation across the African continent, NASAC proudly endorses and encourages the principles of open science. Open science embodies the ideals of transparency, collaboration, and accessibility, fostering an environment conducive to accelerated discovery and the equitable dissemination of knowledge.

In an era marked by complex global challenges, open science serves as a catalyst for progress by breaking down traditional barriers to information. By promoting open access to research findings, data, and methodologies, we empower scientists, researchers, and policymakers to build upon each other's work, facilitating the rapid development of solutions to pressing societal issues.

NASAC recognises that the collaborative nature of open science extends beyond national borders, creating opportunities for researchers from diverse backgrounds to collaborate and contribute to the collective body of knowledge. This inclusivity is essential for addressing the unique challenges faced by the African continent, as it allows for a more holistic and contextually relevant approach to scientific inquiry.

Moreover, open science enhances the reproducibility and credibility of research, reinforcing the foundation upon which scientific progress is built. By embracing open science practices, NASAC affirms its commitment to fostering a culture of integrity, accountability, and trust within the scientific community.

Open Science can only be successful with the mindful application of the cardinal guiding principle "As Open As Possible, As Closed As Necessary". This principle recognises the legislative environment, the critical socio-economic role of intellectual property rights, and ethical, environmental, contractual, and research credibility considerations.

Critical success factors in policy implementation include cognisance of publishing realities, especially the necessity for both authors and publishers to be wary of predatory publishing practices. Likewise, trusted security, stakeholder engagement, changing evaluation practices, global compatibility and sustainability are considerations. Careful change management includes the evolution towards a culture of open science, and well as support by human resource development.

We commend the UNESCO recommendation on Open Science for providing a comprehensive framework to guide the global scientific community towards embracing open practices. In alignment with this recommendation, NASAC calls upon governments, institutions, and researchers across Africa to actively embrace and promote open science initiatives. By doing so, we believe that we can unlock the full potential of the scientific community, accelerate progress, and ultimately contribute to the well-being and sustainable development of our continent.

NASAC stands united in championing open science as a cornerstone for a more collaborative future for African scientific endeavours.

Nairobi, Kenya



nasac@nasaonline.org

www.nasaonline.org



@NASAC

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