

## Africa Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund for Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology

### Progress Report July– December 2019

For more information, please contact:  
The Manager, RSIF, *icipe* (Email: [rsif@icipe.org](mailto:rsif@icipe.org))

#### Executive Summary

The Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund of the Partnership for skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology (PASET) aims to strengthen the institutional capacity of African universities to train quality PhD graduates, enhance research and innovation environments at these institutions and to generate transformative technologies that respond to key African challenges. This report provides quarterly summary of progress in implementation of the RSIF Program for the period July to December 2019. Key achievements during the period are:

1. Resource Mobilization: Ghana has signed the *icipe* subsidiary agreement (SA) confirming their contribution of USD 2m to RSIF through the World Bank (WB) African Centres of Excellence Impact (ACE Impact) Project. Disbursement is expected by end of Quarter 2, 2020. The Government of Burkina Faso has also signed the SA with *icipe* with funding from the same WB project. Several other countries including Benin, Nigeria, and Senegal are in process of signing agreements. *icipe* continued its active interaction with African governments and donors including through presence at strategic regional events. *icipe* made presentation on RSIF to ministers and technical experts on Education, Science and Technology at the Third Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology (STC-EST 3) at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Further, to strengthen resource mobilization and networking by universities, the RCU has initiated sharing information weekly with universities and students on funding opportunities.
2. In the Republic of Benin, *icipe* co-organised a national stakeholder workshop on PASET-RSIF in early December with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. Over 90 participants from key stakeholder groups in Benin attended the workshop. The Government confirmed that it would establish a National Steering Committee to oversee RSIF activities in Benin and to engage key stakeholders in the program.
3. *icipe* received the Inception Report for the Feasibility Study to establish the RSIF Endowment Fund. The consulting firm undertaking the study, Lion`s Head Global Partners, interacted with the CAG, World Bank and *icipe* during the period to further the study.
4. RSIF Host University selection was finalized with an official confirmation from the PASET Board to the African Host Universities (AHUs) on their selection. Partnership agreements were signed between each AHU<sup>1</sup> and *icipe* in October 2019. A scoping study was undertaken to identify key capacity building needs for the universities that could be met by the PASET initiative. Building on the needs identified, *icipe* is developing a capacity building strategy to guide activities in support of PhD training, research and innovation. No agreement was signed with Kenyatta University due to some confusion on national accreditation for the program. A team will be identified to review the Kenyatta University PhD program in the next quarter.
5. The 15 First Cohort RSIF Students submitted their quarterly reports and have received stipends for the next quarter- January, February and March. Overall students are progressing well with most having commenced their partnerships at international partner institutions. The selection process

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<sup>1</sup> Ten of the eleven universities signed partnership agreements with *icipe*. Kenyatta University agreement was delayed pending confirmation of their national accreditation status.

for the 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort of RSIF scholars was finalised. The EB awarded 71 candidates, 39% of whom are women (42 men and 29 women) comprising 27 faculty members. Of the 71, most (43) were supported with country funding, while 28 were supported by the Korea Fund. The Second Cohort students will initiate their studies by March 2020.

6. Following the premature exit of one of the recipients of the RSIF PhD scholarship (Ms. Lilian Malewa Robert -Reg.No. PVM/D/2018/0094- a Kenyan national) around April 2019 a three-member independent panel was commissioned by *icipe* on request by the EB to review the circumstances of her exit. The Panel was led by Prof. Tolly.S.A. Mbwette and the other members were Prof. Mabel Imbuga and Prof. Penina Mlama. The Panel has provided recommendations on the case as well as regarding measures that can lead to improvement of the management of the current and future cohorts of the PhD scholarship recipients.
7. A survey was carried out amongst AHUs to assess the status of ICT facilities to inform the RSIF Capacity Building Strategy including the establishment/ strengthening of video conferencing facilities at universities. Five universities have responded to the survey.
8. Following an RSIF Call for proposals in the last period, RSIF received nine (9) applications for the Innovation Grants Type 1 (RSIF Institutional Innovation Capacity Building Program Grants -RSIF ICBP). *icipe* also published two further calls: a call for proposals for the award of Innovation Grants Type 2 (RSIF Cooperability Grants) in the period ending December 2019, and a call for research proposals (RSIF Research Award). Both calls had a submission deadline of January 20, 2020. These will be reviewed and evaluated, and winning proposals recommended for award in the next reporting period.

Key planned activities for the next period (Annex 1) include i) completing the feasibility study on the establishment of the Endowment Fund; ii) launching the third cohort of student applications; iii) reviewing and selecting proposals for award in response to the RSIF Research Award (Research Grants Type 1) and Innovation Grants (RSIF Cooperability Grants and RSIF ICBP); and iv) completing the capacity building strategy for AHUs and Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and social risk management framework for the project.

### Key Challenges

Key challenge during the reporting period were:

- There remains a challenge in identifying adequate numbers of qualified women applicants for RSIF Scholarships. The proportion of women applicants was approximately 20%. For the next call, there will be need to increase the actions to target more women to apply.
- There is need to finalize the placement of the Second Cohort students to the universities to ensure they will be able to report to the AHUs in time for course work in 2020 Quarter 1. The Award letters from PASET are awaited to move this process forward.
- The safeguards consultant's contract was terminated due to shortfalls in meeting milestones and expiry of contract. A call for a safeguards consultant will soon be published to identify an expert to support the work.
- There is need to confirm the status of signing of the Subsidiary Agreement between Senegal and *icipe*. There are seven students that are earmarked for support by the Government of Senegal in Cohort 2. It may not be prudent to automatically move these students to the third cohort but allow them to compete again for the next call as there may be a different level of competition and to maintain merit-based selection without prior ring-fencing of scholarships for these students.

## Introduction

The Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (RSIF), the flagship program of the Partnership for skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology (PASET) aims to address fundamental gaps in skills and knowledge needed for increasing the use of science, technology and innovation for sustained economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). This Report provides a quarterly summary of progress in implementation of the RSIF Program for the period July -December 2019. The report is arranged in the two component areas of the program: **viz**, Component 1: Capacity Development for Operation of the Scholarship, Research and Innovation Fund; and Component 2: PhD Scholarships, research grants and innovation grants. Overall, the activities for the program remain “on-track”.

### A. Component 1: Capacity Development for Operation of the Scholarship, Research and Innovation Fund

#### 1.1 Capacity building for management of the RSIF General Fund and setting up the RSIF Endowment Fund:

##### 1.1.1 Resource mobilization

The RCU implemented various resource mobilization as well as other activities to enhance the visibility of the RSIF program. Key achievements are below:

- a) African country contributions are at various stages. Progress has been made with three countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana and Senegal) who are all at different stages of joining the partnership and contributing to the Fund as part of the World Bank African Centres of Excellence Impact (ACE Impact) Project. The Subsidiary Agreement (SA) between Ghana and *icipe* has now been signed and is effective. The Government of Burkina Faso has signed the SA with *icipe*, while Senegal is currently reviewing the Agreement.
- b) In the Republic of Benin, *icipe* co-organised a national stakeholder workshop on PASET-RSIF in early December at the request of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. Over 90 participants from key stakeholder groups in Benin attended the workshop. The Government confirmed that it would establish a National Steering Committee to oversee the RSIF activities in Benin.
- c) Discussions are underway on RSIF with other countries including Mauritius, Tanzania, Malawi Zambia, and Zimbabwe who have expressed interest in joining RSIF (See Annex 2). To facilitate this, the RCU prepared letters for endorsement by Prof. George A.O. Magoha, Chair of the PASET Governing Council and Cabinet Secretary for Education of the Government of Kenya to invite African governments through his colleagues to consider joining PASET (Annex 3).
- d) There have been discussions with private sector groups such as OCP Group, and the Hagar Holdings company from Sudan.
- e) In the reporting period the RCU had the chance to present RSIF to Norad (Norway), Germany, DAAD, BRIDGIN Foundation, UK Research and Innovation, the African Development Bank, and the Mastercard Foundation. Through the International Foundation for Science (IFS) linkages were made with Swiss institutions, including the Leading House Swiss TPH and University of Basel and EPLF Essential Tech.
- f) A proposal was submitted to IDRC in a competitive global call to support RSIF’s gender work.
- g) *icipe* continued its active outreach to African governments and donors through presence at strategic regional events such as the:
  - Science Granting Council Initiative for sub-Saharan Africa annual meeting in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania from 11-12 November 2019.
  - 3rd Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology (STC-EST 3) from 9-11 December 2019 at the African Union HQs in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The purpose of the meeting was to take stock of how education, science, technology and

innovation may better contribute towards attaining the African Agenda 2063 and to take collective decisions on education, science, technology and innovation. A presentation was made on RSIF to the experts and ministers of EST at the meeting.

- *icipe* participated in the “Thought Leaders Meeting on Higher Education in Africa” organised by the Mastercard Foundation in Kigali, Rwanda from 25-26 November. The objective of the meeting was to structure a new Higher Education Initiative in Africa to advance Mastercard Foundation’s goal of ensuring that 30 million young people in Africa can secure dignified and fulfilling work as part of their Young Africa Works strategy.
  - Discussions were held with British High Commission - United Kingdom Research and Innovation; Carnegie Corporation of New York; DAAD, Embassy of France and Embassy of Brazil during the period.
- h) *Icipe* engaged with 25 African and donor embassies in Nairobi in the period, providing updates on the RSIF as the agreements were signed with African Host Universities in early October. Online, phone and face to face engagement continued with senior officials from various Ministries, e.g. Malawi.
- i) The RCU has initiated sharing information weekly with universities and students on new funding possibilities. The effort is to support universities to participate in more grant writing by the RSIF AHUs. It is also to facilitate greater access to relevant and up to date information on opportunities for them to secure funding. A grant writing workshop will be organised in the next period.

### 1.1.2 Endowment Fund design

The firm commissioned to conduct the feasibility study, Lion’s Head Global Partners prepared and submitted its Inception Report for the assignment. The report was informed by interaction with the CAG (meeting in Nairobi on 22 November 2019), *icipe*, the World Bank and selected stakeholders. The Inception Report was approved during the period. The draft report along with both legal and governance frameworks for the proposed Fund, including draft TORs for fund manager is expected by the first quarter of 2020. The firm will also prepare a detailed resource mobilization strategy for RSIF.

## **1.2 Capacity development for the operation and management of doctoral training scholarships in selected AHUs**

### 1.2.1 Host university selection

RSIF Host University selection was finalized with an official confirmation from the PASET Board to the AHUs on their selection. Partnership agreements were signed between each AHU<sup>2</sup> and *icipe* in October 2019. A scoping study was undertaken to identify key capacity building needs for the universities that could be met by the PASET initiative. Building on the needs identified, *icipe* is developing a capacity building strategy to guide activities in support of PhD training, research and innovation. No agreement was signed with Kenyatta University due to some confusion on national accreditation for the program. A team will be identified to review the Kenyatta University PhD program in the next quarter.

### 1.2.2 Routine monitoring and evaluation visits to AHUs

During this reporting period, the RCU conducted routine visits to the University of Gaston Berger (UGB), Senegal; University Félix Houphouët-Boigny (U-FHB), Côte d’Ivoire and the University of Ghana. These visits included meetings with university leadership, key departmental staff and students to engage in discussion about partnership, capacity building and student matching.

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<sup>2</sup> Ten of the eleven universities signed partnership agreements with *icipe*. Kenyatta University agreement was delayed pending confirmation of their national accreditation status.

### 1.2.3 Selection of Second Cohort of PhD Scholars

Based on the process approved by the PASET EB during the first quarter of 2019, the Independent Evaluation Committee (IEC) met physically at *icipe* on 28 November 2019 and recommended to the EB to award 71 students for the Second Cohort of PhD Scholars. Table 1, 2 and 3 show the distribution of the 71 selected students by nationality, gender, and funding source. The Briefing Note to the EB ([https://icipedudu-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/person/mosiru\\_icipe\\_org/EVdNID4bCiROjD48t5WU5jIBb2HJecd1FfxYvLV13CSiQg?e=ld8kqC](https://icipedudu-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/person/mosiru_icipe_org/EVdNID4bCiROjD48t5WU5jIBb2HJecd1FfxYvLV13CSiQg?e=ld8kqC))

articulates the process and criteria applied for the process. An important criterion was to ensure that non-paying country citizens do not receive more than two scholarships. This is to provide a strong incentive for African governments to contribute and join PASET. A total of 175 applicants were eligible of which 39 were women (Table 1).

**Table 1: Candidates to be awarded second cohort RSIF PhD Scholarships by nationality**

Nationality	Eligible* applicants (women in brackets)	No. shortlisted by IEC (women in brackets)	Citizens shortlisted **	Non-citizens shortlisted***	Shortlisted on Korea Fund****
Burkina Faso	3 (0)	3 (0)	3	2	0
Cote d'Ivoire	4 (1)	4 (1)	4	2	0
Ghana	11 (2)	11 (2)	8	2	3
Kenya	34 (13)	13 (10)	8	0	5
Senegal	5 (3)	5 (3)	5	2	0
Rwanda	8 (2)	8 (2)	5	2	3
Any SSA	110 (18)	27 (11)	0	0	17
<b>Totals</b>	<b>175 (39)</b>	<b>71 (29)</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>28</b>

\* Applicants above cut-off of 3.0; \*\*citizens of the country that were shortlisted. Numbers shortlisted were constrained by number of eligible candidates from that country; \*\*\*These are shortlisted based on the 80/20 rule for country funding; \*\*\*\*Only Kenya, Ghana and Rwanda had more eligible candidates than their current funding and could benefit from Korea fund.

Of the selected 71 scholars, 39% were women (42 men and 29 women) comprising 27 faculty members (See link for details of the 71 students [https://icipedudu-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/person/mosiru\\_icipe\\_org/EQgHyHuoPTRBnDhJaVaa0R0B3P-zQH17AmHEuQzlhIzi-Q?e=zel5iN](https://icipedudu-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/person/mosiru_icipe_org/EQgHyHuoPTRBnDhJaVaa0R0B3P-zQH17AmHEuQzlhIzi-Q?e=zel5iN)). Most (43) were supported with country funding, while 28 were supported by the Korea Fund. Table 2 presents the distribution of Cohort 2 Scholarships (including 11 women and 60% faculty) to be supported by the Korea Fund. The 71 awardees are from 17 African countries (Table 3). Most awarded students applied to Sokoine university (14) while only three (3) applied to Kenyatta University (Annex 4). The Second Cohort students will initiate their studies by March 2019.

**Table 2: Distribution of Korea scholarship recipients for RSIF Cohort by nationality and gender**

Nationality	Distribution of Korea Funds (women in brackets)	Faculty
Kenya	5 (5)	3
Nigeria	2 (1)	1
Uganda	1	-
Ethiopia	1	-
Ghana	3 (1)	1
Rwanda	3 (1)	2
Tanzania, United Republic of	2	1
Cameroon	2(2)	1
Chad	2	1
Congo	1	-
Zimbabwe	2	2
Benin	2	1
Malawi	1	1
Sudan	1 (1)	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>28 (11)</b>	<b>15</b>

**Table 3: Distribution of shortlisted candidates by nationality, gender and faculty**

Nationality	Total shortlisted applications	Female	Faculty
Burkina Faso	3	-	-
Cote d'Ivoire	4	1	-
Ghana	11	2	3
Kenya	13	10	7
Senegal	5	3	-
Rwanda	8	2	3
Benin	4	1	1
Cameroon	4	2	2
Chad	2	-	1
Congo	1	-	-
Ethiopia	2	1	1
Malawi	1	-	1
Nigeria	4	3	2
Sudan	1	1	1
Tanzania	3	1	2
Uganda	3	2	1
Zimbabwe	2	-	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>27</b>

1.2.4 Strategies for increasing the participation of women in PhD training and in research in ASET fields  
RSIF was among the co-organizers (AWARD, UKRI, DFID, IDRC, Carnegie Corporation, and AAS) of the Global Forum for Women in Scientific Research (GoFoWiSeR) conference, July 18-19, 2019 in Dakar. GoFoWiSeR brought together 302 participants from 29 countries – leaders of research institutions, research funders, female scientists, and others – for a global conversation on how to enhance the numbers and experiences of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

A consultant was hired to implement the RSIF gender study and support the development of a Gender strategy for RSIF. The Consultant, Prof. Salome Bukachi is an Associate Professor of Anthropology, Gender, and African Studies at the University of Nairobi. She has now conducted a comprehensive literature review of empirical studies on women’s participation in graduate science programs and identified factors that influence female student completion rate of graduate programs in ASET fields. The core of the planned research is a survey of PhD students (both former and current) and faculty of PhD programs in ASET fields at African universities. Groundwork for the survey was initiated in November, which included developing the survey protocol and instruments (structured questionnaires and focus group checklists). The consultant has initiated the surveys and will visit further RSIF AHUs in the next period for the surveys. Finalization of the RSIF gender strategy is anticipated within the next reporting period.

1.2.5. International partner organizations

Over and above the existing seven international partners with signed MoUs, there has been considerable progress in the establishment of additional international partner institutions. There are



high level discussions with Ghent University, Rutgers State University of New Jersey, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), University of Greenwich's Natural Resources Institute, John Innes Center, the University of Tokyo, and Kobe Institute of Computing, Japan. A draft tripartite agreement between AHUs-*icipe*-IPI was developed to facilitate the partnerships. This will be shared with the IPIs and the AHUs as they move to the next steps of collaboration.

*icipe* also facilitated a one-day meeting between representatives from Seoul National University, Institutes of Green Bio Science and Technology (SNU-GBST) and the University of Ghana on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019 in Ghana to further identify areas for collaboration between the two institutions for student training.

#### Mohamed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P):

A workshop was co-organized by Mohamed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P), *icipe* and the World Bank at the UM6P campus in Benguerir Morocco between 4-6 September 2019 to discuss the implementation arrangements for the recently signed MoU between PASET and UM6P. Specifically, the objectives of the three-day workshop were to:

1. Identify potential areas for collaboration and partnership between the two institutions, including in new research areas;
2. Identify opportunities for joint research and supervision for PhD students registered at the PASET RSIF African Host Universities to undertake research at UM6P as part of their sandwich training;
3. Deepen understanding of Innovation platforms/ systems and related capacity available at UM6P and identify opportunities for collaboration to strengthen AHU innovation capacity and training;
4. Identify opportunities for exchange of faculty professors and researchers;
5. Discuss how to strengthen partnerships between PASET and the OCP Group (i.e. by joint research & innovation through competitive grants on specific thematic areas of relevance to OCP).

The Workshop was attended by representatives from the eleven AHUs and counterpart research teams from UM6P. Representatives from the World Bank, OCP, and *icipe* also attended the three-day meeting. The workshop was designed to allow the two parties to better understand their respective missions and 'modus operandi' to facilitate partnership building and identification of specific areas and activities for the collaboration. The three-day workshop included facilitated discussions, site visits and breakout sessions. The discussions were arranged based on the five PASET thematic areas. The Workshop report and participants can be accessed on this link [https://icipedudu-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/mosiru\\_icipe\\_org/EXpxaZq7C\\_dPqCYm\\_s0n\\_7cBBMPHKdeU455ap5YnZ1eK8g?e=Xjj4hP](https://icipedudu-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/mosiru_icipe_org/EXpxaZq7C_dPqCYm_s0n_7cBBMPHKdeU455ap5YnZ1eK8g?e=Xjj4hP)

UM6P has committed to providing 20 PhD internship Scholarships for RSIF scholars to be undertaken in partnership with AHUs, UM6P and partners in the north. A list of UM6P faculty has been provided for matching with AHUs and discussions are on-going.

#### Strengthening RSIF partnerships with Japanese Universities and Industry Partners

With co-financing from the World Bank, representatives from the RCU and six (6) African Host Universities attended the TICAD 7 Conference and subsequent events in Japan from August 28 to September 4, 2019. Participants visited exhibition booths and attended various other side meetings to make useful connections for potential partnerships for their respective universities. Subsequent separate meetings were held with Japanese Universities and Industry Partners with World Bank facilitation. During these meetings, RSIF AHU representatives were able to present highlights of their PhD programs and research areas of interest to facilitate collaborations with Japanese Universities for

the conduct of joint research. Further they were able to participate in panel discussions to highlight the social issues in African context that can be addressed by private sector as they plan to invest or expand their operations in Africa and how they can leverage the universities as an entry point. The mission also included site visits to two private sector companies and one Japanese university for learning and knowledge exchange on the experiences of Japan private sector – University engagement and the innovation development.

### 1.3 Capacity development for improving quality of PhD programs and research in ASET fields

#### 1.3.1. Scoping exercise and gap analysis

As part of efforts to understand the current capacities of the AHUs for delivering world class PhD scholars, a scoping exercise and gap analysis was undertaken in the last period. This took the form of interviews, guided by a questionnaire that was designed, having taken into consideration, the scope of the RSIF, expected outcomes, as well as benchmarking frameworks such as of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

During the period, *icipe*-RCU and RSIF AHUs engaged in virtual discussions with 10 AHUs and finalized partnership agreements (signed on 7 October 2019) in Nairobi, Kenya, witnessed by the Director for University Education, Government of Kenya on behalf of the Chair of the PASET Governing Council, Prof. George A.O. Magoha. An RSIF Capacity Building Strategy is under preparation and is expected to be finalised during the next period. The Strategy will consider some of the key issues highlighted by universities during the Scoping Study as below:

- **PhD scholar supervision models:** The AHUs have varying standards on how supervision is undertaken within their institutions in terms of: (i) frequency of engagement between the scholar and the supervisor; (ii) requirements for formal review processes; (iii) the need for publications prior to graduation; (iv) frequency of progress reports; and (v) requirements for scholars to attend formal seminars among others. Training for supervision is also not rationalized.
- **Intellectual property (IP):** The AHUs raised concerns over IP rights and management issues particularly under the sandwich program, where the scholars are hosted in international PIs.
- **Research ethics, ethics and sexual harassment.** Most of the AHUs have some form of ethics, research ethics, and sexual harassment policies. However, the AHUs requested support in implementing these policies.
- **Industry partnerships.** The AHUs indicated that building meaningful partnerships with the private sector/industry remains a significant challenge.
- **Accreditation.** Some AHUs have made good progress in implementing international accreditation. However, challenges remain in identification of the right PI to implement international accreditation and the costly nature of the process on the part of the AHUs.

#### 1.3.2 World Bank Implementation Support Mission to *icipe*

A World Bank Implementation support mission was held on 10&11 October at *icipe* to a) review the status of the second cohort of RSIF scholars and agree on timelines for the next steps; b) review status of partnership with international partner institutions and discuss the proposed 'due diligence' guidelines for these partners; c) review the status of research and innovation grants for the calls' ending September and October 2019 and agree on timelines for the next steps; d) review implementation progress for resource mobilization and communication activities; and e) review fiduciary and safeguards compliance as well as status of implementation of recommendations, including regarding establishment of grievance mechanisms, from the last implementation support mission in February 2019 and the follow on-technical review meetings in June and August 2019.

#### 1.3.3. Capacity Building of host University libraries

*icipe* has created a network of librarians at the AHUs to facilitate provision of services to the AHUs. All 10 RSIF AHUs were facilitated to access research for Life (R4L) and are now registered on the website.



R4L<sup>3</sup> includes approximately ~85,000 peer-reviewed international scientific journals, books, and databases provided by the world’s leading science publishers. In addition, a call for applications was sent to librarians in the AHU’s to join a five-week Massive Open Online course (MOOC) by research4life and a number have applied. The MOOC was sponsored by Elsevier and FAO.

#### 1.3.4. ICT

A survey was carried out amongst AHUs to assess the status of ICT facilities to inform the RSIF Capacity Building Strategy including the establishment/ strengthening of video conferencing facilities at universities. Five universities have responded to the survey. The RSIF website is also in the process of being overhauled.

A Call for Proposals has been published for the development of a management information system (MIS) for RSIF to support the automation of the scholarship and innovation components of the program. Selection is ongoing.

#### 1.3.5 Implementation status of Research Grants (Window 2)

On October 8, 2019, RSIF published a call for research proposals (RSIF Research Award) with a submission deadline of January 6, 2020 (the deadline was extended to January 20, 2020 to allow more time after the December holidays). The grant is for faculty at the RSIF Africa Host Universities and is also intended, where possible to support RSIF PhD scholars’ research projects. A webinar was organized (December 17, 2019) to assist the AHUs understand the calls better and to support the identification of project teams. The review process is on-going.

### **1.4 Capacity development for the operation and management of innovation grants**

#### Implementation status of Innovation Grants (Window 3)

In the quarter ending September 2019, RSIF received 9 applications for the award of Innovation grants type 1 (RSIF Institutional Innovation Capacity Building Program Grants -RSIF ICBP); and published a call for proposals for the award of Innovation Grants Type 2 (RSIF Cooperability Grants) in the period ending December 2019 (see Table 4 for details).

Table 4. Status of Innovation Grants Type 1 and 2

Type of Grant	Status
Type 1- RSIF Institutional Innovation Capacity Building Program Grant (RSIF ICBP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nine (9) applications received from RSIF AHUs.</li> <li>- Eligibility screening undertaken. Seven (7) applications were compliant and sent for review by technical experts.</li> <li>- Technical Independent review by three experts with relevant expertise in Innovation system strengthening done during the quarter.</li> <li>- The Research and Innovations Grants Technical Committee (GITC) will review and recommend to EB for award in the next quarter.</li> </ul>
Type 2- RSIF Cooperability Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Call for Proposal published on October 18, 2019 with a submission deadline of January 6, 2020 (extended to January 20, 2020).</li> <li>- A webinar on the Call was organized on December 17, 2019.</li> <li>- Technical review to be done in the next quarter.</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> During the year, two publishers (Springer and Elsevier) pulled out of the research4life program in some African countries meaning access to quality peer reviewed resources in ASET fields has reduced significantly. To counter this setback, there is a need to acquire one database rich in ASET journals, which will be done during 2020.

## B. Component 2: PhD Scholarships, Research Grants and Innovation Grants

### 2.1 Status of first cohort of scholars and engagement with KIST

The 15 first cohort RSIF Students submitted their quarterly reports and have received stipends for the next quarter- January, February and March, 2020. Overall students are progressing well, and most have initiated their internships. Progress is as below:

- Six students matched with Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST): five students (Sylvia Wairimu, Kenya; Emmanuel Kifaro, Tanzania; Humphrey Mabwi, Kenya; Maxwell Waema, Kenya; Gahamanyi Noel, Rwanda) have started their internships at KIST in Korea. One student, Frejus Sodedji (Benin) will join in early January 2020.
- Six students matched with Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) have started their sandwich training at WPI in the USA. Scholars have all completed general laboratory safety training in addition to training on the use of Scanning Electron Microscopy and the use of X-Ray diffractometer.
- Three students are preparing to undertake their sandwich training at Biosciences eastern and central Africa at the International Livestock Research Institute (BecA - ILRI) Hub. The first student, Traore Abdoulaye will join a multi-disciplinary team of experts from the International Potato Center (CIP) and Purdue University. The second student, Jean Hakizimana is finalizing sequencing of samples and will begin bioinformatics analysis placement in March 2020. Levi Omache is currently engaged in data collection in Tanzania.
- Students continue to participate in various trainings and conferences. For example, Jean Hakizimana (Rwanda) was competitively selected to participate in a scientific writing and publishing workshop at *icipe* from November 4-8, 2019. Sylvia Wairimu presented a poster at the 2019 Annual Autumn Conference of the Korean Society for Horticultural science (KSHS). The poster was entitled; “Mass Spectrometer Based Untargeted Metabolomics Investigation of Heat and Freeze Dried *Ganoderma lucidum* using ultra-performance liquid chromatography (UPLC-QTOF-MS) and gas chromatography coupled to quadrupole-time-of-flight mass spectrometry (GC-QTOF-MS).

#### Review of separation of RSIF Student, Lillian Malewa from SUA

Following the premature exit of one of the recipients of the RSIF PhD scholarship (Ms. Lilian Malewa Robert -Reg.No. PVM/D/2018/0094- a Kenyan national) around April 2019 a three-member independent panel was commissioned by *icipe* on request by the EB to review the circumstances of her exit. The Panel was led by Prof. Tolly.S.A. Mbwette and the other members were Prof. Mabel Imbuga and Prof. Penina Mlama. The panel was given the task to investigate the specific case and to make some specific recommendations on the case as well as regarding measures that can lead to improvement of the management of the current and future cohorts of the PhD scholarship recipients. The Panel provided recommendations to RSIF and PASET

## C. Crosscutting activities

### 3.1 RSIF communications

*icipe* has developed a draft communications strategy for RSIF and continues to implement various elements. The strategy will be finalized during the next period.

- i. Procurement of a firm to support RSIF communications is also underway and is expected to be completed in the next period. The firm will support *icipe* to further refine key messages for RSIF and to support delivery of these messages.

- ii. To reach out to the French speaking countries, RSIF has compiled the website and social media accounts of the ministries of education of the 21 countries where French is the official language. These addresses will be used for dissemination during the next call for applications for PASET-RSIF scholarships in January 2020.
- iii. The tendering process to undertake the website re-development is ongoing and to be completed in the next quarter.

### 3.2 Safeguards, risk management and development of a grievance re-dress mechanism

*icipe*-AHU agreements which were signed in October included a requirement for AHUs to appoint focal points. Unfortunately, during the period, the Safeguards Consultancy was terminated due to shortfalls in meeting milestones and expiry of contract. *icipe* is in the process of contracting another consultant to undertake this work. *icipe* continued training of its staff to support safeguarding with the below trainings:

- (i) UNDP Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)
- (ii) Humanitarian Leadership Academy Safeguarding Essentials
- (iii) World Bank Introduction to the World bank Environmental and Social safeguards

The link to the World Bank online course was also shared with AHUs.

### 3.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

A one-day theory of change workshop was held with core project staff in which a draft project theory of change schema was developed, discussed and revised. The workshop was facilitated by the monitoring and evaluation specialist and its objectives were to:

- 1) Provide a platform for staff to have a better understanding of the project's context and design.
- 2) Review and define outcomes and associated indicators, to complement those provided under the PAD based Results Framework.
- 3) Discuss and refine capacity building indicators for tracking students' progress and project's performance on delivery of quality PhDs and quality research.
- 4) Suggest mechanisms for designing of tools and frameworks for tracking progress on capacity development.

An updated theory of change and its associated evaluation framework has been developed and will continuously guide project monitoring and evaluations. The theory of change schema will be further developed into a tool for marketing and increasing stakeholder's understanding of the project. Consequently, students, African Host University (AHU) contact persons and student supervisors' reporting templates have been reviewed and refined based on the updated project theory of change. The project has continued to monitor its progress on indicators and targets provided in the PAD. An updated PAD based indicator tracking sheet has been completed.

A list of procurements undertaken during the period is included as Annex 5.

### 3.4 Key Challenges during the period

As the project concluded its first year, the following challenges were encountered during the period:

- i. There remains a challenge in identifying adequate numbers of qualified women applicants for RSIF Scholarships. The proportion of women applicants was approximately 20%. For the next call, there will be need to increase the actions to target more women to apply.
- ii. There is need to finalize the placement of the Second Cohort students to the universities to ensure they will be able to report to the AHUs in time for course work in 2020 Quarter 1. The Award letters from PASET are awaited to move this process forward.
- iii. The safeguards consultant's contract was terminated due to shortfalls in meeting the agreed milestones and expiry of contract period. A call for a safeguards consultant will soon be published to identify an expert to support the work. This will slow down the finalization of the Grievance Redress Mechanism for RSIF and related tools needed to make this functional.

- iv. There is need to confirm the status of signing of the Subsidiary Agreement between Senegal and *icipe*. There are seven students that are earmarked for support by the Government of Senegal in Cohort 2<sup>4</sup>. It may not be prudent to automatically move these students to the third cohort but allow them to compete again for the next call as there may be a different level of competition and in the interest of maintaining merit-based and open evaluation process.
- v. During the first year, the African University of Science and Technology had several governance and management challenges. Following an RSIF mission to the university and actions by the Ministry of Education in Nigeria, it was agreed by the PASET Board that they would not take students for Cohort 2. There is need to verify the current status to confirm their eligibility to receive students for Cohort 3.
- vi. Need to confirm target numbers for RSIF in order to enable scenario building for RSIF to be used by the consultant to build the resource mobilisation strategy. It is clear that PASET will contribute to the 10,000 students but will not be held accountable for all the 10,000. These are also needed for finalisation of the Resource mobilisation strategy.

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<sup>4</sup> Five Senegalese students, one from Nigeria and one from Cameroon.

### 3.5 A summary of utilization of funds from the Governments of Kenya, Rwanda and Côte d'Ivoire

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Description</b>			<b>Total</b>
B8501G00001	<i>icipe</i>	Balance from AAU			3,413,977
B8501G00001	<i>icipe</i>	From Ivorian Govt			1,033,497
	<b>Total Income</b>				<b>4,447,474</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Jan-Jun 2019</b>	<b>Jul-Dec 2019</b>	<b>Total</b>
B8501G30001	Maxwell Wambua Waema	Scholarship costs	14,400	-	14,400
B8501G30002	Sylvia Wairimu Maina	Scholarship costs	10,800	-	10,800
B8501G30003	Humphrey Mabwi	Scholarship costs	10,800	-	10,800
B8501G30004	Levi Omache	Scholarship costs	10,800	7,200	18,000
B8501G30005	Lilian Mulewa	Scholarship costs	3,600	-	3,600
B8501G30006	Gahamanyi Noel	Scholarship costs	10,800	3,600	14,400
B8501G30007	Jean N. Hakizimana	Scholarship costs	10,800	7,200	18,000
B8501G30008	Emmanuel Effah	Scholarship costs	10,800	21,107	31,907
B8501G30009	Fatoumata Thiam	Scholarship costs	10,800	14,420	25,220
B8501G30010	Richard Kipyegon Koech	Scholarship costs	10,800	14,548	25,348
B8501G30011	Jeanne Pauline Munganyinka	Scholarship costs	10,800	14,853	25,653
B8501G30012	Jean Baptiste Habinshuti	Scholarship costs	10,800	14,548	25,348
B8501G30013	David Afolayan	Scholarship costs	10,800	14,548	25,348
B8501G30014	Sodedji Frejus Kpedetin	Scholarship costs	10,800	3,600	14,400
B8501G30015	Traore Abdoulaye	Scholarship costs	7,200	7,200	14,400
B8501G31201	Other PHD Expenses	Investigation costs*	-	6,628	6,628
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>154,800</b>	<b>129,452</b>	<b>284,252</b>
	<b>Balance</b>				<b>4,163,222</b>

\*Investigation by RSIF on the causes of Lilian Mulewa separation with RSIF

### 3.6 RSIF Funds Allocation Report –Government Contributions

INCOME		Notes	KENYA		RWANDA		COTE D'IVOIRE	TOTAL
Funds received		A	1,979,177		1,963,292		1,033,497	4,975,966
Less : AAU Admin charges		B	131,105		130,387		-	261,492
<b>Funds available for Scholarships</b>		C =A-B	<b>1,848,072</b>		<b>1,832,905</b>		<b>1,033,497</b>	<b>4,714,474</b>
Scholarship Cost per student (4 years)		E	97,300		97,300		97,300	
<b>Number of Scholarships Available</b>		F=C/E	<b>18</b>		<b>18</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>46</b>
Allocation of Scholarships								
80% to Nationals	80%	G	15		15		8	38
20% to Non Nationals	20%	H	3		3		2	8
Scholarships Awarded								
Nationals	60%	I	6	80%	4		-	10
Non Nationals	40%	J	4	20%	1		-	5
Scholarships to Award								
Nationals		K=G-I	8		11		8	27
Non Nationals		L=H-J	-		2		2	4
<b>Funds spent on Scholars</b>								
By AAU		M	178,000		89,000		-	267,000
By <i>Icipe</i>		N	168,944		115,308		-	284,252
<b>Fund Balance</b>		<b>O=C-M-N</b>	<b>1,501,128</b>		<b>1,628,597</b>		<b>1,033,497</b>	<b>4,163,222</b>



## Annex 1: Key planned activities for the next quarter (January – March 2020)

### General Fund and Endowment Fund

- 4.1. Complete feasibility study on the establishment of the Endowment Fund.
- 4.2. Continue to implement the interim resource mobilization plan per the activities and schedules indicated therein

### Management of PhD Scholarships and Research/Innovation Grants

- 4.3. Finalize the selection criteria for IPIs and advance in the selection of international partner organizations
- 4.4. Ensure early discussion of matching of students with partner institutions
- 4.5. Finalize recruitment of second cohort of students
- 4.6. Launch third cohort of student applications
- 4.7. Advance in the review and selection of proposals for award in response to the RSIF Research Award (Research Grants Type 1) and Innovation Grants (RSIF Cooperability Grants and RSIF ICBP)
- 4.8. Finalize study of existing innovation support organizations (tech hubs, accelerators and incubators) in participating RSIF countries
- 4.9. Conduct assessment of innovation systems of RSIF AHUs and PASET Countries

### Capacity building of host universities

- 4.10. Complete a capacity building strategy for AHUs
- 4.11. Enhance access to journals and databases for RSIF scholars
- 4.12. Facilitate registration of free access to Research for life (R4L) resources for the seven other AHUs.

### Cross cutting activities

- 4.13. Finalize development of an RSIF communication strategy
- 4.14. Finalize hiring of a communication firm to support communications and branding for RSIF
- 4.15. Finalize Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and social risk management framework for the project.

Annex 2: RSIF engagement with countries

Country	Expected Contribution (US\$)	Payment modality	Expected date of contribution (by calendar year)	Current status
Angola	2 Million	Direct payment to RSIF	Unclear	Discussions initiated
Benin	2 million	World Bank ACE Impact Phase 2	Q4, 2020	Awaiting approval of ACE Impact Phase 2 by WB Board
Burkina Faso	2 million	World Bank ACE Impact Phase 1	Q1, 2020	Awaiting project effectiveness. SA signed
Ghana	2million	World Bank ACE Impact Phase 1	Q1, 2020	Agreement signed and project effective
Malawi	Unknown	Unknown	Unclear	Discussions underway
Mauritius	2 million	Direct payments	Unclear	Discussions underway
Mozambique	6 million	World Bank Country project	Q2 2020	Awaiting approval of Project by WB Board
Nigeria	4 million	World Bank ACE Impact Phase 2	Q4, 2020	Awaiting approval of ACE Impact Phase 2 by WB Board
Senegal	2 million	World Bank ACE Impact Phase 1	Q1, 2020	Awaiting signing of SA
South Africa	Unknown	Direct payment to RSIF	Unclear	Discussions underway
Tanzania	2 million	World Bank Country Project	Unclear	Not clear
Zambia	Unknown	Unknown	Unclear	Discussions underway
Zimbabwe	Unknown	Unknown	Unclear	Discussions underway

Annex 3: List of invitations to participate in PASET\* prepared by RSIF-RCU

COUNTRY	NAME OF MINISTER	TITLE
Angola	Hon. Maria do Rosário Bragança Sambo	Minister of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation
Cabo Verde	Hon. Maritza Rosabal Peña	Minister of Education and Minister of Family and Social Inclusion of Cabo Verde
Cameroun	S.E. Pr. Jacques FAME NDONGO	Le Ministre d'Etat, Ministre de l'Enseignement Supérieur
Chad/Tchad	S.E. Dr Houdeingar David Ngarimaden	Ministre de l'Enseignement supérieur, de la Recherche scientifique et de l'Innovation
Djibouti	S.E. Dr. Nabil Mohamed Ahmed	Ministre de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche
DRC	Hon. Thomas Luhaka	Ministre de l'Enseignement supérieur et Universitaire
Gambia	Hon. Mr. Badara Alieu Joof	Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology
Guinée	S.E. Abdoulaye Yéro Baldé	Ministre de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche
Malawi	Hon. Dr William Susuwele-Banda	Minister of Education, Science and Technology
Namibia	Hon. Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi	Minister, Higher Education, Training and Innovation
Sudan	Hon. Dr Intisar El Zein	Minister of Higher Education
Togo	H.E. Prof. Koffi Akpagana	Ministre de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche
Uganda	Hon. Mrs. Janet Kataaha Museveni	First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports
Zimbabwe	Hon. Prof. Amon Murwira	Minister of Higher & Tertiary Education, Science & Technology Development

\*Explanatory notes:

All sub-Saharan African countries are welcome to join PASET if they agree with the provisions in its charter and contribute to RSIF.

Letters to Mauritius and South Africa were sent previously. Letters were not done to current and incoming members including Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda and Senegal. Letters to Botswana, Mali and Mauritania were not done at this stage.

Additional countries not in this list that have since expressed an interest to receive communication from PASET-RSIF include: Central African Republic, Congo-Brazzaville, Eswatini and Lesotho.

### Annex 4: Shortlisted students by African Host University and Gender

RSIF AHU	Total	Female	Male
Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania	14	5	9
University of Ghana-Legon, Ghana	11	4	7
University of Nairobi, Kenya	11	4	7
L'Université Gaston Berger, Senegal	9	4	5
Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology, Tanzania	5	2	3
University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria	2	1	1
Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny, Côte d'Ivoire.	8	3	5
University of Rwanda	4	1	3
Bayero University, Nigeria	4	4	0
Kenyatta University, Kenya	3	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>42</b>

### Annex 5: List of all procurements undertaken and their status

S.No	Procurement Activity	Status as at December 19th
1	Procurement of office stationery	Completed
2	Consultancy for Photographer for the Fifth PASET Forum	Completed
3	Consultancy for Videographer for the Fifth PASET Forum	Completed
4	Consultancy for Interviewer for the Fifth PASET Forum	Completed
5	Procurement of Computers and accessories	Completed
6	Individual consultant for French-English translation services	Completed
7	Creative cloud software for Design work	Completed
8	Procurement of service providers for printing communication materials	Completed
9	Development of safeguards and grievance redress mechanism framework (Social Risk Management)	Consultancy terminated, new process initiated, proposals to be submitted by 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
10	Consultant to facilitate a team building exercise for RSIF staff	Completed
11	Consultancy firm for French-English translation services	Consultancy in progress
12	Feasibility Study on Establishment of an Endowment Fund for RSIF	Consultancy in progress
13	Individual consultancy for Development of a Strategy for Enhancing Women's Participation in PhD Programs and Research in Applied Sciences, Engineering, and Technology (ASET) fields at African Universities	Consultancy in progress
14	Consultancy firm for Redesign and Development of the RSIF Website	At contracting stage
15	Purchase of Video Conferencing equipment, Camera and accessories.	Process cancelled, new bids to be submitted on 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
16	Consultancy Firm for Communications, Branding and Outreach for the Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (RSIF).	Process temporarily on hold.
17	Procurement of office furniture	Completed, awaiting delivery of furniture.
18	Individual consultant for Proposal writing workshop services	Consultancy in progress
19	Consultancy for development and design of a Scholarships and Grants Information Management System	At Request for Expression of Interest shortlisting stage.
20	Short term consultancy for Communications officer	Proposals for evaluation to be submitted on 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2020