

**Desk Evaluation**  
**ACE Impact Component 1.1**  
**Proposals for NEW Africa Centers of Excellence**

<b>Proposal Title:</b>	
<b>Institution:</b>	
<b>Country:</b>	
<b>TOTAL SCORE:</b>	<b>/100</b>

Criteria for Evaluation	Score
<p><b>Relevance to the Development Challenge (maximum 10 points)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the proposal clearly identify the Development Challenge, and describe what aspects of the Challenge that the proposed Center will address?</li> <li>• Is the proposed Development Challenge significant and important enough to merit an ACE Center?</li> <li>• Does the proposal articulate a clear and reasonable vision with regards to the Development Challenge?</li> <li>• Does the proposal convincingly describe the education and research goals of the proposed center to address the Development Challenge?</li> </ul>	<p>Score /10</p>
<p>Comments to justify score:</p>	
<p><b>Regionalization (maximum 15 points)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the proposal clearly describe the need for, and a strategy for, regionalization of the proposed Center?</li> <li>• Does the proposal describe a compelling case for regional students? And does the proposal articulate an effective strategy for recruiting and retaining a regional student body at the postgraduate level?</li> <li>• Does the proposal bring together regional academic partners – institutions and/or individuals – to address the vision and goals of the proposed center?</li> <li>• Does the proposal describe an effective process to disseminate knowledge produced by the proposed center regionally?</li> <li>• Does the host institution have an effective regional strategy? Does the proposed center articulate a reasonable regional strategy?</li> <li>• Do those individuals involved in the center have a record of achievement in regional engagement? Does the institution have a record of achievement in regional engagement?</li> </ul>	<p>Score /15</p>
<p>Comments to justify score:</p>	

<p><b>Education (maximum 20 points)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the proposal clearly describe an effective and compelling education program for the proposed center? Does it justify the projected student numbers?</li> <li>• Does the proposal identify and address the existing skills gap, and put forth a detailed plan to address this gap? Does the proposal discuss internships and hiring of graduates?</li> <li>• Does the institution have the capacity to deliver the proposed Master’s and Ph.D. programs described in the proposal?</li> <li>• Do the current and anticipated postgraduate courses meet international standards in terms of quality, learning outcomes, and potential impact on the Development Challenge? Does the proposal describe innovative education activities?</li> <li>• Does the proposal describe a reasonable plan to obtain international accreditation?</li> <li>• Is there a compelling vision for short course development and delivery? Is there a viable financial model, building on partnerships?</li> <li>• Do the academic partnerships focused on education contribute to the proposed Center? Are the academic partners appropriate?</li> <li>• Is the budget reasonable, and does the proposed education program offer value for the potential ACE Center investment?</li> </ul>	<p>Score /20</p>
<p>Comments to justify score:</p>	
<p><b>Research (maximum 15 points)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the proposal describe a systems-based research approach to address the Development Challenge? Is the scope of the proposed research feasible and reasonable in the timeframe and with the anticipated budget?</li> <li>• Does the proposed research plan contribute scientifically to addressing the Development Challenge?</li> <li>• Is the proposed research plan consistent with a center of excellence? What is the scientific merit of the proposed research?</li> <li>• Does the proposed center have, or describe plans to obtain, the necessary expertise, equipment and academic partners to undertake the proposed research? Comment on the quality and record of the faculty involved.</li> <li>• Does the dissemination plan effectively communicate the anticipated research results to all relevant stakeholders?</li> <li>• Does the center proposed a plan to leverage ACE support for research to build a broader research endeavor based upon contract research, other external grants and/or related activities?</li> </ul>	<p>Score /15</p>
<p>Comments to justify score:</p>	

<p><b>Depth of Sectoral Engagement (maximum 10 points)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has the proposed center effectively consulted with the relevant sectoral stakeholders? How well has this input been incorporated into the proposal?</li> <li>• Does the proposed center have an effective plan for incorporating sectoral partnerships into the activities of the center?</li> <li>• Has the proposed center established the necessary partnerships to succeed in its vision and goals? In particular, are the major national and regional stakeholders for the Development Challenge partnering with the proposed center?</li> <li>• Does the proposal describe how the current partners add value to the proposed center?</li> <li>• Comment on the financial commitment and other contributions of the partners to the proposed center.</li> <li>• Comment on the commitment of the proposed Sectoral Advisory Board.</li> <li>• Is there a record of achievement for sectoral-academic partnerships involving those participants in the proposed center?</li> </ul>	<p>Score /10</p>
<p>Comments to justify score:</p>	
<p><b>Center Organization and Structure (maximum 10 points)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the proposal describe an organizational structure that will enable the education and research objectives of the center to be achieved?</li> <li>• Is the proposed center leadership suitably qualified to lead a center of excellence?</li> <li>• Is the management plan clearly delineated?</li> <li>• Does the proposal describe an effective plan for operational excellence?</li> <li>• Does the proposed center provide the necessary and appropriate incentives to encourage faculty participation and ownership in center activities?</li> <li>• Is the proposed center integrated into the host institution's structures, and will it benefit from the host institution?</li> <li>• Do the International Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) and Sectoral Advisory Board (IAB) have an appropriate role in center management?</li> </ul>	<p>Score /10</p>
<p>Comments to justify score:</p>	

<p><b>Potential for Institutional Impact (maximum 5 points)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the proposal lay out a convincing plan for institutional impact?</li> <li>• What are the strengths and weaknesses of the plan for institutional impact?</li> <li>• Does the proposal indicate strong support from institutional leadership for improvements in university management and operations?</li> <li>• Does the institution have the capability to implement a regionalization strategy, with concrete steps leading to identifiable results?</li> </ul>	<p>Score /5</p>
<p>Comments to justify score:</p>	
<p><b>Center and Institutional Capacity to Host Successful Center (maximum 5 points)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the institution has hosted a previous ACE center, what has been the institutional support for that project?</li> <li>• Does the institution have a record of achievement in supporting large project awards? Does the institution have effective policies and practices in place to manage large awards?</li> <li>• Comment on the commitment of the Vice-Chancellor/Rector to the proposed center.</li> <li>• Does the proposed center align with the institutional strategy and mission?</li> <li>• Does the proposal describe an adequate risk management strategy?</li> </ul>	<p>Score /5</p>
<p>Comments to justify score:</p>	

<p><b>Sustainability Plan (maximum 5 points)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the proposal lay out a convincing and achievable plan for long-term sustainability of the proposed center?</li> <li>• Does the proposal describe a viable path to financial sustainability? Does this include costs for both the education and research programs?</li> <li>• How will partnerships built during the ACE Impact funding be maintained long-term?</li> <li>• Does the proposal describe how education programs will undergo continuous improvement in response to changing needs?</li> <li>• Does the proposal describe a long-term plan for building capacity and excellence in ongoing applied research? Who will the center consult on future research directions beyond the period of ACE Impact funding?</li> </ul>	<p>Score /5</p>
<p>Comments to justify score:</p>	
<p><b>Integration of Proposal Elements (maximum 5 points)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the proposal put forward an integrated, visionary plan for a center of excellence?</li> <li>• Does the proposal address all considerations in an achievable manner?</li> <li>• Does the proposal present a compelling case for support?</li> <li>• Does the proposal inspire confidence in the capacity of the faculty and institution to deliver on the goals?</li> <li>• How will the proposed center address the Development Challenge in a manner that is only achievable through large-scale, multidisciplinary, center-type financing?</li> </ul>	<p>Score /5</p>
<p>Comments to justify score:</p>	

**Additional Comments by Evaluator**

**Name of Evaluator:**

**Signature of Evaluator:**

**Date:**