

INVOLVING YOUNG SCIENTISTS IN SCIENCE ACADEMIES IN AFRICA

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OUTLINE



- **Overview of NASAC**

Who we are and what we do

- **Role of Young Scientists in Science Academies**

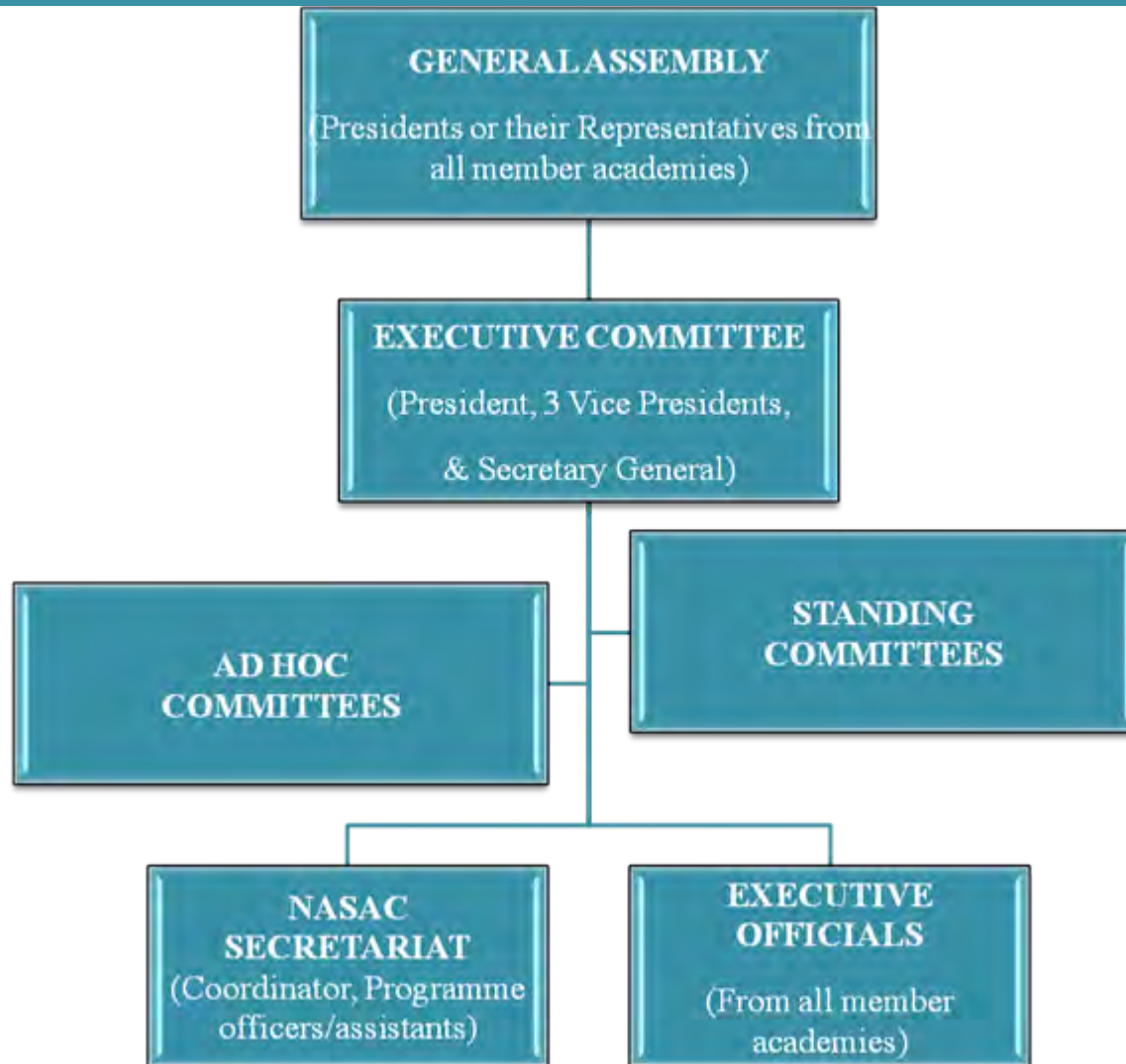
Challenges + Opportunities = Priorities

NASAC: Our Mission & Members

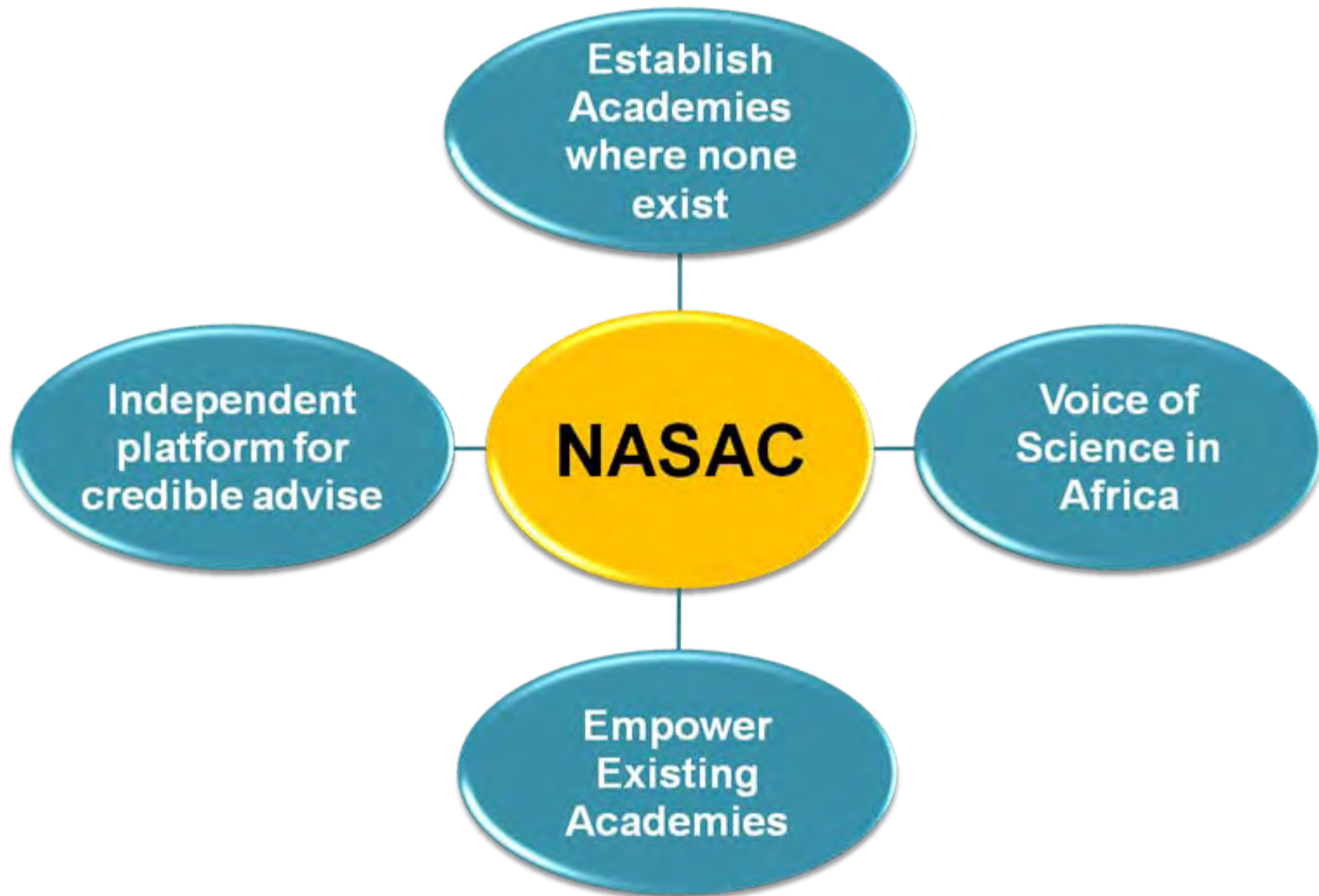
Founded in **Dec. 2001** as independent forum for African science academies with a mission to ***provide authoritative science advise for policy formulation towards economic, social and cultural development in Africa***

| 17 member academies | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Cameroon | Nigeria |
| Ethiopia | Senegal |
| Ghana | Sudan |
| Kenya | South Africa |
| Mauritius | Tanzania |
| Madagascar | Uganda |
| Morocco | Zambia |
| Mozambique | Zimbabwe |
| AAS (<i>regional academy</i>) | |
| 2 Potential members | |
| Egypt | Namibia |

NASAC: Our Governance Structure



NASAC: What we do

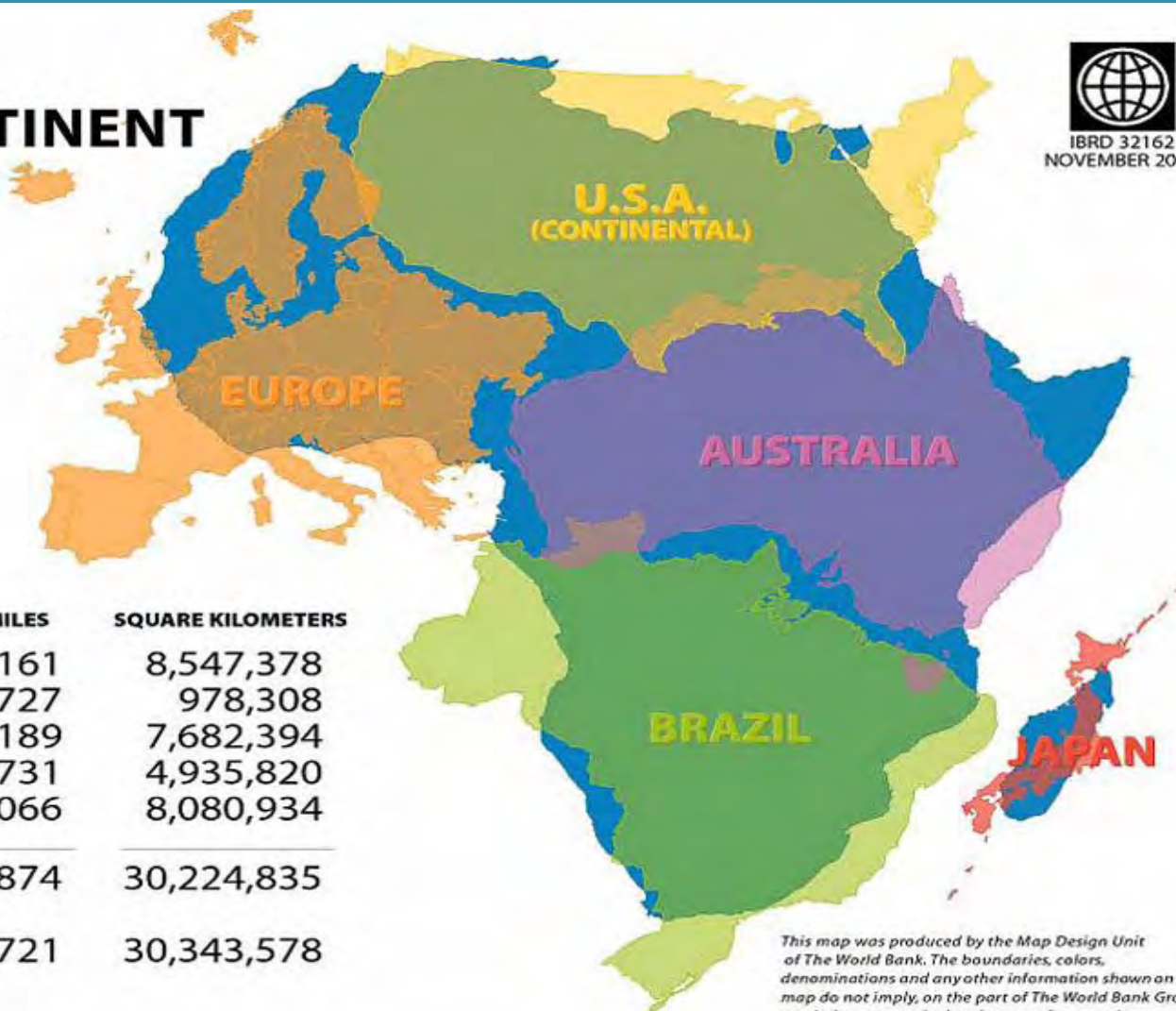


Key successes (2001 -to date)

- Launching critical flagship programmes on water, women and science education
- Creation of an independent advisory Expert Group
- Enhanced members' capacities at secretariat level
- Increased of NASAC membership
- Commenced the process towards legal self sufficiency

Understanding the task at hand

SIZE OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT COMPARED TO OTHER LAND MASSES



| | SQUARE MILES | SQUARE KILOMETERS |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| BRAZIL | 3,300,161 | 8,547,378 |
| JAPAN | 377,727 | 978,308 |
| AUSTRALIA | 2,966,189 | 7,682,394 |
| EUROPE | 1,905,731 | 4,935,820 |
| U.S.A. (Continental) | 3,120,066 | 8,080,934 |
| TOTAL | 11,669,874 | 30,224,835 |
| AFRICA (including MADAGASCAR) | 11,715,721 | 30,343,578 |

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Why involve young scientists

Notable challenges for academies in Africa include:

- ❑ Limited in resources and need to strengthen and transform them from '*static private men's clubs*' to ***dynamic organizations***
- ❑ Very minimal membership/participation of younger scientists even with ***academic merit***
- ❑ Act locally and in isolation even on common critical issues, with limited sense of ***collective action***

What opportunities exist

- Existence of regional/international bodies and initiatives that are committed to science
- Acknowledgement by African Governments to support science from GDP
- Millennium Development Goals – global push
- Increased focus and interest in Africa – ‘USA’
- Improved communication through the ICT revolution – electronic age

NASAC Priority 1:

Improve Communication

- Simple succinct messages – let the voice of young scientists be heard by the science community
- Recognize contribution to science, policy and society – be part of the solution
- Facilitate participation in local and international forum – articulate your contribution
- Encourage networking – Act locally think globally
- Enhance interaction with policy and decision makers – enact pro-young-scientist policies



Joint Statement to African Science Ministers and Heads of States and Governments by the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC)¹

Building science,

We, the members of the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC), submit the following statement on sustainability, energy efficiency and climate change to the leaders of the G8 countries. The goal of this statement is to convey information and spur action on the occasion of the G8 Summit in Heiligendamm, Germany, in June 2007.

A consensus, based on current evidence, now exists within the global scientific community that human activities are the main source of climate change and that the burning of fossil fuels is largely responsible for driving this change.

We acknowledge, however, that Africa will need help from the developed world if it is to successfully address the challenges it faces and we are convinced of the vital roles that the G8 governments and the international scientific

NASAC Priority 2:

Develop a Vision

- Provide strategic support to young scientists and academies by inclusion as potential members
- Encourage best practices for science to interact with society (science for society)
- Organize scientific meetings and roundtables with policy and decision makers (young scientists in and out of Africa)
- Develop and share expertise on funding opportunities for young scientists
- Encourage the creation of national science fund or foundation

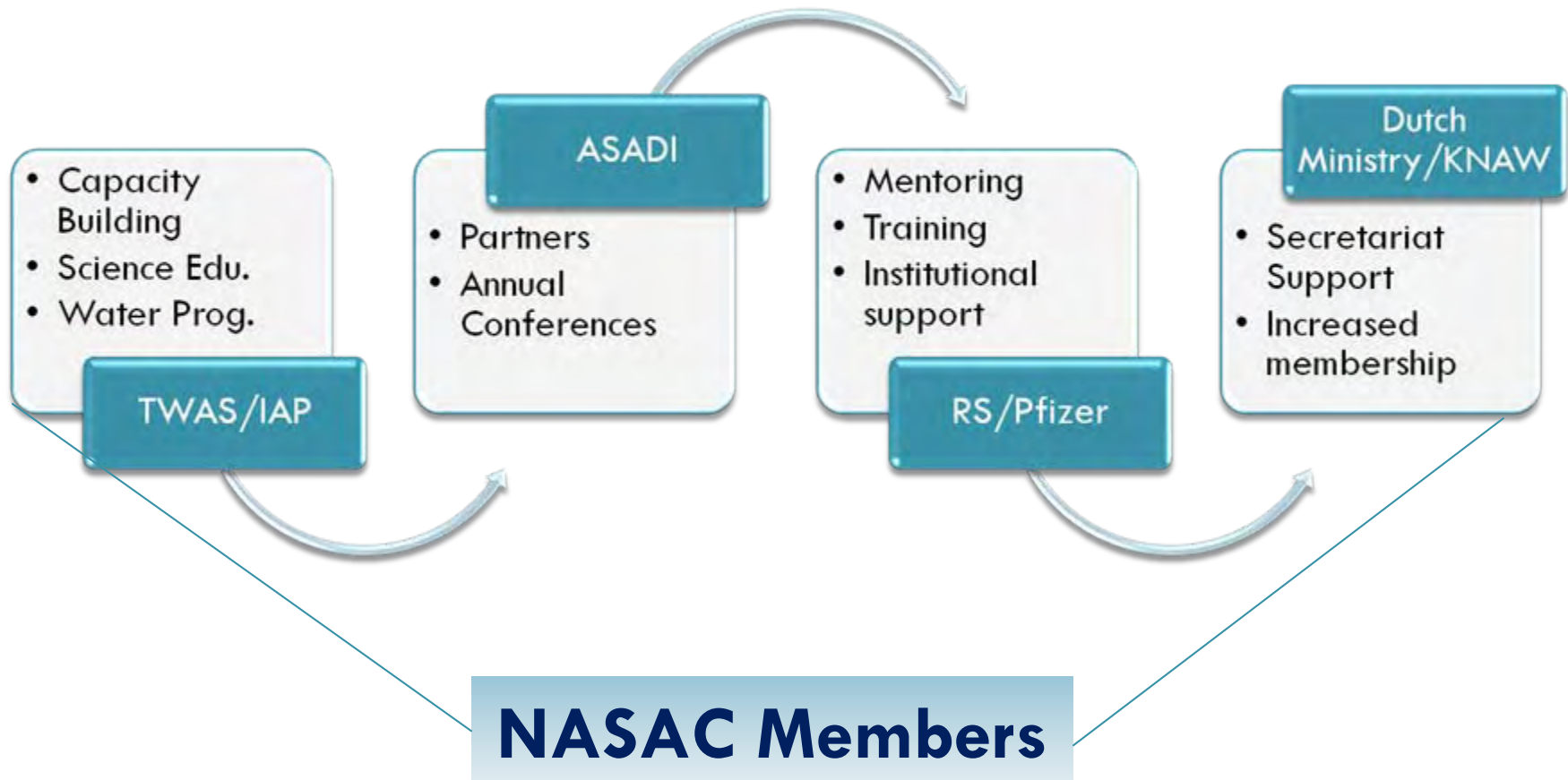
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NASAC Priority 3:

Identify Strategic Partners



Overriding principle



NETWORK – NETWORK – NETWORK...

- Support networks in thematic areas critical to the sustainable well-being in Africa
 - ▣ share best practices
 - ▣ develop joint initiatives
 - ▣ identify capacity requirements for young scientists

In closing...



- **Young scientists potential is REAL...**
- **REACH for it!**

Counting on your support...

