

The African Science Academy Development Initiative: *An Overview*



National Academy of Science: Born in War

“The [National Academy of Sciences](#) was born in the travail of the Civil War. The [Act of Incorporation](#), signed by President Lincoln on March 3, 1863, established service to the nation as its dominant purpose.”



National Academy of Science Congressional Act of Incorporation

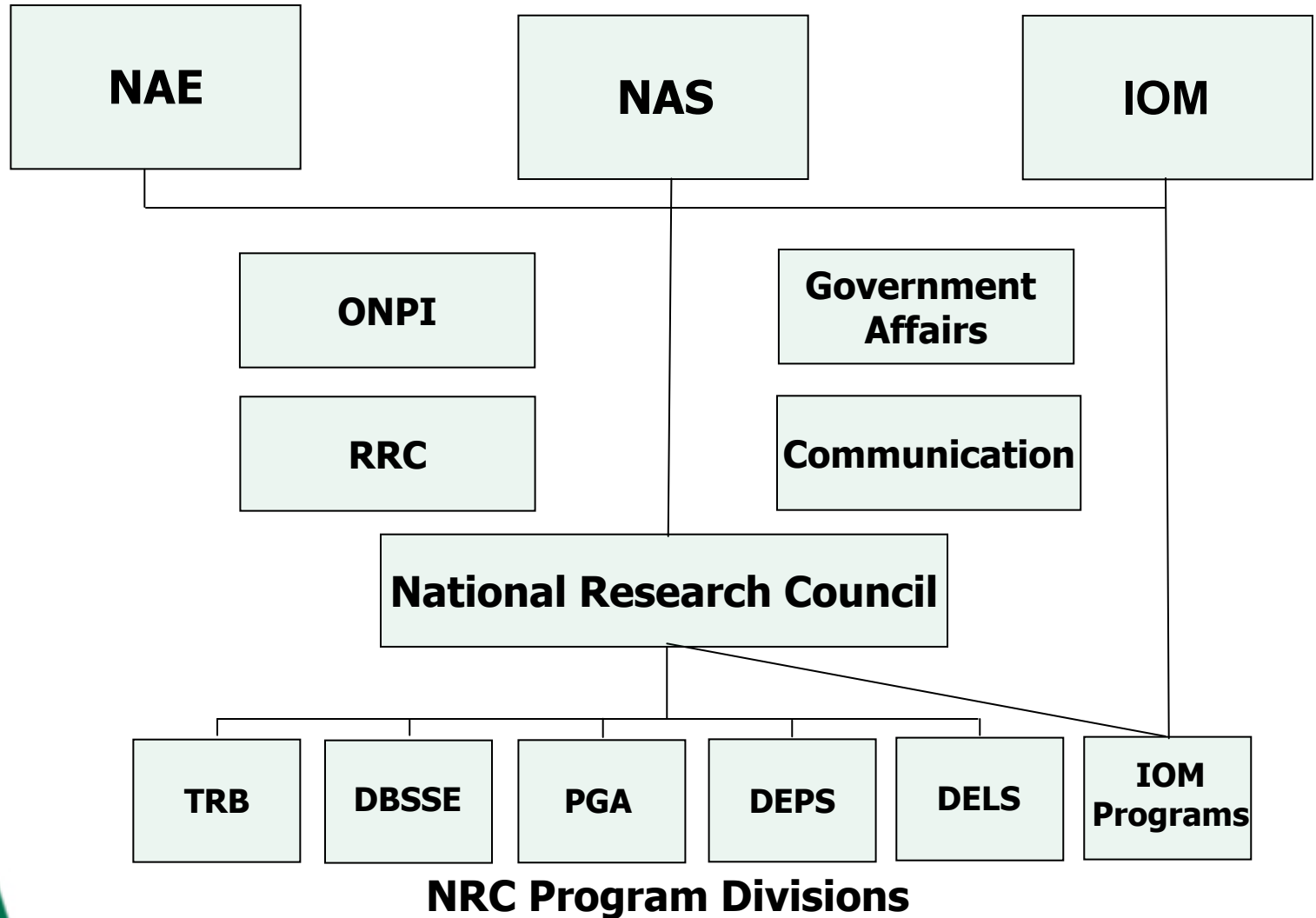
“Sec. 3.the Academy shall, whenever called upon by **any department** of the Government, investigate, examine, experiment, and report upon any subject of science or art, the **actual expense** of such investigations, examinations, experiments, and reports to be paid from appropriations which may be made for the purpose, but the Academy shall receive **no compensation** whatever for any services to the Government of the United States.

Galusha A. Grow,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Solomon Foote,
President of the Senate pro tempore.

Approved, March 3, 1863.
Abraham Lincoln, President.”

THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES



US National Academies Staff

Core Staff

Board Director, Patrick Kelley (IOM)
Financial Officer, Jim Banihashemi (IOM)
Nigeria Liaison, Clara Cohen (PGA)
South Africa Liaison, Barney Cohen (DBASSE)
Uganda Liaison, Patricia Cuff (IOM)
Research Associate, Katherine McClure, (IOM)
Research Assistant, Ijeoma Emananjo (PGA)

Staff Management Committee

Executive Officer (NRC)
William Colglazier

Executive Director (PGA)
Richard Bissell

Executive Director (IOM)
Susanne Stoiber

Interacademy Relations

John Boright (NRC)

ASADI Program Objectives

- Strengthen the capacity of African academies of science to sustainably provide evidence-based advice to government policy makers and national stakeholders through thoughtful processes and policies
- Develop stakeholder appreciation and demand for academy advice in formulating evidence-based health policies while maintaining trust and public confidence

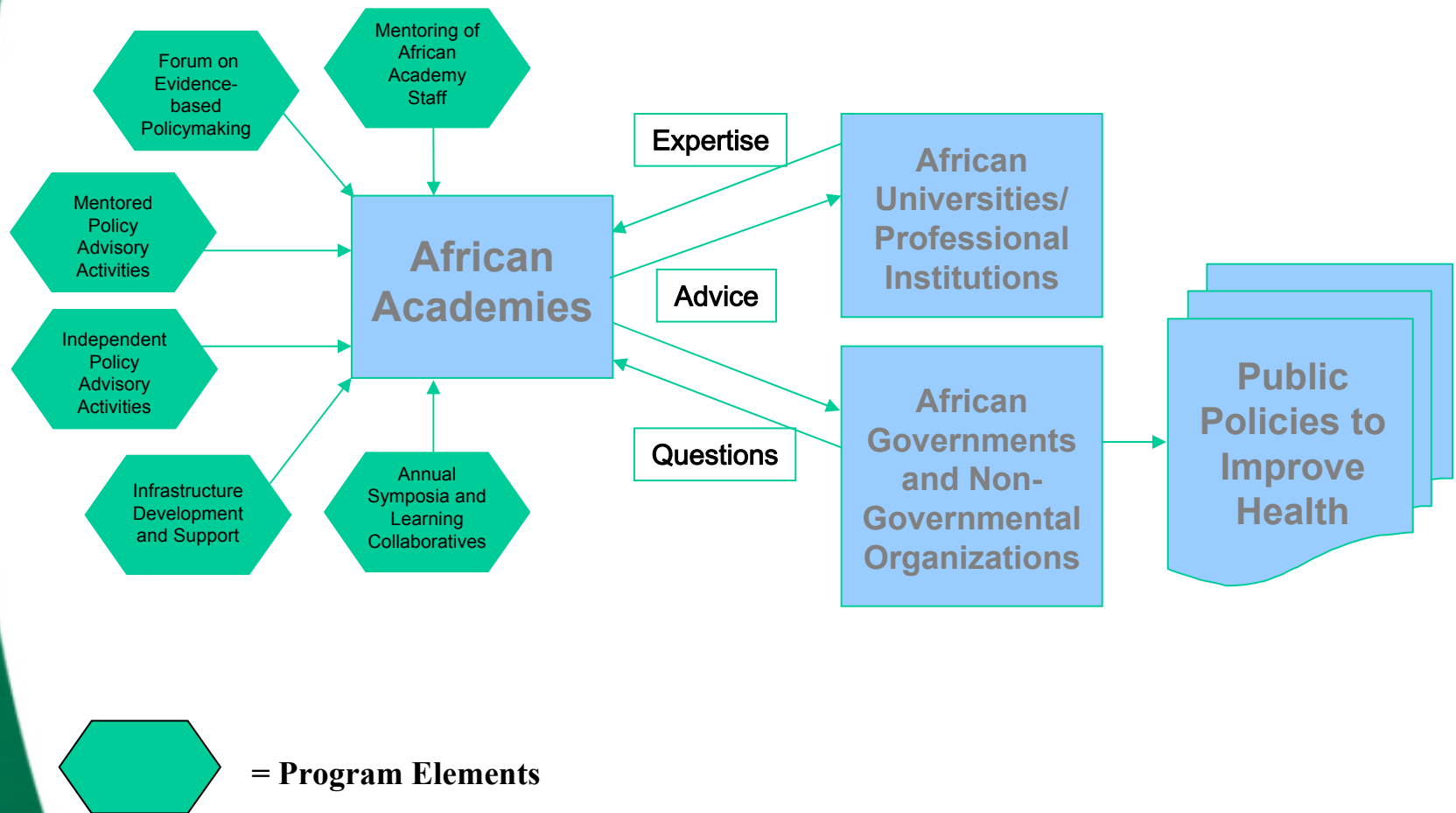


ASADI Objectives and Activities

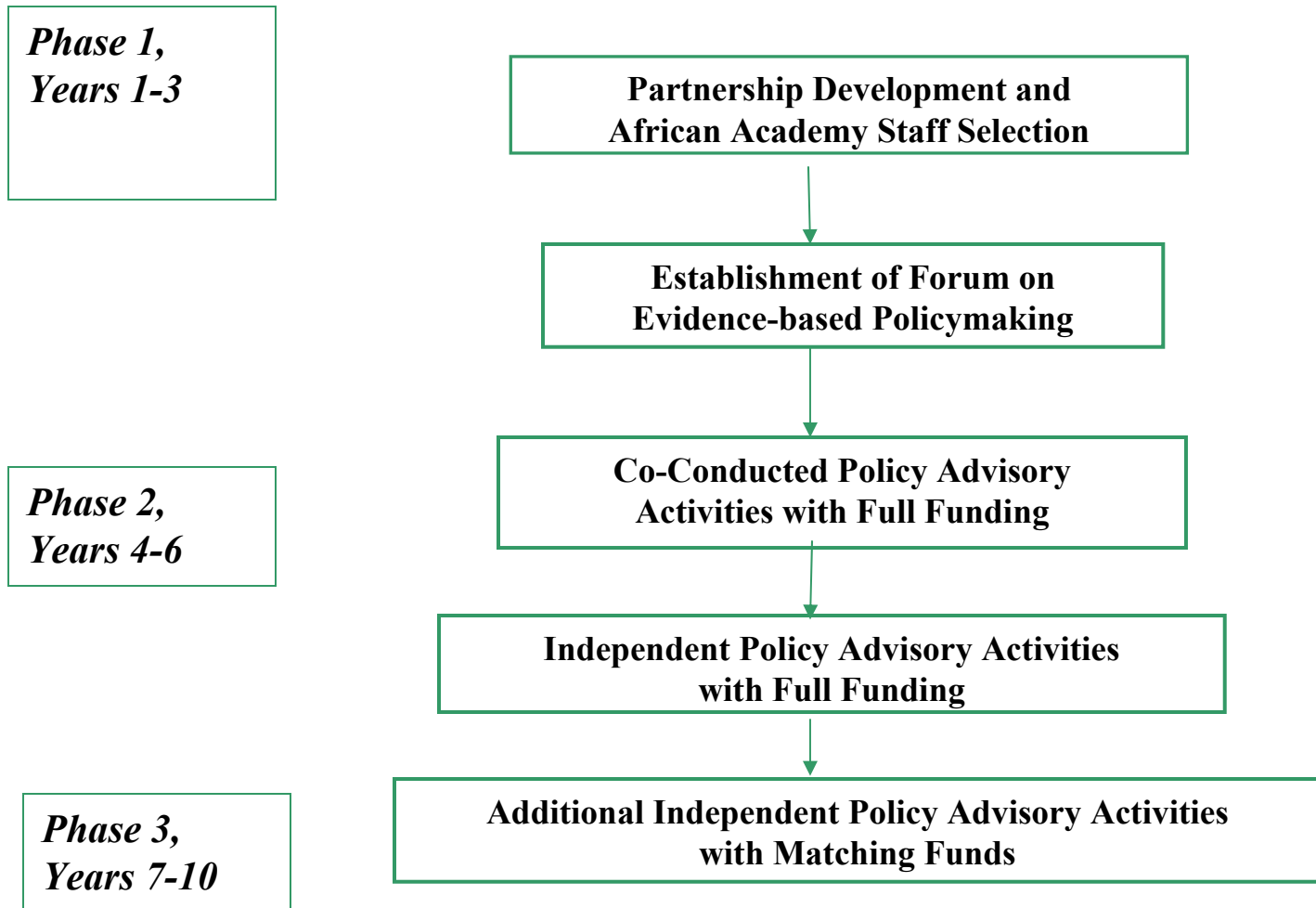
Specific objectives include:

- Partnership development
- Training
- Strengthen policy-advisory capacity
- Strengthen academy values
- Infrastructure development
- A regional alliance
- Growing African government demand
- Project evaluation

Overview of the African Science Academy Development Initiative

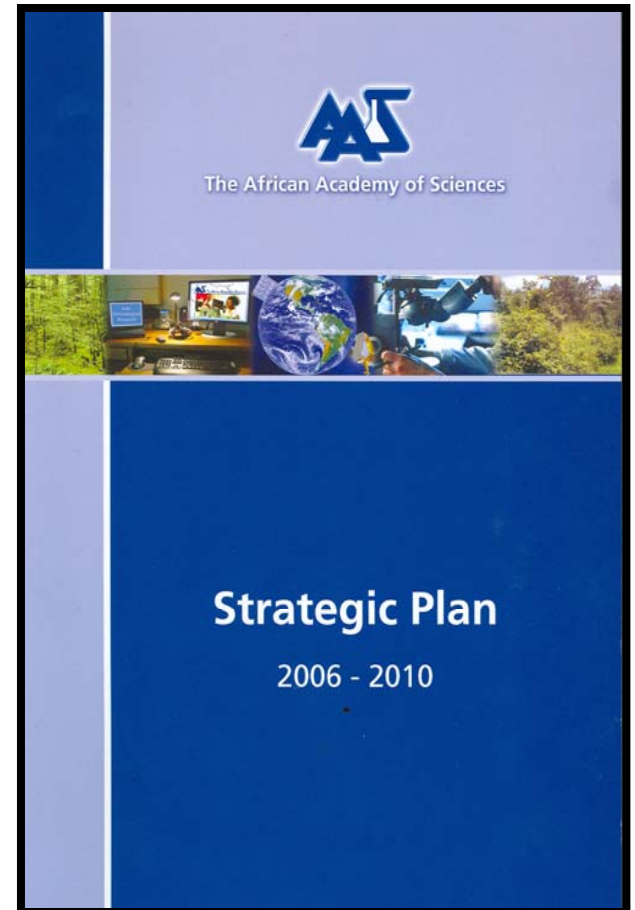


“Prototype” Timeline for Program Implementation



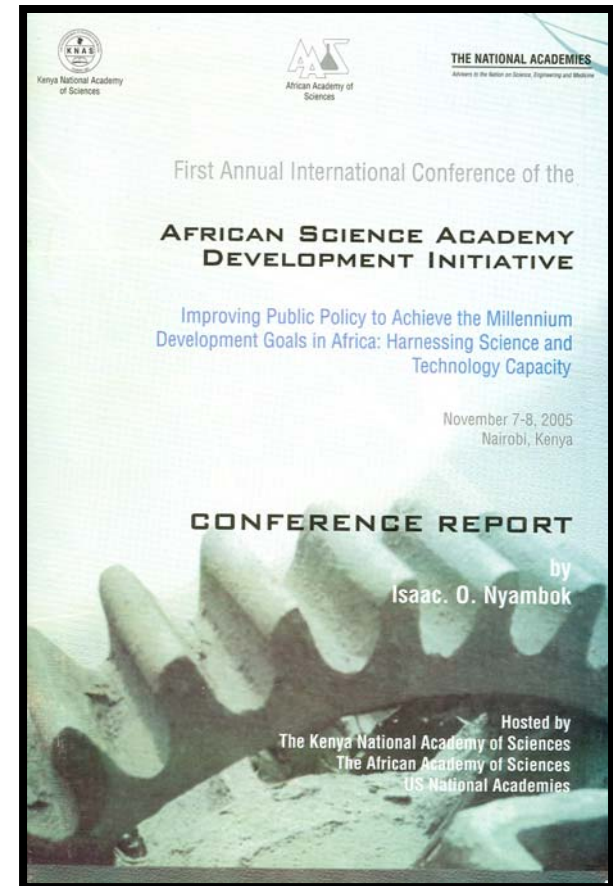
Partnership Development

- Three intensive partnerships
- Five strategic planning partnerships
- October 2005 Forum Training Session
- Annual Meeting and Joint Learning Session
 - 2005 Annual Meeting
 - 2006 Annual Meeting
- 5-year project evaluation



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Current Challenges

- Physical infrastructure challenges
- Coping with African academy leadership and staff transitions
- Incorporation of service functions into organizations designed as honorific societies
- Transitioning from hierarchical communications to a peer mentoring model
- Fiscal management inexperience
- Human resource management /supervisory challenges
- Enhancing cross-cultural sensitivity to conflict of interest
- The need to build fund raising capacity
- Lack of experience in a process-oriented way of working

Why Would Someone Want to Receive Service from a Science Academy?

- Convening power to mobilize the best scientific minds from across the nation and the continent.
- Apolitical, trustworthy, scientifically rigorous procedures based on evidence and the consensus of diverse experts.
- Can clarify emerging scientific issues.
- An independent, credible “second opinion” in the face of politically charged issues.
- Can assist parliaments in assessing accountability.
- Can help foster innovation through multidisciplinary, multisectoral discourse.

Why is an Academy's Vision a Unique Form of Science Advising?

- Unbiased and unconflicted volunteers
 - Technical expertise
 - Minimal or no personal compensation
- Committee-generated reports:
 - Objective and independent
 - Evidence-based consensus
- Systematic scientific procedures
 - Independence from sponsors
 - Open to public observation and input
 - Rigorous peer review

Supplementary Programs for a Well-Rounded And Visible Academy of Science

- NRC Fellowships managed for US agencies
- Prizes
- Policy internships for junior scientists
- Curricular development
- Evaluating university programs
- Formal Statements (e.g., creationism and science)
- Journal Publication
- Science Museum
- Building bridges to marginalized countries
- Joint studies with other academies