



AFRICAN ORIGINS PLATFORM (AOP)

FUNDING INSTRUMENT

KNOWLEDGE FIELDS DEVELOPMENT

Framework Document

September 2015

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1 FUNDING INSTRUMENT TITLE AND DESCRIPTION

1.1 Name

AFRICAN ORIGINS PLATFORM (AOP) FUNDING INSTRUMENT

1.2 Description of Funding Instrument

The African Origins Platform (AOP) is a discipline-specific funding instrument which supports research and associated human capacity development in the palaeosciences¹. South Africa's obvious geographic advantage in palaeontological, palaeoanthropological and archaeological research necessitates that the country emerge as a globally leading center for research excellence in these fields of study.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Research Foundation (NRF) recognises that in order for South Africa to be internationally competitive and to meaningfully contribute to the global economy, the country must have the capability to understand the knowledge produced by others. This understanding can best be developed through performing research. Publicly funded basic and applied research is viewed as a source of new ideas, opportunities, methods, and most importantly, the means through which problem solvers can be trained.

The 2012 South African Strategy for the Palaeosciences² (palaeosciences strategy) provides a holistic and coherent directive for palaeosciences development in South Africa. The core of the strategy lies in the development of human capital, skills and infrastructure to provide a comprehensive approach to the advancement of the field of the palaeosciences. The strategy is anchored by five goals which provide strategic direction to palaeosciences advancement. Each goal has key interventions which are secured by activities formulated to

¹ Within this framework document the term palaeosciences includes palaeontology, palaeoanthropology, archaeology and related disciplines, unless stated otherwise.

² http://www.wits.ac.za/files/6iadd_177329001365688020.pdf

support the interventions, and these form the core of the implementation plan for palaeosciences. The African Origins Platform represents a grouping of interventions that support some of the strategic goals of the palaeosciences strategy, thus facilitating palaeosciences advancement in South Africa

Interest in our common humanity will insure that palaeosciences remain a topic of local, national and international relevance to academics, researchers, students and the public in general. The African Origins Platform has the potential to bring unparalleled opportunities for international collaboration new teaching and training programmes, and poverty relief through tourism.

3 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The mandate of the NRF is to support and promote research through funding, human resource development and the provision of the necessary research facilities so as to facilitate the creation of knowledge, innovation and development in all fields of science and technology, including indigenous knowledge and thereby to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of all the people of the Republic (NRF Act, 1998). In support of its purpose, the NRF recently launched the *NRF Strategy 2020* that aims at two strategic outcomes, namely, *a vibrant and globally connected national system of innovation, and a representative research and technical workforce* targeting the following four strategic goals:

- A scientifically literate and engaged society;
- World-class benchmarking and grant making systems;
- An internationally competitive and transformed research system; and
- Leading-edge research and infrastructure platform.

3.1 Environmental scan

The AOP resonates with the NRF mandate by promoting and supporting research through funding and human resource development. By facilitating the

creation of knowledge, the NRF contributes to the innovation and the commercialisation value chain, and hence the socio-economic development and improved quality of life of all the people of the Republic.

3.2 Objectives

The objectives of the funding instrument are:

- To develop sustainable succession plans where appropriate so as to ensure the comprehensive advancement of the field of palaeosciences;
- To develop sustainable and inclusive community engagement activities;
- To ensure meaningful public awareness activities so as to raise the national and international visibility of South African palaeosciences research;
- To achieve world-class research in the palaeosciences, including a renewed prioritization of previously identified vulnerable or critical skill areas (as per the 2012 Palaeosciences Strategy);
- To advance or develop paradigms, theories and methodological innovation relating to the palaeosciences; and
- To develop a comprehensive pipeline of human capacity in the palaeosciences, from past graduate training to emerging researchers, to established researchers.

3.3 NRF Perspective

The AOP is a demand-driven funding instrument that focuses on research activities relating to the palaeosciences. This is in line with the NRF's view that support for research is an investment in South Africa's learning capabilities.

The AOP directly, and in part, addresses the following strategic objectives of the *NRF Strategy 2020*:

- Promote globally competitive research and innovation;

- Enhance strategic international engagement; and
- Entrench science engagement

3.4 Institutional structure

The strategic direction and outcomes of the funding instrument are managed by the Knowledge Fields Development (KFD) Directorate. The Reviews and Evaluation (RE) Directorate is responsible for the review processes up to the recommendations of grant awards. The Grants Management and Systems Administration (GMSA) Directorate's responsibilities include posting of the research call, disbursement of grant funds and ensuring adherence to the conditions of the grant.

3.5 Financing support

The AOP is made possible through contract funding from the Department of Science and Technology (DST). The DST will fund a three year cycle of research funding from 2016-2018, for research in the fields of palaeosciences. As a demand driven funding instrument, there is no limit to the amount an applicant can request. Having said this, the financial requests need to be in line with requirements and accurately reflect the financial needs of the proposed work. Excessive budget requests are not well received by the review panels. Applications will be scored according to a scorecard (see **Annexure 1**), and the top scoring applications will be supported until the available resources are exhausted. The financial requirements of the top scoring applications will determine the final number of applications supported.

3.6 Key stakeholders

The key stakeholders involved in the AOP are persons doing research in the fields of palaeosciences, based at public research institutions that are recognised by directive of the Minister of Science and Technology. These include mainly, Public Universities, Museums, Institutes and Science Councils.

3.7 Information sources

2002 *National Research and Development Strategy,*

<http://www.dst.gov.za/index.php/resource-center/strategies-and-reports/174->

[national-research-a-development-strategy-2002](http://www.dst.gov.za/index.php/resource-center/strategies-and-reports/174-national-research-a-development-strategy-2002)

2012 South African Strategy for the Palaeosciences

http://www.wits.ac.za/files/6iadd_177329001365688020.pdf

2013 The Department of Science and Technology. *The ministerial guidelines for improving equity in the distribution of DST/NRF bursaries and fellowships.*

2015 National Research Foundation. *NRF Strategy 2020:*

<http://www.nrf.ac.za/sites/default/files/documents/Strategic%20Plan%202015->

[2020_09%20April.pdf](http://www.nrf.ac.za/sites/default/files/documents/Strategic%20Plan%202015-2020_09%20April.pdf)

4 **MODUS OPERANDI**

4.1 Call for proposals

All application materials must be submitted electronically via the NRF Online Submission System at <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za>. Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.

The **NRF closing date** for endorsed applications is **12 October 2015**. All applications **must** be endorsed by the research office of the principal applicant before submission to the NRF. It is the responsibility of each applicant to familiarise himself / herself with the **internal closing dates**, set by their institution in order to meet the NRF closing date.

Call opens: 7 September 2015

Call closes: 12 October 2015

Outcome and awards in early December 2015

4.2 Eligibility

- Post-doctoral fellows **do not** qualify as Principal Investigators in this funding instrument.
- Post-graduate students **do not** qualify as Principal Investigators in this funding instrument.
- Applicants
- Full-time **employees** doing research in the fields of palaeosciences at NRF-recognised research institutions in South Africa are invited to apply. These institutions are recognised by directive of the Minister of Science and Technology. These include Universities, Museums, Science Councils, National Facilities and other Recognized Research Institutions as declared by the Minister of Science and Technology.
- Part-time **employees** on contract at a recognised research institution (as defined above) in South Africa may apply, but on condition that their appointment at the South African institution is for (at least) the duration of the project applied for in the submission. The length of the contract should be stated in the application form.
- Salaries must be paid by the research institution and the primary employment of the individual concerned must be at that institution. A contract researcher appointed at a research institution on behalf of a third party to fulfill a very specific function for the latter does not qualify for support.
- Successful applicants will be eligible for funding for three years (**2016 – 2018**).
- Retired academics/researchers, provided that they meet all set criteria as stipulated below:
 - are resident in SA;

- are formally affiliated to a recognised institution (as defined above) e.g., appointed as an emeritus professor, honorary research associate/professor, supernumerary/contract employee;
- are active researchers with a distinguished track record in research and postgraduate student supervision;
- are actively mentoring/training postgraduate students/young research staff and
- the institution ensures that a minimum of reasonable time (6 months minimum) is spent at the facility for the purpose of research and research capacity development.

4.3 Application assessment

The assessment of applications will be guided by a Panel Assessment Scorecard (**see Annexure 1**), and scored according to the Proposal Grading (**see Annexure 2**). Application assessment will occur by way of a two-tiered process:

- **Remote (Postal)-peer review**

The remote -peer reviewers will be specialists in the ambit of the respective proposals. Requests for written reviews will be solicited electronically. Applicants will be requested to provide between 6 to 10 possible reviewers. It is in the applicant's best interest to ensure that the selected reviewers are aware of the submission and are likely to respond. It is also in the applicant's best interest to ensure that selected reviewers have no possible conflict of interest in submitting a review, as such review reports are dismissed without consideration. On average, a 30% response rate is achieved by the NRF in requesting postal peer reviews

- **Panel-peer review**

Panels will be broadly constituted. Panel members will be selected based on their broad overview of the knowledge field and their research standing.

Panel meetings will be held at central locations or by way of tele- or video-conferencing. Panel members will deliberate on submitted written reviews and will be expected to offer their own expert opinions.

4.4 Rules of participation

a) Principal Investigator

Only researchers based at NRF recognized research institutions in South Africa (as defined above) are eligible to apply as principal investigators in this funding instrument.

The principal investigator (i.e., the applicant/PI) must be an active researcher who takes intellectual responsibility for the project, its conception, any strategic decisions required in its pursuit, and the communication of results. **An applicant cannot submit an application for their own degree purposes. The applicant may not submit an application on behalf of a student where the student in the main will be carrying out all the research. Students should be appropriately embedded into the application and are only eligible for support as part of the larger research endeavour.** The PI must have the capacity to make a serious commitment to the project and cannot assume the role of a supplier of resources for work that will largely be placed in the hands of others. S/he will take responsibility for the management and administration of resources allocated to the grant award. S/he will also take responsibility for meeting reporting requirements.

The research team may also include:

b) Co-investigators

A co-investigator (CI) is an **active** researcher who provides **significant** commitment, intellectual input and relevant expertise into the **design and implementation** of the research application. S/he will be involved in all or at

least some well-defined research activities within the scope of the application. Only South African-based co-investigators will be eligible for funding in successful grant applications.

Post-doctoral fellows, students, technical and support staff do not qualify as co-investigators, and should NOT be listed as such.

The project may also include:

c) Research Associates / Collaborators

These are individuals or groups who are anticipated to make a relatively small, but meaningful contribution to the research endeavours outlined in the application, but who have not actively participated in the research design. They are not considered a part of the **core** research team, and **are not eligible** for funding in successful grant applications.

4.5 Timelines

The successful AOP grants will be awarded for a period of no more than three years (2016-2018). Student commitments will be honoured beyond 2018 on condition that all NRF grant conditions are met

4.6 Management of funding instrument

The Knowledge Fields Development Directorate of the NRF – Research and Innovation Support and Advancement (RISA) manages the AOP funding instrument, and is responsible for:

- Strategic oversight and management of the funding instrument;
- Conceptualizing and developing the funding instrument;
- Coordinating and facilitating activities of the funding instrument;
- Compiling funding instrument research and evaluation reports;
- Stakeholder engagement; and
- Ensuring that the funding instruments delivers on its intended goal(s).

The Reviews and Evaluation Directorate of the NRF – RISA is responsible for managing the adjudication process including:

- sourcing of reviewers both for remote reviews and panels;
- managing the peer review process;
- organizing and managing the review panels as and where appropriate;
- providing feed-back as appropriate; and
- awarding of grants

The Grant Management and Systems Administration Directorate of the NRF – RISA is responsible for

- Managing the call process, that is,
 - Posting the call;
 - Receiving and assessing applications eligibility;
- Coordinating and facilitating the granting processes
- Managing the granting including the administration of awards;
- Administering grant payments; and
- Ensuring adherence to conditions of grants

4.7 Lines of authority

The funding instrument Director in the KFD Directorate generally manages the AOP funding instrument with the assistance of a Professional Officer. Where and when appropriate, a call may be managed by a specially appointed Project Leader supported by Project team of staff drawn from RE, GMSA; Knowledge Management and others. The Director responsible for this instrument reports to the Executive Director of the KFD Directorate. Directors from GMSA and RE will normally manage the granting and review processes, respectively with the

assistance of Professional and Liaison Officers. The Directors in both the GMSA and the RE report to their respective Executive Directors

5 FINANCIALS

5.1 Funding model

The grants of this funding instrument are to be primarily used for **research purposes** and development of associated human resources under the auspices of the NRF standard grant and finance policies. The money is released upon acceptance of the conditions of grant, both by the applicant and his/her employing institution. These grants will fall under the NRF audit requirements of beneficiary institutions.

5.2 Funding categories

Successful applications will receive funding that accommodates the following budget items:

- Research-related operating costs;
- Grant holder-linked student support;
- Early career research grants
- Technical skills personnel;
- New lecture-level staff (3-year contract) (**See Section 5.3.5 for details**)

The application assessment process will consider proposed budget items in terms of cost, risk and reward ratios. Decisions relating to budget items will also be governed by the overall funds available for the period. Awards will be made in line with the detailed NRF funding rules and guidelines as outlined in **Section 5.3 below**.

5.3 Funding guidelines

The NRF funds the AOP on an ongoing basis, and in line with the contractual obligations as entered into with the Department of Science and Technology (DST). NRF-recognised institutions (as defined above) are the primary beneficiaries of this funding instrument. The allocation of funds to the AOP funding instrument is **demand-driven**, and as such, **maximum or minimum financial limits do not apply** for AOP applications. Some research is expensive, whilst others not. The number of applications that will be supported overall will depend on the availability of resources and the financial requirements of those successful applications. If successful applications have high financial requirements, fewer applications will be supported.

5.3.1 Research-related operating costs

These costs include: materials and supplies, travel (including conferences) and subsistence, equipment, and technical / *ad hoc* assistance. Sabbaticals to other research organisations or institutions of higher learning may also be requested within the context of the application. The amount awarded within this framework **can be used at the discretion of the applicant.**

5.3.1.1 Materials and Supplies

The NRF **does not** provide financial support for:

Basic office equipment including computers and consumables ***unless*** the computer is required for the research itself or the applicant/team member is based at a museum.

Basic office stationery, photocopying costs, printing costs ***unless*** these items form part of the research tools or the applicant/team member is based at a museum.

Journal publication costs, journal subscription costs, book costs *unless* the applicant / team member is based at a museum.

Telephone, fax and internet costs *unless* the applicant / team member is based at a museum.

5.3.1.2 Travel and subsistence

International conference attendance:

The NRF restricts expenditure against this item to R 25 000 per person to a maximum of R50, 000 **per application per year** for a team application i.e. for principal investigators and co-investigators (local only). This amount may be reduced proportionately if there is no co-investigator and/or post-graduate student involvement.

International visits:

These will be considered on a **case by case** basis. Such visits must be integral to the research plan and strong motivations should accompany these requests. Realistic funding allocations will be based on the requested activities. Only outgoing visits will be considered depending on the availability of funding.

Local conference attendance:

The NRF restricts expenditure against this item to **R5 000 per person** (all costs). Support for local conference attendance can be requested for all listed co-investigators and for post-graduate students. The applicant should specifically motivate for the number of participants for each local conference, and should detail the value of attending more than one local conference per year if so requested.

Local travel:

The NRF does not stipulate any rate for mileage as this will depend on the research institutions' rate, which varies per institution. Applicants are requested

to provide details of this rate, as well as the estimated distance to be travelled within the given year. Local accommodation costs are limited to three-star rating establishments.

5.3.1.3 Technical / *Ad hoc* Assistants

This subsection **excludes** salary costs for excavators and preparators. Such requests are governed by **Section 5.3.4** below.

Requests for technical/*ad hoc* assistance under research-related operating costs should be **treated with caution**. Generally the NRF strongly encourages applicants to engage senior students to undertake the research. The commissioning of research consultants is strongly discouraged within this funding instrument, and will only be considered when **highly specialized research/technical expertise** is required. Successful technical assistance requests will be **CLEARLY** motivated for in the proposal.

Please note: Administrative assistance does not qualify as technical assistance.

5.3.1.4 Equipment

Small equipment requests of no more than R 200 000 per proposal will be considered. Larger equipment requirements should be submitted through the NRF's National Equipment Programme.

5.3.1.5 Sabbaticals

Sabbaticals for a period of no more than six months will be considered for support. The maximum sabbatical amount requested may not exceed R 100 000. Sabbaticals and the related costs must be clearly motivated, and

must be commensurate with the planned research. Only principal investigators and local co-investigators are eligible to apply for sabbatical funding.

5.3.2 Grant holder-linked student support

Grant holder-linked student support will be awarded in accordance with eligibility criteria as detailed in the **Ministerial Guidelines for Improving Equity in the Distribution of DST/NRF Bursaries and Fellowships** (January 2013). Distributions as detailed below will be measured across all successful applications, and will not be assessed within individual applications. A severely skewed distribution in an individual application may, however, disqualify a successful application for support. Applicants that do not include student participation will not be prioritized in this funding instrument. Student participation via other funding streams must be detailed if grant holder-linked bursaries are not requested.

The equity distribution for grant holder-linked bursaries in this funding instrument is targeted at:

- 80% Black
- 55% Female
- 4% Disabled

The citizenship distribution for grant holder-linked bursaries in this funding instrument is targeted at:

- 87% South African (including permanent residents)
- 5% SADC
- 4% Rest of the African continent
- 4% Non-African

The awarding of postdoctoral fellowships will be **guided by**, but **not governed by**, equity and citizenship targets.

5.3.2.1 Values of Student Assistantships (South African citizens only)

- Final year undergraduate (Full time) R 8 000 pa Max 1 year
- Honours / BTech (Full-time) R20 000 pa Max 1 year

5.3.2.2 Values of Bursaries & Fellowships

- Masters degree (Full-time) R40 000 pa Max 2 years
- Doctoral degree (Full-time) R60 000 pa Max 3 years
- Postdoctoral (*pro rata* per month) R150 000 pa Max 2 years

5.3.3 Early Career Research Grants

Early career research grants will be awarded to recently qualified MSc or PhD graduates who are unemployed, but who wish to pursue a research career path in the palaeosciences. This grant will enable successful candidates to develop their research and teaching experience, and to improve their chances of employment in the science and technology system. These grants can be used for research work for degree purposes, or for gaining research experience. Such grants will be managed via the principal investigator who will ideally be the supervisor or co-supervisor of such candidates. Such candidates will be expected to conduct research, teach where appropriate, and publish in recognized peer-reviewed journals.

Values of the early career research grants:

- Doctoral R100 000 stipend + R 50 000 research costs Max 3 years

- Postdoctoral R200 000 stipend + R 75 000 research costs Max 2 years

5.3.4 Technical Skills Personnel

In the past, and in line with its constitutional mandate as custodian of innovation, the DST has sought to ensure that South African researchers have access to the required technical skills and support personnel in the palaeosciences so as to ensure their competitiveness in the global arena. The DST has historically made funding available to address the constraints highlighted by the archaeology and palaeontology research community. Such support is ongoing for the award period (2016-2018), subject to new requirements as detailed. Technical skills support in this context will be exclusively for:

- Casting technicians;
- Excavators;
- Preparators;
- Rock art tracing/digitization

Consultants do not qualify as technical skills personnel under this funding instrument and such requests will not be considered.

This initiative has thus far proved to be highly absorbed by the research community, and particularly the universities. This high absorption rate has not, however, translated into an improved research output for the period. A return on investment into new product development or the development of technologies and services has also not been evident. To ensure the sustainability of this initiative, technical skills will now only be awarded when embedded into successful AOP research grant applications. **Free-standing technical skills personnel will no longer be awarded under the AOP funding instrument.**

In addition, **universities and science councils** will have to demonstrate a sustainability plan to take over the support of these technical personnel from

2019 onwards. The award of technical personnel to universities and science councils from the next funding cycle will be **significantly reduced**. **Museums are currently exempt from this requirement.**

5.3.4.1 Criteria

Applicants will quantify their technical skill personnel requirements along with a detailed justification for each position, including how each will be embedded into the current research proposal. The justification must include the impact each individual will make on both research and human capacity development within the proposed research proposal. Applicants may request new or recurring technical skills awards for the award period (2016 – 2018). **Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES should successful applicants based at universities or science councils assume that such support will be ongoing beyond 2018.**

5.3.4.2 Values of technical skills positions

- Casting Technicians (Full time) R 70 000 pa (*pro rata* per month)
- Excavators (Full time) R 90 000 pa (*pro rata* per month)
- Preparators (full time) R 90 000 pa (*pro rata* per month)
- Rock art tracing/digitization R90 000 pa (*pro rata* per month)

5.3.5 New lecture-level staff (3-year contract)

The AOP functions to support palaeosciences at recognized South African universities, and to enhance the capacity of museums. In a **SEPARATE PROCESS LATER IN 2015**, research and training institutions will be encouraged to apply for additional lecture-level staff on 3-year contracts, to strengthen research and capacity development at these institutions. 9 (3-year contract)

research positions will be supported through this initiative to service the growing research and training needs in this field. These positions are for lecture-level staff, and will be viewed as being more advanced in the research pipeline than early career research grant recipients. It is envisaged that this process will unfold towards the end of 2015 for support in 2016-2018.

5.3.6 Funding to cater for disabilities

Additional funding to support people with disabilities as per the Code of Good Practice on Employment of People with Disabilities as in the Employment Equity Act No 55 of 1998 may be requested under the AOP funding instrument.

5.4 Funding instrument budget

The AOP is made possible through contract funding from the DST. Approximately R 10 million will be available for new applications in 2016. This allocation increases slightly in 2017 and again in 2018.

5.5 Financial control and reporting

Upon receipt of the signed Conditions of Grant letter, the NRF will release the funds for research related operating costs (including technical skills allocations) for the year. Funds which have been awarded within the student categories will be released upon receipt of the relevant nomination forms. Grant holders are then required to comply with the standard NRF financial management procedures, including the submission of Annual Progress Reports. These are to be submitted before the end of March of the following year, and are a prerequisite for the release of the subsequent year's funding. Failure to submit the Annual Progress Report will result in the cancellation of the grant award.

6 MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE FUNDING INSTRUMENT

The NRF is responsible for facilitating the external monitoring and evaluating of the AOP funding instrument.

6.1 Reporting

The funding instrument Director is responsible for reporting quarterly on the contribution of the AOP funding instrument to the KFD Directorate's Key Performance Indicators. In addition, the funding instrument Director is responsible for reviewing and reporting on the progress of the funding instrument.

6.2. Timeframes for programme review

The AOP will be evaluated by an appropriate external reviewer as appointed by the NRF. RISA will determine and set timeframes for the review, when deemed appropriate, or in line with existing guidelines.

6.3 Broad terms of reference for the programme review

The broad terms of reference for the programme review of the AOP will be determined by RISA with preliminary input by the KFD Directorate, and in consultation with the RE Directorate.

6.4 Utilisation of programme review findings and recommendations

The results of an evaluation will be used in line with the purposes set out in the Terms of Reference for that specific evaluation. Evaluation results will also be used for funding instrument improvement and development.

6.4 QUERIES

All technical, system-related queries	All other content-related queries to:
Support Desk (012) 481 4202 Supportdesk@nrf.ac.za	Tracy Klarenbeek (012) 481 4177 Tracy@nrf.ac.za

6.5 ACRONYMS

AOP	African Origins Platform
CI	Co-investigator
DST	Department of Science and Technology
GMSA	Grant Management and Systems Administration
KFD	Knowledge Fields Development
NRF	National Research Foundation
PI	Principal Investigator
RE	Reviews and Evaluation
RISA	Research and Innovation Support and Advancement

ANNEXURE 1

Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Details	Score / 4	Weight (Total = 100%)	Weighted score (Total = 4)
Proposal	Scientific merit and feasibility	Has knowledge of relevant literature been articulated? Are the approach/ methods suitable? Is the research well-planned? Are the timeframes feasible?		50%	
	Critical Skills	Does the application address a Critical skills area as identified in the 2012 Palaeosciences Strategy?	Yes = 4/ No = 0	5%	
Track record of applicant	Past students (graduated)	M and D degrees.		5%	0.00
	Past research	Reflect on past contributions to knowledge production		5%	0.00
Equity and redress	Of applicant	Race / Gender / Years post PhD.		5%	0.00
	Past students (graduated)	M and D degrees.		5%	0.00
Collaboration	International, national and institutional collaborations	Are the appropriate collaborations proposed in the application? Are the roles of the proposed collaborators clearly indicated?		5%	0.00
Engagement	Community Engagement	Is there a comprehensive plan to ensure public/community engagement?		5%	
	Public Awareness	Is there a comprehensive plan to promote public awareness and understanding?		5%	
Impact	Impact on knowledge production	Will the proposed work significantly advance discovery and understanding in the field?		5%	0.00

	Wider impact	Has the possibility for economic, societal or environmental impact been appropriately embedded in the proposal? Is it clear how such impact will be measured?		5%	0.00
Totals				100%	0.00

ANNEXURE 2

Proposal Grading: African Origins Platform		
Score	Meaning of score	Notes
4	Excellent	Application demonstrates evidence of outstanding performance across all the stated criteria, as determined by the panel and relative to the knowledge field under consideration
3	Above average	Above average performance across all criteria, as determined by the panel and relative to the knowledge field under consideration
2	Average	Application demonstrates average performance across all the stated criteria, as determined by the panel and relative to the knowledge field under consideration
1	Below average	Below average performance across all the criteria, as determined by panel and relative to knowledge field
0	Poor	There are major shortcomings or flaws within and across the stated criteria, with particular emphasis on the scientific/scholarly merit
<p>Context:</p> <p>Proposal grading is done with sensitivity to the context within which each application is submitted. The score of each criterion for each application will be contextualised to accommodate variability in such things as knowledge fields, institutional capacity, etc. Should a criterion not be applicable to a specific application (e.g. plans for digital data storage; collaborations; etc.), the weighting of that specific criteria will be made to equal zero, and the overall score normalised.</p>		