CHARTER GUIDING THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA PROLINNOVA PLATFORM

> *This document is an agreement of how the CPs in the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) subregion want to interact and for what purposes. It explains the roles of the current entities – Country Platforms (CPs), Subregional Coordinator (SRC) and Taskforce – and provides suggestions about how the agreements may be changed or expanded as the platform develops.*

Prepared: June 2020

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List of acronyms

ARD   Agricultural research for development

CP   Country platform

ESA   Eastern and Southern Africa

ESAPP Eastern and Southern Africa Prolinnova Platform

ESAST Eastern and Southern Africa Support Team

EOG   Eastern and Southern Africa Oversight Group

IST   International Support Team

MSP   Multi-stakeholder platform

NRM   Natural resource management

PID   Participatory innovation development

POG   Prolinnova Oversight Group

SRC   Subregional Coordinator

1. Background

Prolinnova as an international community of practice[1] has been carried by the Country Platforms (CPs) in Africa, Asia and Latin America for over 15 years. It was originally coordinated by an International Secretariat in the Netherlands and supported by the International Support Team (IST) with members in Europe, Africa and Asia. The international Prolinnova network is governed by the Prolinnova Oversight Group (POG).

Most of the funded Prolinnova activities thus far have been in Africa. The CPs in this region feel that sufficient capacities have been created at country level to allow for the formation of self-governed subregional platforms under the umbrella of the international Prolinnova network. This is part of the regionalisation strategy of Prolinnova outlined in its strategic plan for 2016–20, during which partners in the Global South have taken more initiative in writing proposals, raising funds and managing projects and other joint activities. Many donors are showing more interest in supporting proposals coming from the South. Furthermore, subregional platforms are seen as a mechanism to facilitate sharing of experiences between CPs, undertaking joint activities that involve more than one CP, and having a stronger voice for influencing policy within the subregion. The knowledge, experience and value systems in the International Prolinnova network and the IST is a huge resource to help subregional or regional platforms to form and to grow quickly. The link between the (sub)regional platforms and the other parts of the International Prolinnova network should remain strong, with a multinational IST assuming higher-level roles in facilitating and coordinating networking, advocacy and fundraising, while the (sub)regional platforms are in charge of these activities at (sub)regional level. The International Secretariat in the Netherlands that supports the International Network is gradually phasing out, but it has reached an agreement with Agrecol Association in Germany to serve as the Northern Focal Point of the network. It will be the point of contact for communication with potential donors and other interested partners in the Global North.

This charter reflects the ESA subregional context in the spirit of the International Prolinnova guidelines approved by the POG. All the Prolinnova guidelines, values and principles that are not

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[1] Community of practice refers to all individuals and/or organization/entities that engage in and promotes participatory action research in ways that build capacity to promote local innovation and to themselves innovate at all levels in agricultural, NRM and agri-food systems

directly mentioned in this charter in one way or another are considered adopted by the subregional platform.

2. Name of the platform

This platform is known as the <u>Eastern and Southern Africa Prolinnova Platform (ESAPP)</u>, though it may also be referred to as <u>Prolinnova Eastern and Southern Africa</u> (as with the logo) or as the <u>ESA Subregion</u>.

3. Mission and objectives of the subregional platform

ESAPP is dedicated to promoting local innovation by women and men farmers[2] who make their livelihoods from agriculture and use of natural resources (forest, pastureland, water, etc.). Sustainable development, gender equity and improving community resilience for dealing with change are the main goals of the entire Prolinnova network. It seeks to mainstream an approach of recognising local creativity and innovation, and facilitating Participatory Innovation Development (PID) within the major institutions of agricultural and natural resource management (NRM) research, education and development in the subregion.

ESAPP supports the objectives of the broader Prolinnova network, which are:

I. To develop new methods and approaches to enhance local capacities to innovate in agriculture and NRM and provide evidence of the effectiveness of these methods and approaches

II. To <u>strengthen the capacities of ARD actors</u> to support local innovation and farmer-led joint experimentation

III. To <u>scale up and mainstream participatory approaches</u> to agricultural innovation in ways that enhance local innovative capacities

IV. To <u>strengthen multistakeholder partnerships (MSPs)</u> in promoting local innovation and farmer-led participatory research

V. To <u>influence national and subnational (e.g. county) policy</u> processes that favour development and promotion of identified local innovations by small-scale farmers, including but not limited to market-oriented innovations, by actors along value chains of agricultural and nature-resource products

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[2] The term "farmers" refers here broadly to peasant or family crop farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk, forest dwellers, artisans and small-scale processors operating at a local level.

VI. To communicate participatory innovation development (PID) evidence and knowledge products locally and internationally.

Within this framework, ESAPP specifically aims to:

I. Strengthen sharing of knowledge, information and experiences between member CPs
II. Build the technical capacities of the CP members, notably by facilitating access to information, improving the exchange of expertise and strengthening social learning and South–South cooperation, and by facilitating training and mentoring in approaches related to local innovation and PID;
III. Engage in policy dialogue through advocacy and lobbying initiatives for the institutionalisation of PID within research, training/education and agricultural support/ advisory agencies in the subregion and more widely in Africa.

4. ESAPP membership

Membership is open to any active Prolinnova CP3 in ESA that would like to join forces in learning, sharing and policy advocacy to promote partnerships between farmers, extension/ advisory services, researchers and other stakeholders (e.g. input suppliers, traders, educational institutions, local governments, NGOs) as well as other likeminded networks (such as, ASARECA, FARA, AFAAS Africa etc.),   to improve farming and NRM.

Proposals for CP membership may come to ESAPP either from multistakeholder groups residing in some part of a country or from partners drawn from the entire country. However, if two or more requests come to ESAPP from a single country, the ESA support team will encourage them to join forces and make one proposal unless there are acceptable reasons for not being able to make the merger. The proposal will be passed on to the POG for ratification of the decision.

5. Governance and structure

The governance of the ESA subregional platform is described below and presented schematically in Figure 1, which includes its links with the other (sub)regions and the international network. The description starts from the subregional platform and then outlines its linkages with other structures.

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3 See Prolinnova Guidelines No. 8 "Minimum commitments to sustain the network" at www.prolinnova.net/content/prolinnova-guidelines
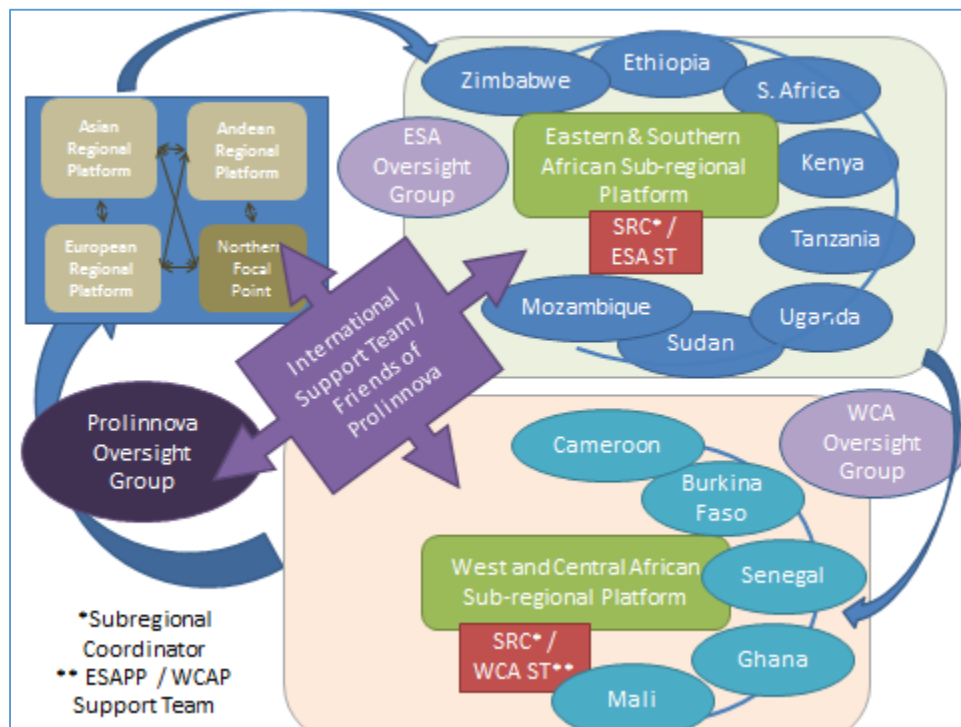
Figure 1: Governance arrangements of ESAPP and its relationship with other structures. Note the taskforce will be replaced in time by the ESAPP support team (ESAST).

    I.   Membership is open to active CPS as well as members of community of practice in the ESA Sub-region. Membership should be as much as possible, be gender-balanced.

    II.   As an interim arrangement, a taskforce exists to support the subregional coordinator (SRC) with the regionalisation process including establishmentof SR coordination body - thereafter, it will be phase out and be replaced whatever coordination body that would have been formed.

    III.   In time, each CP will identify two persons to represent it in ESAPP (comprising the CP Coordinator and one other).

    IV.   Two of the CP representatives on ESAPP, coming from different CPs, will be nominated by ESAPP members to serve on the ESAPP support team (ESAST).

    V.   The SRC will take decisions and share tasks with the ESAST.

    VI.   The ESAST will play the role of a virtual secretariat – maintaining the webpage, speaking on behalf of ESAPP, linking with subregional fora, etc. As this will not be a legal entity, any joint projects that involve multiple CPs will be submitted for funding in the name a host organisation involved in the respective CPs.

VII. ESAPP will be governed by an ESA Oversight Group (EOG). It shall have five members: three from the member CPs and two independent individuals from the subregion. The SRC will be the sixth member without voting rights (i.e. *ex officio*) and will assume the role of EOG Secretary. The EOG will hold regular virtual meetings.

VIII. The CP representatives of the EOG will be elected democratically by the CP members of ESAPP. The two independent members will be chosen by the POG in the case of the initial EOG – and subsequently by the EOG members – from three nominated candidates (based on their interest, experience in promoting local innovation and PID in the subregion and the strategic position they hold to assist ESAPP in advocacy, fundraising and image building). The Chairperson of the EOG will be elected by its members and he/she is expected to work very closely with the EOG Secretary (for the time being, the SRC) on subregional matters. Replacement of the EOG Chairperson will be facilitated by the POG if required.

IX. ESA will adopt the guidelines of the international network with necessary modifications for the subregion. Any additional guidelines necessary for the subregion will be developed.

X. The SRC and the ESAST will draw on the Friends of Prolinnova (preferably those based in ESA) when their specific skills or expertise are needed (e.g. communication, fundraising, networking, finance, planning etc). These interactions will be via the SRC in communication with the IST.

XI. ESAPP will be represented with one seat in the POG and will be responsible for selecting the representative using its own guidelines.

XII. ESAPP will hold a face-to-face meeting of its CP representatives once a year, if funds allow, in conjunction with face-to-face International Partners Workshops (IPWs) or regional meetings (which are held in alternate years). All matters to be discussed and decisions to be taken will be circulated at least four weeks beforehand, so that the CP representatives attending the meetings can bring the voice of their CP. If formal decisions are to be taken at the meeting, then a representative of the POG, EOG and IST should be invited to participate. Between physical meetings, interaction of the ESAPP members will be via email and Web-based applications.

XIII. ESAPP will prepare an annual report. This will be the responsibility of the SRC, or the responsibility will be shared across the ESAST. The report will be circulated on the Prolinnova Googlegroup and posted on the website.

6. ESAPP financing and fundraising

I. Multi-CP project proposals should incorporate funds to cover the cost of the SRC/ESAST to support (sub)regional activities.

II. ESAPP (SRC, ESAST) will prepare additional proposals to support its operation directly.

III. The SRC and ESAST will support the CPs in preparing multi-CP proposals and implementing projects.

7. Information sharing and communication

I. Annual reports of the CPs shall be produced and delivered to the SRC/ESAST on time using a standard format designed for this purpose.

II. The ESAPP SRC (or ESAST) will prepare an annual report (narrative and financial report) based on own and CP activities and share it with CP members and the EOG annually by end March of the following year.

III. Multi-CP project reports will be prepared by the respective coordinating organisations and shared with all the ESA CPs in order to enhance cross-country learning and knowledge sharing.

IV. Project-specific reports of the CPs will be copied to the SRC/ESAST and uploaded on the ESAPP page of the Prolinnova website as well as on the relevant CP page(s).

V. The SRC/ESAST will be responsible for harvesting stories of impact from the member CPs and sharing them widely in a timely manner.

VI. The SRC/ESAST will be informed by the CP representatives of all events taking place at CP or subregional level, so that the SRC can share the information with CP members as well as actors outside the network.

VII. ESAPP members can share information from their CPs with the ESAPP group and its members can then share the information within their respective CPs.

VIII. CPs are free to communicate directly with the POG and with other Prolinnova IST members in addition to the SRC/ESAST, preferably with cc to the SRC.

IX. In order to prevent duplication of efforts and keep everyone informed, it is advisable for the CPs and other IST members to copy all communication to the SRC, especially concerning network management and funding-related matters.

X. The ESAPP will continue to use the website of the international Prolinnova network and the guidelines for uploading information to the website, and will have an ESAPP page on the website (currently http://www.prolinnova.net/eastern_southern_africa).

XI. Official information concerning the subregional platform should be released by the SRC/ESAST. The CP representatives of ESAPP are responsible for circulating information within their CP.

XII. Cost-effective communication mechanisms will continue to be used (e.g email, Skype). However, more advanced and useful communication mechanisms such as Zoom and others need to be explored and used to undertake virtual meetings as required by the EOG and the members of ESAPP. It will be the responsibility of the SRC to arrange this.

8. Networking

I. All CPs, the SRC, ESAST and the EOG are encouraged to undertake networking activities. Since networking can have cost implications, at least in terms of time spent, it is important to focus on strategic networking efforts that would contribute to essential learning (Prolinnova-focused), fundraising, partnership, image building and synergy for high-level advocacy.

II. The SRC/ESAST will maintain networking contacts with other Prolinnova subregional platforms, the IST, the Northern Focal Point (through the IST) and other African regional platforms/networks working in agricultural and NRM research, advisory services, development, and education and training.

III. The SRC/ESAST will have two strategic networking goals: (1) maintaining strong links with the Prolinnova platform in West and Central Africa (and possibly the formation of Prolinnova–Africa) and (2) strengthening networking (effective partnership) with other regional (African) platforms/networks that share similar values and vision.

IV. The EOG should periodically analyse the networking efforts of ESAPP and provide guidance towards achieving the strategic goals set in this regard.

9. Conflict management

I. The ESAST shall take the responsibility to resolve conflicts that may arise among the CP leadership or between two or more CPs, with support from the EOG where necessary.

II. Conflicts that may take place between the SRC/ESAST and a CP will be attended to by the EOG.

III. Conflicts between EOG and CPs as well as between ESAPP and other subregional platforms will be attended to by the POG.

10. ESAPP Sub-Regional platform structure

(OPTION 2)
1. <u>Subregional Community of practice</u> (SRP-ESA) made up of all partner organizations (and possibly individuals) in the active CPs in the subregion (plus other interested organisations and also individuals in the subregion. 2. <u>Subregional Oversight Group</u> (SROG-ESA) made up of 3 persons from the member CPs and 2 independent persons from the subregion, plus the SRC as *ex officio* member (rotate CPs say once every two years). 3. <u>Subregional Support Team</u> (SRST-ESA) made up of 3 persons - different from the above 3 - selected from the member CPs according to certain criteria (skills and experience) so that the SRST is able to provide support to the SRC and the CPs, plus the SRC. 4. <u>Subregional Coordinator</u> (SRC-ESA) 5. Subregional Support Team would serve as virtual subregional secretariat, with the contact person being the SRC.
<u>Limitation:</u> There is no structure here that has representatives of all CPs meeting to share/discuss issues, etc.

11. CHARTER ENDORSEMENT

This charter has been accepted by: CPs, IST and POG

Signatures and dates:

A. Country Platforms ESAPP Subregion

CP Kenya

Signature.........

Name...... Dr. Bell Okello...

Position......Chairman, National Steering Committee.................................

CP Uganda

Signature...

Name..

Position..

CP Sudan

Signature...

Name..

Position..

CP Ethiopia

Signature...

Name..

Position..

CP Tanzania

Signature...

11. CHARTER ENDORSEMENT

This charter has been accepted by:CPs, IST and POG

Signatures and dates:

A. Country Platforms ESAPPSubregion

CP Kenya

Signature..

Name..

Position..

CP Uganda

Signature.......... _[signature]_ ....

Name.......... Ssentongo Daudi ....

Position.......... Chairperson Country Chapter. ....

CP Sudan

Signature..

Name..

Position..

CP Ethiopia

Signature..

Name..

Position..

CP Tanzania

Signature..

Name..

CHARTER ENDORSEMENT

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Signatures and dates:

Country Platforms ESAPP Subregion

CP Kenya

Signature………………………………………………………………………………………

Name…………………………………………………………………………………………...

Position……………………………………………………………………………………

CP Uganda

Signature………………………………………………………………………………………

Name…………………………………………………………………………………………...

Position……………………………………………………………………………………......

CP Sudan

Signature:

Name…Mohamed Yousif Mabrouk…………………………………………………………...

Position: Chairman

CP Ethiopia

Signature………………………………………………………………………………………

Name…………………………………………………………………………………………...

Position……………………………………………………………………………………......

1. CHARTER ENDORSEMENT

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Name………………………………………………………………………………………..

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CP Uganda

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CP Sudan

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Position……………………………………………………………………………………...

CP Ethiopia

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Name………………………………………………………………………………………...

Position……………………………………………………………………………………...

CP Tanzania

Signature…………………………………………………………………………………

Name…………………………………………………………………………………………...

Position…………………………………………………………………………………………...

CP South Africa

21 July 2021

Signature……………………………………………………………………………………………

Name…Zanele Shezi…………………………………………………………………….....

Position….……Member, Prolinnova South Africa NSC …………………………….............

…………On behalf of CP South Africa NSC…………………………………………………

CO Mozambique

Signature……………………………………………………………………………………………

Name…………………………………………………………………………………………...

Position…………………………………………………………………………………………...

CO Zimbabwe

Signature……………………………………………………………………………………………

Name…………………………………………………………………………………………...

Position…………………………………………………………………………………………...

11. Endosso da Carta

Esta carta foi aceite por: PNs, IST e POG

Assinaturas e datas:

A. Plataformas Nacionals da ESAPP

PN Quénla

Assinatura ....

Nome ....

Posição ....

PN Uganda

Assinatura ....

Nome ....

Posição ....

PN Sudão

Assinatira ....

Nome ....

Posição ....

PN Etiópia

Assinatura ....

Nome ....

Posição ....

PN Tanzânia

Assinatura ....

Nome ....

Posição ....

PN África do Sul

Assinatura ....

Nome ....

Posição ....

PN Moçambique

Assinatura ..... *Mirian Solange de Oliveira Morgado* ....

Name ..... *Mirian Solange de Oliveira Morgado* ....

Posição *Vice-Presidente do Conselho Nacional de Direcção*

PN Zimbabué

Assinatura...

Nome...

Posição ....

11. CHARTER ENDORSEMENT

This charter has been accepted by: CPs, IST and POG

Signatures and dates:

A. Country Platforms ESAPP Subregion

CP Kenya

Signature..

Name...

Position...

CP Uganda

Signature..

Name...

Position...

CP Sudan

Signature..

Name...

Position...

CP Ethiopia

Signature..

Name...

Position...

CP Tanzania

Signature..

Name...

Position...

CP South Africa

Signature...

Name...

Position...

CO Mozambique

Signature...

Name...

Position...

CO Zimbabwe

Signature....~BM~Mukamuri...

Name....Billy Mukamuri...

Position....Chairman..

11 August 2021