

ST4 : AMMA Training and Capacity Building Support Team

1. Context

The AMMA program offers a unique opportunity for the international scientific community to contribute to the training and capacity building of African countries, regarding geosciences and their impacts (meteorology, hydrology, atmospheric chemistry, oceanography, agronomy, ...). The role of AMMA is to promote training and capacity building before, during and after the field program. The African partners have made an historical effort to organize themselves at national and regional levels (AMMANET). The African research priorities and scientific implementation plan are now available within the PIAF consortium, of which one main objective is to maintain the scientific activity in West Africa well after the AMMA program ends. The main limitation for the success of the PIAF is now the funding issue. Information regarding sources of funding for African countries is certainly one important challenge for the coming months.

2. Justification and objectives

The 2nd ISCC meeting held in Paris decided to formally establish a support team dedicated to training and capacity building and subsequent resource mobilisation in the framework of the AMMA programme. These resources should cover:

- 🕒 Training and capacity building:
 - University programmes, including student visits and Masters degree support;
 - participation in the field programme and training of relevant persons for research and operations, particularly in the interpretation and use of hydrological and meteorological modelling systems;
 - training of forecasters and build up of new knowledge for coping with the increased uncertainty associated with the data generated by weather/climate variability and change of the past;
 - training of hydrologists and meteorologists on equipment; in particular the maintenance of new observing and communication systems as made available through AMMA;
 - support for transdisciplinary workshops, summer schools and field schools, and African attendance at these.
- Coordination of the African contribution to the AMMA programme, in particular African participation in international planning meetings and working groups.
- African scientific investigation as described in the PIAF.

This support team, referred to as ST4, will work on the aspects of developing a strategy for training including summer schools and funding issues to tackle both the training questions and the implementation of the

PIAF actions.

3. Terms of reference

In the framework of its general mission of mobilising human, logistical and funding resources to favour the involvement of Africans in AMMA in term of technical and university training and capacity building for research and field observations, ST4 will particularly have to :

- identify the funding sources available and link them to projects as given in the PIAF;
- decide and follow consequent actions, meetings and activities.
- communicate opportunities to applicants (by publishing and establishing links on the web page of amma-international.org)
- advise applicants on how to be successful
- coordinate group and individual applications, so as to work efficiently
- monitor activities
- favour collaboration between African teams
- favour collaboration of European and US teams with African teams
- centralise and organise the information relevant to ST4 and distribute them to ISSC, TT leaders, and CSAM.
- encourage, follow and take decisions on proposals to submit in helping to their building
- develop a strategy for training including future summer schools

ST4 will report directly to the ISSC but will also have to include an implementation effort coordinated by ICIG.

4. Strategy for action

There are four main domains of action:

1. Funding of research actions proposed by Africans PIs in the course of AMMA, including the PIAF actions.
2. Training, through ongoing educational programmes in Europe / USA, through the educational programmes of international institutions, and through special actions.
3. Capacity building organised around opportunities created by AMMA : "field schools" (observation, instruments), summer schools, networks, workshops, conferences.
4. Scientific management and steering of the AMMA programme.

For action 3, AMMA is generating a lot of opportunities and a multi-

directional fund raising. One key element here is the requirement raised by the ICIG, to associate Africans to each instrument deployed during AMMA. However,

Procedures for getting funding in Africa vary widely given the format of the training (PhD, post-doc, workshop, summer school, training attached to a specific research project, ...)

The funding of scientific projects and the promotion of doctoral and post-doctoral fellowship are two major issues for the ST4 group. Post-doctoral and doctoral research fellowship programs post regular announcements that need frequent surveys. To ensure that such information reaches the African partners, new calls have to be available on a Web page rapidly and refreshed regularly. Calls for proposals to get funding for research programs follow different procedures which require at minimum to have a well-written, eligible scientific project and to know the funding mechanisms proposed by different bodies.

Important sources of funding for scientific projects exist which are devoted to African partners. Applications to these sources of funding have to be done in strong coordination with local authorities. This supposes that local coordinators of the AMMA program are well identified to support or initiate the proposals. The researchers may not have the information about the sources or the procedures in their own laboratories or departments. One important action is to stimulate the researchers to apply to these calls. Joint sessions between CSAM and national coordinators are of prime importance to initiate the action.

First actions assigned to ST4 should include:

1. Establishing leadership for ST4, and an AMMA bureau to centralize all proposals.

As far as Niamey will be the principal operational center for AMMA SOP and EOP periods, and as many African stakeholders are present in Niamey, this would be a good location for an AMMA bureau.

The role of the bureau will be to centralize the proposals relating to training and capacity building, disseminate the information and monitor actions, meetings and activities to be held in the field of AMMA.

We note that Medias is hosting a web page for the communication of postgraduate funding opportunities, and this will be expanded to include the non-French-speaking institutions.

2. Identification of potential and available funding sources for training and capacity building, and rapid response to new opportunities

Reminder : One of the goals of the International Governing Board (IGB) of AMMA will be to explore ways to fund or to endorse the funding of these activities. ST4 must remain in communication with the IGB.

Some key funding agencies are identified in the appendix.

5. Organisation of the ST

ST leaders : Remain to be identified.

Core group and members of ST4 still need to be nominated (It is highly recommended to include the focal points of Ammanet national committees).

The ISSC bureau will be closely associated with the work of ST4 even though all its members are not members of the ST4 core group.

6. Coordination with other TT's & ST's

Links with ST1 and TT3, TT4, TT5 : for long term strategy

Links with SOP : field school (TT6, TT7, TT8, TT9); To determine what is feasible in term of partnership, capacity building, training for 2006

Links with ST2 : training in term of forecasting.

Links with WMO committees

7. Scheduled Workshops and research programmes

7.1 Completed actions

First AMMA summer school, Sept 2003.

7.2 Ongoing actions (funded and/or active)

Some training of operational forecasters is going ahead at ECMWF and NOAA.

Training in operational radiosonde network for the new Vaisala and MODEM systems, coordinated by ASECNA and Cologne.

2 post-Dakar workshops on impacts and applications: "Closing the Gap" and CIRAD Food Security workshop in Thies.

Rescue of historical data is being conducted as part of WP4.4 of the EU project, with the involvement of IRD and AGRHYMET.

7.3 Proposed actions

Support is needed for African scientific projects, including the **PIAF projects**.

Training and sharing-of-expertise workshops on **operational**

forecasting :

March 2006, November 2006 and following, to be held at ACMAD, and leading to a bilingual publication "Forecasters' handbook for West Africa". The programme is to be integrated with operational forecasting for SOP1 and SOP2.

Data rescue activity: to be coordinated through workshops, first to define data formats, preprocessing and scope, and secondly to agree publications from the data analysis. To encompass hydrological and meteorological (Climate and Upper-air) data. Needs to be a 'bilingual' activity. Should feed into existing WMO programmes.

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Appendix : Potential Funding agencies to be approached – need to identify an AMMA-friendly person with knowledge of each one.

EUROPEAN UNION

- FED : Local fundings by the local representative of EU via the EDF (European Development Fund)
- INCO:
 - o There may be the possibility of funding for workshops and publications

FRANCE

- CNRS (BDI)
- IRD
 - o IRD would very likely be helpful with things like providing translators and bi-lingual publishing. The training support department (DSF) of IRD provides grants also.
- MEDIAS (one summer school scheduled)
- METEO-FRANCE
- RIPIESCA (Recherche Interdisciplinaire et Participative sur les Interactions entre les Écosystèmes, le Climat et les Sociétés d'Afrique de l'ouest), French Ministry of foreign affairs, coming call of proposal

UNITED KINGDOM

- COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP COMMISSION
 - o Commonwealth Professional Fellowships support professional people to visit UK organisations for a period of (typically) 3 months. (2005 deadline passed)
- DfID: Department for International Development
 - The department may fund scientific programmes, workshops or meetings. Funding must be linked to the UN's 'Millenium Goals', and in particular to poverty reduction.
- MET OFFICE
 - The Met Office have links with ACMAD and have a programme of providing equipment and support to African agencies through their part in VCP (WMO cooperative programme). They are the UK WMO representatives and CEH are the official UK Hydrological representative
- ROYAL SOCIETY

- o The Royal Society funds short visits by scientists and pay for expenses while in the UK. See: <http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/funding.asp?id=2138>. Fellowships would be suitable for a visiting scientist of at least postdoctoral status.
- o Royal Society also funds visits by UK academics to conferences overseas. We might use this to say fund a visit by UK participants at a workshop in Africa - thereby releasing funds.

USA

- USAID

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND ORGANISATIONS

- CPWF : Challenge Program on Water and Food
 - o Two types of funding : restricted and core.

For core funds allocated to the Challenge Program, an independent review mechanism is proposed to establish research priorities, with "open" competitive funding and external, independent review to allocate funds to projects. Restricted contributions to the Challenge Program would be allocated to the partners who prepared a proposal for a project fitting within the Challenge Program.
- ECMWF
 - o Training course for WMO countries. It is the course for forecasters that use ECMWF products as disseminated through the GTS. WMO has a budget to support this. Few forecasters from AMMA countries can be funded. This year's course is from 10 to 14 October in Reading. Applications should go to ECMWF with a request for funding (deadline 29 July). ECMWF makes the selection of candidates and makes a recommendation to WMO for funding. For more information, see: <http://www.ecmwf.int/newsevents/training/2005/meteorological/OP-WMO.html>)
- ESF (European Science Foundation)
 - o Grants; may also support workshops.
- GEWEX
- IFS : International Foundation for Science
 - o Funds grants and issues twice a year calls for research proposals for scientists of developing countries. current call running with a deadline june the 30th .
- IGBP

- o IGBP projects may be able to contribute resources, or help with things such as production of a publication.
- o IGBP-IGAC : a funding proposal for 5 persons is running (<http://www.igac.noaa.gov>)
- o IGBP-ILEAPS (Integrated Land Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study) (<http://www.atm.helsinki.fi/ILEAPS/>)

- START

The START programme has already supported a number of AMMA sub-projects in Africa. Need to be prepared for forthcoming calls.

- UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

- o UNEP and UNDP : Both agencies are implementation agencies for the Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- o UNESCO : A specific training project funded by UNESCO would need to be related to water resources.
- o WMO (Clips but for specific countries)