

APPLICATION DEADLINE**15 April 2019****BACKGROUND**

The intention of this funding instrument is to promote and support research to deepen our understanding of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS), and its role in development of community life. Although both applied and basic (i.e., epistemological studies) research is encouraged, the Indigenous Knowledge Funding instrument focuses on experimental research which will lead to mutual benefits for both researchers and communities. Hence, clear evidence of active participation and equal ownership of IKS practitioners and communities where, and as appropriate in all research activities is a crucial feature of this instrument. So is appropriately acknowledging those who contributed intellectually (i.e., knowledge holders/practitioners) as more than just mere subjects or informants. It is therefore essential that indigenous communities must also exercise equal control over the research conducted or which uses their members as subjects of study. This includes ownership, control, access, and possession of all data and information obtained from research involving them.

The IKS Funding instrument scope covers the following:

- IKS and Bioeconomy (African traditional medicine, food security, technology, nutraceuticals, health, beauty, and cosmetics);
- IKS Epistemology (Ubuntu and cosmology, taxonomies, pedagogies and methodologies);
- IKS and Climate Change (Environmental Management);
- Women and IKS based technology innovations);
- IKS and Energy (Alternative and clean sources);
- IKS Practices among specific communities, in particular of Khoi, Nama, Griqua and San communities;
- Issues involving the San and Khoi communities
- Novel and creative thinking that will shift the boundaries of IKS knowledge production and that address national priorities in South Africa.
- Capacity building, development of high-end skills on knowledge generation and human capacity development;
- IKS and Astronomy; and/or
- IKS legislation and public policy
- Indigenous farming practices
- Story-telling and music.

The ultimate aim of the IKS instrument is to contribute to sustainable economic development of not only South Africa, but the African region as a whole. The IKS instrument achieves this goal through knowledge development and human capacity development.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

This instrument is suitable for Universities, Science Councils, non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations and any legally recognised Indigenous Knowledge holder/practitioner's organisations in South Africa. The DST, through its Indigenous knowledge Systems Documentation Centers, bioprospecting platforms, accreditation and certification working groups etc., have commenced on implementing a proactive approach in establishing direct partnerships. This will assist in facilitating the necessary establishment of partnerships with communities.

Most importantly: Funding will only be provided by the NRF through legally binding agreements to organisations/institutions that are recognised as legal entities in South Africa and that can illustrate proof of financial accountability (e.g. financial reports). IK holder/practitioners are therefore encouraged to register or affiliate with existing organisations in their area.

HOW TO APPLY

All applicants based at institutions of higher learning or Science Councils, or NGO with access to the internet must submit their applications electronically via the NRF's [Submission system](#). Applicants must ensure that their Curriculum Vitae are updated on the NRF [Submission system](#). **Please contact [Ms Natasha Jeftha](#) if you have any queries.**

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