



## Regional Initiative in Science and Education (RISE)

Born in Africa • Incubated in America • Ready for an African Home

**RISE** was created in 2008 by the Science Initiative Group (SIG) at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ, USA, following a year-long planning process involving stakeholders in Africa and around the world. RISE supports **university-based research and training networks**, where **students earn PhDs and master's degrees** in science and engineering fields. Almost 200 students have earned degrees through RISE or are currently enrolled.

RISE aims to strengthen science research and education in sub-Saharan Africa by **increasing the population of qualified academic staff** in the region's universities, over time building the capacity in science, technology and innovation needed for **economic development**. It was founded on the premise that **it is possible to attain high-quality, comprehensive graduate training in Africa by pooling the resources and talents available at multiple universities**. While degrees are granted by individual universities, RISE students have access to mentors, collaborators, instruction, and scientific equipment at all institutions within their networks.

From the start, the goal of SIG and its partners was to develop **a project that would ultimately take root on the African continent, with African leadership**. After a seven-year incubation period under SIG oversight, during which **the RISE network model has proven to be highly effective for building science capacity**, RISE is ready to separate from SIG and establish a permanent foothold on the African continent.

In a significant sense, RISE is already Africa-owned. While SIG provides overall coordination and oversight, each network operates with substantial autonomy with respect to structure, academic content, and financial management.

**The future of RISE belongs to Africa**, and the program could go in whatever directions its new leaders wish to take it. There has been discussion of expanding into Francophone Africa and other regions of the continent not currently represented; broadening the scope of fields; establishing partnerships with specific industries; or even merging with a different initiative – but these are not meant to be prescriptive, and RISE could evolve in ways not yet foreseen. Much will depend on the interests of funders. SIG could continue to be involved in an advisory capacity, but that decision would belong to the new African leadership.

RISE currently consists of five competitively selected networks, listed on the next page. To date, their funding has come primarily from a grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York administered by SIG.





### **AMSEN: African Materials Science and Engineering Network**

University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa • Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria  
University of Botswana • University of Ghana • University of Nairobi, Kenya • University of Namibia

### **RISE-AFNNET: African Natural Products Network**

Makerere University, Uganda • Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania • University of Nairobi

### **SABINA: Southern African Biochemistry and Informatics for Natural Products Network**

Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), South Africa  
Tea Research Foundation of Central Africa, Malawi • University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania • University of Malawi  
University of Namibia • University of Pretoria, South Africa • University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

### **SSAWRN: Sub-Saharan Africa Water Resources Network**

Rhodes University, South Africa • Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique • Makerere University • University of Botswana

### **WIO-RISE: Western Indian Ocean Regional Initiative**

University of Dar es Salaam • Eduardo Mondlane University  
Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology (NM-AIST), Tanzania • University of Cape Town, South Africa

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