**Annexe 7 : Final Report Summary Sheet for R4D**

## 1. Background Information

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| Title of Research Programme: | The Research Africa Project: Supporting African Institutions In Achieving The Millennium Goals |
| Reference Number: | AG 4225 |
| Period covered by report: | 18 July 2005 to 30 September 2008 |
| Name of lead institution and Director: | Southern Africa Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA) Project Oversight : Dr Peter van Eldik on behalf of the SARIMA President : Dr Mpako-Ntusi Project Director : Diana Coates |
| Key partners: | ResearchResearch (Africa)(Pty) Ltd (RRA) ResearchResearch Ltd (RRL) The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) |
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| Countries covered by project | Nigeria, Kenya, Cameroon, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Ghana, Botswana, Ethiopia, Senegal, Uganda, Congo, Zambia, Mozambique, Swaziland, Namibia, Malawi, Rwanda, Lesotho. |
| Start Date for Programme | 19 July 2005 |
| End Date for Programme | 28 February 2009 |

## 2.  SUMMARY  (1 page)

The goal of the DFID-funded Research Africa project is to support African researchers seeking to apply their scientific knowledge and expertise to provide evidence-based solutions to African problems – especially with regard to research related to poverty alleviation - by providing in depth information about research opportunities, and improving information flows between researchers.    The beneficiaries of the grant are the African community of S&T policy & decision-makers and the research communities -  principal investigators, consultants, young researchers, research and innovation administrators and managers in universities and research institutions.

An important aim has been to draw the African research community into the international community of policy makers, donors, sponsors, universities and research organisations by accessing relevant news and information from around the world, critically analysing and writing it for an African readership.

The project has been largely successful;   the delivery of Africa-focussed, and globally sourced content, and the user-response to its calibre and consistent relevance, has been good.    Some deliverables have not come through as scheduled which has had an effect on both the outcomes and the impact of the project, particularly in building a collaborative knowledge sharing community.  However the software platform will come through in early 2009.

The grant was made to a public-private international consortium, the Research Africa consortium, with the lead organisation being the Southern African Innovation Management Association (SARIMA).    Other members of the consortium are The Association of Commonwealth Universities and ResearchResearch Ltd, with the intermediate beneficiary of the grant being ResearchResearch (Africa)(Pty) Ltd, the commercial operating company set up in South Africa to action the project's purposes and activities.    The South Africa-registered ResearchResearch (Africa)(Pty) Ltd Board has superceded the consortium, as the rights and obligations of each party have been legally established within the company shareholding, and by the appointment of directors representing each consortium member.  Within this legal framework, the aims and goals of the Research Africa project will be protected and carried out beyond the life of the DFID grant.

The Research Africa services are disseminated through a paper publication and on-line information services.  The content is editorialised news, opinion pieces and commentary on, particularly, S&T policy as it affects researchers, and a research sponsor and funding information service customised with criteria such as African-eligibility, type of research project call (with a particular focus on developmental and evidence-based research projects, North-South and South-South collaborative projects, scholarships, travel grants (with a particular focus on African research capacity-building). The content is fully indexed so that researchers can set up their own 'funding alert' profile with key discipline and subject terms and have them delivered either by e-mail on the day of announcement.    The purpose of the editorialised funding and sponsors information content is to provide researchers with everything they need to know to make a decision about developing a proposal for submission.    The on-line delivery mechanism is presented on the internet at www.research-africa.net.    The banner proclaims the project's purpose "Connecting the African research world".